



Calestous Juma, Ph.D

I and my colleagues here at the Secretariat are greatly saddened to learn that Dr. Calestous Juma, former Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, has passed away.

During his tenure from 1995 to 1998, he initiated the establishment of the permanent Secretariat. He oversaw the early years of the Convention and the burst of development of policy and guidance. The first national reports to the Convention were delivered during his mandate, and he guided the establishment of the Clearing-House Mechanism.

Dr. Juma was truly a pillar of the biodiversity policy community, inspiring energy and passion to all those who had the privilege to interact with him.

On a personal note, I was honoured to have Prof. Calestous Juma as my professor and mentor during my studies in the United States. He was greatly admired and loved his colleagues and students.

I send my condolences to his family and friends. A wonderful person has left us and he will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer,
Assistant Secretary-General
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

