



PRESS RELEASE

Major sustainable development outcomes of biodiversity meeting to be transmitted to 69th session of UN General Assembly for consideration in post-2015 Development Agenda

Montreal/Seoul 11 December 2014 – Today, the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea presented United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with three major outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the role of biodiversity for sustainable development, for transmittal to the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The *Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development* and two COP decisions send an important message on the recognition by governments of the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development, as the General Assembly prepares to commence negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda during its 69th session.

COP 12 was held from 6 - 17 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, under the theme of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development. *The Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development*, the main outcome of the High-Level Segment of COP 12, sends a strong message from ministers and other high-level delegates on the importance of biodiversity for the post-2015 development agenda. It welcomes the importance given to biodiversity in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly and calls for further action to integrate and mainstream biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda. The Declaration also calls on Parties and other governments, international organizations and stakeholders to link the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to other relevant processes, such as the UN Development Assistance Framework process and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans of the CBD. The declaration also emphasizes the relevance and key contribution of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Vision for 2050 to the post-2015 development agenda at all levels, and invites the General Assembly to integrate them effectively in the post-2015 development agenda.

Parties also adopted two significant decisions on biodiversity and sustainable development: Decision XII/4, *Integrating biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda*, and Decision XII/5, *Biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development*.

In the first decision, Parties encouraged governments to fully engage in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, with the goal of integrating and mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 not only into relevant goals, targets and indicators, but also in the *means of implementation* of a transformative sustainable development agenda. Parties requested that the Executive Secretary continue his engagement in the ongoing processes to ensure the appropriate integration of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



services in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and to keep them informed of any major developments.

In the second decision on biodiversity and poverty eradication, Parties recognized the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication, and encouraged governments to take steps to address these linkages at the national level. These include, *inter alia*, actions with respect to development planning and poverty eradication, national budgeting processes, efforts on food security and nutrition, disaster risk reduction and other national-level policies and processes.

“The Gangwon Declaration, adopted during the High-Level Segment, reflects a strong message from the Parties that the importance of biodiversity should be highlighted in the post-2015 development agenda,” said H.E. Yoon Syeongkyu, the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and the President of COP 12. “We are honoured to submit it to the 69th session of the UN General Assembly. As COP President for the next two years, we plan to play a strong and active role in advancing this agenda.”

“The results of COP 12 are further testament to the growing realization that biodiversity is essential for sustainable development, and is the basis for solutions to a number of challenges we will face in the 21st century, including food and water security, disaster risk reduction and others,” said United Nations Assistant-Secretary General and Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias. “Governments in the Open Working Group process clearly embraced the role that biodiversity plays for sustainable development, and the outcomes of COP 12 support these linkages for the post -2015 development agenda.”

Biodiversity featured prominently in the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of the 68th session of the General Assembly. Biodiversity was the focus of goals 14 and 15 of the outcome document, and it was also referenced in several of the other goals. During the discussions, the message communicated by many delegations and UN agencies indicated that the achievement of sustainable development requires implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Achieving these internationally-agreed goals of protecting and restoring biodiversity and using it sustainably and equitably will require mainstreaming of biodiversity into development policies.

The results of COP 12 also included key decisions on actions required for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, enhanced capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation, a strategy for resource mobilization, integration of biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives. These decisions, under the banner “Pyeongchang Roadmap for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, aim to strengthen capacity and increase support for countries and stakeholders to implement their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

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 194 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 peoples and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 168 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 57 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
