



PRESS RELEASE

Scientific body of global biodiversity treaty discusses biodiversity indicators at Montreal meeting

Montreal, 7 November 2011 – Global experts are meeting this week to discuss ways to measure progress on the achievement of the Global Strategy for Biodiversity. Over 600 delegates are in Montreal for the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The subsidiary body to the global treaty on biodiversity and sustainable development provides scientific advice to governments on issues related to the protection of biodiversity. This advice is later taken up by the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This week's meeting of the Subsidiary Body is its first since the adoption of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in Japan in October 2010, and the declaration by the United Nations General Assembly of period 2011-2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The meeting will consider the following items:

- Updated technical rationales for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including indicators and other tools and guidance for assessing progress in implementing the Plan
- Ways and means to support ecosystem restoration
- A draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative
- Proposals on ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food
- The sustainable use of biodiversity: revised recommendations of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat, including options for small-scale food and income alternatives, and report on how to improve sustainable use in a landscape perspective
- Inland water biodiversity: Implications of changes in the water cycle, and freshwater resources in the implementation of the programmes of work
- Arctic biodiversity.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “Almost a year ago, Governments agreed to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The clock is ticking. We have only nine years left in this United Nations Decade for Biodiversity. It is the job of this body to provide the scientific basis for action.”

In a video message, Dr. Norbert Röttgen, German Federal Minister for the Environment, emphasized the importance of the restoration targets for the Global Strategy for Biodiversity. He reminded participants of the Bonn Challenge which contributes both to the Strategic Plan as well as REDD+ under the UNFCCC.

During the opening session, Mr. Steve Whisenant, Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration, announced that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had been selected as the winner of the Society's 2011 Special Recognition Award, particularly because of their inclusion of restoration targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020..

The meeting continues until Friday.

Documents for the meeting can be found at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-15

Side Events on issues relevant to biodiversity protection will be held including: the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services, ecosystem restoration with reference to the recent tsunami in Japan and other topics: <http://www.cbd.int/register/side-events/list.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-15>

Where: the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, 999 University Avenue

When: begins at 10am Monday, 7 November 2011, and closes 5pm Friday, 11 November 2011

Accreditation: Media interested in participating in the meeting must follow the accreditation procedures found at: www.cbd.int/media/accreditation/

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