



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

**Message from the Executive Secretary, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
on the occasion of
A Donor Coordination Workshop on the Implementation of the
CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in Mongolia
15-16 November 2007**

At the outset, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) congratulates the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the government of Mongolia for taking this initiative to convene a donor coordination workshop on the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in Mongolia.

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas provides a blueprint of how to establish protected areas, how to manage them, how to govern them and what tools can be used to achieve the planned work. It charts the way forward in detail and with clear targets. The end result will be protected areas that fulfil their key role of conserving in situ biodiversity of the world and help achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Implementation of the Programme of Work needs enhanced funding. Since the Convention came into force in 1993, the world's protected areas grew almost by 100% in number and 60% in size, yet in the same period, international financing for biodiversity conservation grew only 38%. How are we to meet the additional resource requirements? In my view, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need an open-minded, pragmatic and flexible approach. Expanded public funding will be fundamental to financial sustainability. Building strong institutional arrangements for financing the implementation of the programme of work is essential. Institutions, including governments, donors, international NGOs and the private sector, should seek opportunities to create synergies and partnerships, and approach the lack of funding through concerted efforts. An on-going donor forum is a pre-requisite to support implementation of the Programme of Work.

In this background, organization of such donor coordination workshops assumes significance and is essential to scale up the confidence of all actors and boost coordination of technical and financial support for effective implementation of the programme of work. Bringing together bilateral and multi lateral aid agencies, NGOs, and Government actors in implementing the programme of work is an important initiative and such meetings will facilitate face-to-face dialogue among all players and may lead to focused interventions, better conservation programmes and rational use of funding.

The Secretariat fully supports the organization of such meetings for the accelerated implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. We are confident that this Mongolia donor coordination workshop will yield fruitful results and emulate other countries to replicate such meetings in other regions. The CBD Secretariat would encourage the organizers to share their experiences and lessons learnt at the second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I wish the workshop a grand success.



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

<http://www.cbd.int>
secretariat@cbd.int