



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Translating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national realities: Japan Biodiversity Fund fully operational**

*Montreal, 4 April 2011* – The first in a series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and help facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, was held in Kasane, Botswana on 14-20 March 2011.

The Regional workshop for Southern Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, incorporating work on valuation and incentive measures, was the first workshop organized under the Japan Biodiversity Fund established by the Presidency of the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in support of the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Outcomes. The Japan Biodiversity Fund was approved by the Japanese Diet at the initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. One of its key objectives is to support, at regional and sub-regional levels, Parties for the translation of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 into national priorities as soon as possible and preferably before COP 11 to be held in India in October 2012

A major focus of the workshop was the setting of national and regional targets in the framework of the Aichi-Nagoya biodiversity targets. These include integrating biodiversity into relevant national and local planning processes. These targets were set in the context of a review of the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as well as an overview of the Aichi-Nagoya outcomes before discussing the review and updating of NBSAPs with a focus on lessons learned and next steps.

Fifty-nine participants representing 15 countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) attended the meeting. Representatives of the planning ministries also attended the workshop, which was opened by Mr. Elistus Mathumo, Council Secretary for the Chobe District Council.

In thanking the CBD for considering Botswana as the first venue for the NBSAP Capacity Building Workshop, the Honourable Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism for Botswana, said, “It is not enough to ratify multilateral agreements if we do not implement them. Capacity-building like this workshop is necessary to ensure that obligations are implemented.”

As the SADC region is the first region to organize such a workshop it is expected to be the first to translate the Nagoya outcomes into reality on the ground. Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, noted that, “As a rich biodiversity region I am therefore hopeful that the SADC countries, both individually and collectively, will take the lead in the development of national targets in the framework of the Aichi Targets, and the revision, updating and implementation of NBSAPs. All of this would not have been possible without the leadership of Japan.”

Mr. Djoghlaif added, "In the history of the environment movement in general, and the Rio conventions in particular, it is the first time that a host of a conference of the Parties of a multilateral environment agreement has established in advance a dedicated fund to support the implementation of the decisions expected to be adopted. Japan has indeed established a precedent that needs to be emulated."

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