



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Lithuania becomes seventy-first signatory of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing**

*Montreal, 5 January 2012* – On 29 December 2011, Lithuania, became the seventy-first signatory of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Nagoya Protocol, which was opened for signature in February 2011, will enter into force 90 days after deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, stated: “This protocol is an important instrument in support of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and indeed of sustainable development. Lithuania’s signature is an example of their commitment to the future we want. I call on all countries who have not yet signed the Protocol to do so.”

The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve biodiversity, to sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided financial support for the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund was established by the GEF with an initial financial contribution of US\$ 12.5 million from Japan. In addition, a medium-sized project of US\$ 1 million is providing support to the ratification and early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol through a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. The project is being executed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is now fully operational.

The list of signatories to the Nagoya Protocol is available on the Convention’s website at: [www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/](http://www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/).

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