



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Regional workshops on updating NBSAPs and implementing CBD programme of work on protected areas held in West Africa**

*Montreal, 7 June 2011* – Two workshops, held in parallel, on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and capacity-building for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) respectively, were held in Dakar, from 22 to 26 May 2011. A roundtable meeting, on strengthening financing for protected-area systems of seven West Africa countries, followed the workshops.

The Regional Workshop for West Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans aimed at strengthening national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of NBSAPs; helping facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and translating the post-2010 Strategic Plan into national targets and commitments.

A major focus of the workshop was on setting national and regional targets in the framework of the Aichi-Nagoya biodiversity targets, including integrating biodiversity into relevant national and local planning processes. Financing the NBSAP is an important issue in most regions, thus the workshop covered resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation, as well as stakeholder engagement and strategic communication. A detailed presentation on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization was also delivered.

Members of the environmental commission of the Assemblée Nationale of Senegal were briefed in the margin of the workshop to raise awareness of Senegalese parliamentarians on the Nagoya Protocol.

The Subregional Workshop for West Africa on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas provided an overview of capacity-building requirements, tools and approaches to implement the programme of work, strengthening the skills and knowledge of protected-area officials, develop/implement action plans for implementing the programme of work, and to create awareness about funding opportunities available under the Global Environment Facility's biodiversity portfolio.

The workshop was attended by participants from Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, as well as representatives of the Regional Programme for Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa, WWF, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

Mr. Saliou Rama Ka, General Secretary of the Department of Environment and Nature Protection, read a statement by Mr. Djibo Laity Ka, Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature, stating that Senegal was honoured and proud to host the two workshops, which acknowledged and encouraged the efforts of Senegal in conserving biodiversity and implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A roundtable meeting on 27 May 2011 on strengthening financing for the protected-area systems of seven West African countries (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-sBissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra

Leone) immediately followed the workshops. Held in collaboration with the CBD LifeWeb Initiative, the meeting built on statements made by West African ministers at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and was consistent with decision X/3, which encourages Parties and donors to hold financing roundtables, in collaboration with the LifeWeb Initiative, based on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and action plans for implementing the Convention's programme of work on protected areas.

The Minister of Finance of Senegal and the Ministers of Environment for Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and the Gambia, and at least two government representatives of each country attended. Also in attendance were representatives of 11 international cooperation partners, including the Governments of France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the United States of America, the European Union and the MAVA Foundation.

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