



## PRESS RELEASE

### World Public Health Nutrition Association declared Biodiversity Champion

*Montreal, 29 November 2013* – The World Public Health Nutrition Association (WPHNA) has been declared a Biodiversity Champion by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in recognition of its important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

“We are delighted that the World Public Health Nutrition Association has become a Biodiversity Champion. Biodiversity is the basis for a varied and healthy diet upon which good nutrition is founded,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary. “With the global population expected to reach nine billion by 2050, conserving biodiversity and sustainably using the components of biodiversity is critical for our well-being and the drive to end hunger and malnutrition.”

The Biodiversity Champions campaign was launched in 2012 at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD held in Hyderabad, India, by the President of the COP, Her Excellency, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests of India and Executive Secretary Braulio Dias, and allows countries and organizations to make pledges to support efforts towards one or more of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As a Biodiversity Champion, the WPHNA will integrate relevant issues of biodiversity into its aims and objectives and bring attention to the relationship between nutrition and biodiversity to its nutrition professionals across the world in academia, the private sector, civil society, UN agencies, and government. Their work will advance the Convention’s cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition and contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Targets 1, 4, 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19. In addition, it will contribute to initiatives of several organisations to promote sustainable diets.

“More and more in the field of nutrition, we are recognizing that human health and environmental health cannot be separated. The WPHNA is taking the initiative to give biodiversity a higher profile in the public health nutrition arena and to encourage its members to do their part in realizing the Aichi Targets,” said Barbara Burlingame, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and member of the WPHNA.

With members from over 50 countries, the WPHNA is an individual membership organization committed to advocacy, leadership and scholarship, strengthening the capacity for action and providing a forum for discussion. It affirms that good health is a human right.

“The WPHNA has a strong commitment to the promotion of biodiversity for food and nutrition, and the concept of sustainable diets which has biodiversity at its core,” said Barrie Margetts, WPHNA President and Professor of Health Nutrition, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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Adopted in 2010, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 aims to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across government, society and business. It includes a series of ambitious yet achievable goals and targets, collectively known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

### ***Notes to Editors***

#### *More information:*

Biodiversity Champions and their pledges: [www.cbd.int/champions/list/](http://www.cbd.int/champions/list/)

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: [www.cbd.int/sp/](http://www.cbd.int/sp/)

Aichi Biodiversity Targets: [www.cbd.int/sp/targets/](http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

### **World Public Health Nutrition Association**

The World Public Health Nutrition Association is an individual membership organisation with the purpose of bringing people together with a common interest in promoting and improving public health nutrition and to be a professional voice for public health nutrition internationally. Its members, from over 50 countries, form a global network and have created a forum to exchange views to support each other in their work. They are committed to the following:

- Advocacy at local, national, and international level to promote our purpose
- Leadership and scholarship to strengthen the evidence base for effective action
- Strengthening the capacity for action by working with partners to build the system and structure in which a well-trained workforce can operate; and work with partners to support the effective development and delivery of policies and programmes to promote better public health nutrition
- Providing a forum for the discussion by running an active website and newsletter; an international journal devoted to discussion and debate; meetings, conferences and other related activities.

For more information visit: <http://wphna.org/>

### **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, 166 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](http://www.cbd.int).

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