

COMMUNIQUÉ

London's world renowned Natural History Museum joins forces with CBD for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Montreal, 13 December 2010 – The Natural History Museum of London, one of the world's most preeminent centres of biodiversity research, has joined the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Consortium of Scientific Institutions. The Museum, home to life and science specimens comprising more than 70 million items collected since 1660, specializes in taxonomy, identification and conservation.

“The decision by one of the world-renowned centres of excellence on biodiversity to join forces with the Secretariat is of a high significance for the successful implementation of the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity outcomes,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The signing ceremony took place at the Museum during the awards ceremony marking the Green Award for the International Year of Biodiversity.

The Museum has been a major partner of the Secretariat in the implementation of the Secretariat's mandate.

“During the International Year of Biodiversity, the museum has been an example of full and complete engagement in scientific and outreach activities,” said Mr. Djoghlaif. “We are looking forward to their engagement in the work of the Consortium as we implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and celebrate the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.”

Dr. Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, said, “I am delighted that the Natural History Museum has joined many of its international partners in the Consortium. This reflects the Museum's many years of work and commitment in support of CBD goals in the United Kingdom and with many other countries on science and public engagement. We look forward to effective collaboration within the Consortium to implement the outcomes identified at Nagoya.”

The Museum represents the third United Kingdom scientific institution to join the CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners. The Consortium, which now comprises 15 member institutions from 10 countries, includes some of the largest natural history museums and research institutes in the world. Members leverage their experience and expertise 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 came into being in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, at the margins of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8). During the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) held in Nagoya, Japan, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the UK and the National Institute of Biological Resources of Korea, joined the Consortium. Many other scientific institutions from developed and developing countries are currently finalizing their internal arrangements to join.

The next meeting of the Consortium will be held in Seoul in May 2011 and will be hosted by the National Institute of Biological Resources of the Republic of Korea. The Scientific Consortium will be central to the successful implementation of the new Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in building the capacity of developing countries and promoting a forum of exchange of experience between its members.

More information on the Consortium and its activities can be found at: www.cbd.int/cooperation/scientific.shtml

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

- 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 Botanic Garden 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)
- The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom)

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