



PRESS RELEASE

South Sudan becomes 194th Party to Convention on Biological Diversity

Montreal, 7 March 2014 – South Sudan deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 17 February 2014, thus becoming the 194th Party to the global treaty on biodiversity and sustainable development. With this accession, the CBD will enter into force for South Sudan on 18 May 2014.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, said, “I am pleased that South Sudan has joined the international community in the global task of protecting biodiversity, achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and working towards building a future of life in harmony with nature, the future we want.” Mr Dias added, “I look forward to welcoming South Sudan as a Party to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in October 2014.”

South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011. The Nile River is a major natural feature of South Sudan, and the country is endowed with natural resources including oil, minerals and biological resources – its natural capital. The country's large fertile lands produce many crops and livestock and are also the site of one of the world's largest animal migrations each year.

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 up to now, 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.

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