



## PRESS RELEASE

### UN Biodiversity lead welcomes new head of Global Environment Facility

- *Carlos Manuel Rodriguez of Costa Rica is first national from Latin America to head the GEF.*
- *GEF serves as the financial mechanism of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- *GEF plays key role in supporting countries' implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be agreed next year.*

**3 June 2020** – The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has selected Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister Carlos Manuel Rodriguez as the next CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund supporting environmental action in developing countries and the main financing mechanism for multiple United Nations environmental conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

"I am very pleased to hear that Carlos Manuel Rodriguez has been appointed the new CEO of the Global Environment Facility," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Acting Executive Secretary. "Mr. Rodriguez has been among the driving forces to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and its strategies, and has deep understanding of the financing needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement multilateral environmental agreements."

The appointment of Mr. Rodriguez coincides with the transition from the present Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets to a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework expected to be agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) next year in Kunming, China.

"The GEF has played a key role in supporting countries to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and it will be our key partner in ensuring that all CBD Parties can effectively implement the upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework," added Ms. Mrema. "I look forward to working closely with Mr. Rodriguez to help prepare countries for the post-2020 era."

Serving as a member of the Bureau of the CBD COP, which provides oversight to the ongoing negotiations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Mr Rodriguez has been deeply involved in the preparation of the new framework and has called for high ambition.

As designated institutional structure for the operation of the CBD's financial mechanism, GEF applies all finance-related policy decisions and guidelines that the Convention's Conference of the Parties agrees upon for the disbursements of funds. The GEF supports developing countries and countries with

economies in transition in the fulfilment of their commitments under the CBD by providing new and additional funding for projects and other initiatives related to biodiversity. In particular, GEF funds the so-called “incremental” or additional costs that are associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet’s most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided close to \$20.5 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$112 billion in co-financing for more than 4,800 projects in 170 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to nearly 24,000 civil society and community initiatives in 133 countries.

[www.thegef.org/](http://www.thegef.org/)

Preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: [www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020)

## **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 196 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 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 172 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 124 Parties.

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