

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### *Expanding scientific expertise for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Montreal, 12 November 2010* – The Consortium of Scientific Partners to the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to grow as three new members signed, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ensure effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and the 2020 target into relevant international programmes, projects, processes and initiatives.

The three new members are:

- Missouri Botanical Garden, signed by its President, Peter Wyse Jackson, on 19 October, 2010
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the United Kingdom, signed by its Chairman, Peter Bridgewater, on 19 October, 2010
- The National Institute of Biological Resources of Korea, signed by its President, Chong-chun Kim, on 24 October, 2010.

Because achieving the 2020 target, and monitoring progress towards it, requires improved coordination, synergy and partnership among various actors and programmes, the purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to leverage the expertise and experience of these institutions in order to implement education and training activities to support developing countries that are building scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity.

The Consortium of Scientific Partners was born in Curitiba, Brazil, when in 2006 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Convention Secretariat and six leading scientific institutions: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

In addition to the number of botanical gardens already part of the Consortium, other major botanical gardens of the world have indicated their intention to join.

Zoos and aquariums are also part of the Consortium, as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) signed an agreement with the Convention Secretariat on 5 October 2009.

As of November 2010, the members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity are:

- The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (France)
- The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Germany)
- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (United States of America)
- The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (United Kingdom)
- The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) (Mexico)
- The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium)
- Muséums nature de Montréal (Canada)
- The Higashiyama Botanical Gardens (Japan)
- The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (Saudi Arabia)
- The Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- The National Institute of Biological Resources (Republic of Korea)
- The Missouri Botanical Gardens (United States of America)
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (United Kingdom)
- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

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