

## PRESS RELEASE

### Republic of Korea Funds Phase 2 of Bio-Bridge Initiative

- *Republic of Korea to provide \$2.5 million in support of Bio-Bridge Initiative activities over next five years*
- *Bio-Bridge Initiative promotes and facilitates scientific cooperation between Parties, particularly developing country parties, to help implement CBD and its Protocols.*
- *New phase to focus on enabling countries for implementation of post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.*

**4 February 2021** – The Republic of Korea and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have signed a funding agreement for the implementation of the second phase of the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI).

Under the agreement, the Ministry of Environment of the Government of the Republic of Korea will provide a total of 2.75 billion Korean won (KRW 2,750,000,000), approximately \$2.5 million, to support BBI activities over next five years (2021-2025).

The Bio-Bridge Initiative, launched in the margins of the twelfth UN Biodiversity Conference held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea in October 2014, aims to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, particularly developing country Parties, and with relevant organizations, to help them implement the Convention and its Protocols.

The second phase will have a particular focus on enabling countries to more effectively harness science, technology and innovation for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The new funding agreement was signed by the Director-General of the Nature Conservation Policy Bureau, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Yeon-Jae Park, and CBD Executive Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema.

“This funding support is very timely as we develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to realize transformative change and secure the integrity of our natural ecosystems for present and future generations”, said Ms. Mrema. “I have no doubt that the enhanced technical and scientific cooperation facilitated by the Bio-Bridge Initiative will play a critical role in supporting Parties to achieve the goals and targets of the post-2020 framework.”

A new funding agreement for the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative was also signed by the Director-General and the Executive Secretary. This initiative promotes transboundary cooperation in protected areas globally. Through the Peace and Biodiversity Initiative, Parties to the CBD share knowledge and best practices in transboundary cooperation.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

The Bio-Bridge Initiative facilitates matchmaking between countries that have specific technical and scientific needs with countries or institutions able to provide the technical assistance and other support to address the expressed needs through mutual collaboration. It also provides seed funding for selected technical and scientific cooperation projects and facilitates the sharing

of knowledge, expertise and innovative solutions through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

During Phase 1, the seed grant facility of BBI supported [38 demonstration projects](#) covering over 120 countries. In the last call for proposals, a total of 99 proposals were received, and out of these, [15 new projects](#) were selected. The demonstration projects have covered various thematic areas including: biodiversity monitoring and assessment, ecosystem valuation and accounting, DNA barcoding, protection and recovery of threatened species, agricultural biodiversity, invasive alien species, traditional knowledge and community-based monitoring, access and benefit sharing, pollution control, protected area management and ecosystem restoration. The Secretariat also maintained a BBI web-based matchmaking platform and provided help desk services to support Parties having identified technical and scientific cooperation needs.

Dialogue with other donors is underway to secure technical support and funding for additional technical and scientific cooperation projects. To date, 48 entities from 21 countries have registered as providers of technical assistance on the [BBI web platform](#) and over 160 opportunities (including grants, fellowships or training opportunities) have been publicized.

**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 196 Parties so far, 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, 173 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 129 Parties.

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