



COMMUNIQUÉ

Uruguay: 39th Signatory to the Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 20 July 2011 –On 19 July 2011, Uruguay became the 39th Party to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. Thirty-eight countries 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 shortly after participating in a regional meeting on the implementation of the Nagoya biodiversity compact that Uruguay has demonstrated its solidarity with the environment by becoming the 39th Party to sign the historic Nagoya Protocol on ABS.”

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the CBD. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS 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 website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/. A signing ceremony of the Nagoya Protocol will be organized by the United Nations Treaty Section in New York on 20 September 2011 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 at 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/absicnpl/insession/
