



COMMUNIQUÉ

Costa Rica becomes the 38th Signatory of the Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 11 July 2011 – On 6 July 2011, Costa Rica became the 38th Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. Thirty-seven Governments and the European Union have now signed the new international treaty.

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), said: “It is fitting that while the Central American countries are actively engaged in preparing a regional meeting on the implementation of the Nagoya biodiversity compact that Costa Rica, as the host, demonstrates its leadership by becoming the 38th Party to sign the historic Nagoya Protocol.”

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the Convention: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Nagoya Protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and will enter into force 90 days after receipt of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

The list of signatories to the Protocol is available on the Convention on Biological Diversity website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/. A signing ceremony for the Protocol will be organized by the United Nations Treaty Section of the United Nations on 20 September 2011 in New York in conjunction with the high-level event on desertification of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly and will be followed by a reception to launch the celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.

In early June, over 400 participants from more than 100 countries met in Montreal for the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to lay the foundations for implementation. Results of this meeting are available at: www.cbd.int/absicnp1/insession/.
