



PRESS RELEASE

Panama and Mauritius 10th and 11th states to ratify Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 21 December 2012 – Panama and Mauritius have become the 10th and 11th countries respectively to ratify 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.

Panama deposited its instrument of ratification on 12 December 2012; Mauritius acceded to the Protocol on 17 December 2012. They join the following list of countries that have ratified the ground breaking treaty: Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, India, Jordan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mexico, Rwanda and the Seychelles. This makes a total of 11 ratifications and it is envisaged that others will follow suit in the coming months.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

The high number of Parties having signed the Protocol at the closure of signature on 1 February 2012 – a total of 92 –highlights the commitment of countries to the early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol.

“Less than a year after the closure of signature, we already have ratifications from countries representing four of the five United Nations regional groups, including two from megadiverse countries of the world – India and Mexico,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“The world community is on track now for entry into force of the agreement before the Twelfth Conference of the Parties in 2014. In addition, we know that many Parties are in the process of adopting and/or revising their measures on access and benefit-sharing in order to be compliant with the Protocol.”

Mr. Dias further noted that, “This important work is a prelude to further ratifications and will ensure smooth implementation following entry into force.”

At the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, it was decided to reconvene the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) for a third meeting to address outstanding issues in its work plan in preparation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.



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The Conference of the Parties also highlighted the importance of capacity-building and development initiatives and awareness-raising activities to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol, and a number of activities are planned for the next biennium.

In Hyderabad, Parties were also invited to initiate and expedite their internal processes for the ratification of the Protocol. It was decided that the ICNP, at its third meeting, would exchange views on the state of implementation of the Protocol.

Countries wishing to have further information on how to become a Party to the Protocol can consult the following website: www.cbd.int/abs/becoming-party/.

Notes to Editors

Heads of State and Government at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in September 2002 first recognized the need for an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and called for negotiations to be carried out within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention responded at its seventh meeting, in 2004, by mandating its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing to effectively implement Articles 15 (Access to genetic resources) and 8(j) (Traditional knowledge) of the Convention and its three objectives.

The Nagoya Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Specific obligations to support compliance with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements of the Party providing genetic resources and contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms are a significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol. These compliance provisions as well as provisions establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources will contribute to ensuring the sharing of benefits when genetic resources leave a Party providing genetic resources. Also, the Protocol's provisions on access to traditional knowledge held by indigenous and local communities when it is associated with genetic resources will strengthen the ability of these communities to benefit from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices.

By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

The full text of the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf.

The list of signatories of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the Convention's website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools,

incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 163 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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