



COMMUNIQUÉ

GEF Approves New Project to Support Early Entry into Force of the Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 7 February 2011 – A major achievement of the recent tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was the adoption, after more than six years of negotiation, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. This historic agreement opens the way for both genetic resources user and provider countries to enter into contracts based on prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms that contribute to economic development and also to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, the other two overall objectives of the Convention.

In order to facilitate the rapid ratification and entry in force of the Protocol and to start the process of building national capacity to implement the Protocol, on 4 February 2011 the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mrs. Monique Barbut, approved a \$1 million project to support GEF-eligible countries to expedite the ratification process and ensure the early entry into force of this new legal instrument.

“As the designated financial mechanism of this new legal instrument, the GEF is fully committed to ensure that it moves into force as quickly as possible. The Nagoya Protocol is the latest tool toward serving what marks 20 years of strong results investing locally for global impact,” said Mrs. Barbut.

In partnership with the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the national offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the project will work also to raise awareness in national legislatures and to engage parliamentarians round the world in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, a series of awareness and training initiatives will be undertaken on the margins of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol that will be held in Montreal in June 2011 and in New Delhi in April 2012.

The support provided by the new project is additional to the existing Strategic Priority for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy, which estimates that, subject to national prioritization, a further \$40 million may be focused on ABS-type projects.

“The announcement of this important initiative on the day that the Protocol was opened for signature in New York, and its approval soon after, is a strong political message from the financial mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols and it augurs well for the entry into force of the Protocol before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in India in October 2012,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
