



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility Partnering for Advancing the Nagoya Outcomes at the Regional Level

Montreal, 22 February 2011: The Central African national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and those of its financial arm, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), jointly attended a regional workshop on biodiversity and finance, held in Kinshasa in collaboration with the GEF Country Support Programme, on 17-18 February 2011, immediately after the GEF Central Africa Region Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW). This was the first time that national focal points in charge of negotiation and policy development and those responsible for implementation financing have met in a regional workshop specifically targeted at both GEF and CBD national focal points.

“This is the first time that Secretariat of the Convention has organized a joint meeting with the secretariat of the GEF, thus demonstrating their commitment to enhance their collaboration as “One UN for Biodiversity” for the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact, as agreed at the high level retreat of senior officials of the two institutions held in Montreal early this year,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The workshop was also the first occasion for Central African countries to analyse national and regional implications of the major outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. Participants expressed a strong commitment to work towards the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization, as well as the early updating of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, also known as the Aichi Targets.

“The GEF and CBD secretariats are strong partners at the global level. The regional workshop on biodiversity and finance involving their respective national focal points now demonstrates that the two secretariats can also work together effectively and efficiently at the regional level. This latest development serves as a useful bridge between global biodiversity priorities and country ownership of GEF investment,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), who recently approved a \$1 million project to support GEF-eligible countries to expedite the ratification process and ensure the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.

Participants in the regional workshop observed that the 20 headline targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are ambitious in substance, comprehensive in coverage, but still achievable in proportion to the region’s strong commitment to sustaining global biodiversity

benefits and if provided with necessary financial and technical assistance. They strongly recommended that the Secretary-General of the United Nations establish a High-Level Advisory Group on Financing for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, building on the similar group on climate-change financing, with its report prepared in time for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in India in October 2012.

Participants also called for innovative financial solutions, for instance, exploring a fund for ecosystem restoration to support the achievement of quantitative target 15 of the Strategic Plan.
