



STATEMENT

BY DR AHMED DJOGLAF

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE REVIEW PROGRESS AND
CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-9 October, 2009

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ONE NATURE - ONE WORLD - OUR FUTURE
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**His Excellency, Honble Prime Minister of Cote D Ivorie
Minister Environment Government of the Cote D Ivorie,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all, to this Africa Regional Workshop on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. I congratulate the Government of Cote D Ivorie for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful place of Grand Bassam with rich natural heritage, an ideal setting. I also thank, the European Community, Governments Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium P for financial assistance for organising this workshop.

Excellency, the Prime Minister of Cote d Ivories, it is a great honour and privilege to the Convention on Biological Diversity that the Prime Minister of the host country, despite his extremely busy schedule, has taken time and opening the meeting.. This is indeed a great gesture and indicates the importance the Government of Cote D Ivorie attaches to the Convention on Life on this planet, and implementation of its programmes. Please accept your Excellency our highest considerations and deep gratitude on behalf of the Convention and on my own behalf.

This workshop is to deliberate the future of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and I have no hesitation to say the future of life on this planet. In February 2004, the CBD Parties made the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever made by the international community by adopting the PoWPA. The PoWPA enshrines development of participatory, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas, where necessary stretching across national boundaries. From designation to management, the PoWPA can be considered as a defining framework or “blueprint” for protected areas for the coming decades. It is a framework for cooperation between Governments, donors, NGOs and local communities, for without such collaboration, programmes cannot be successful and sustainable over the long-term. It is not an exaggeration to claim that the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) is the Convention’s most successful initiative as since CBD came into force in 1993, the world’s protected areas have increased by nearly 100% in absolute numbers and by about 60% in total area.

The PoWPA is now five and half years old. There are many signs of progress. Political will and commitments are clearly being catalyzed. Since the adoption of the programme of work, 27 countries have reported the establishment of about 5900 new protected areas, covering approximately 60 million ha of terrestrial and marine areas. As of 2008 there are more than 120,000 nationally designated protected areas worldwide, covering 21 million square kilometres of land and sea. The terrestrial protected areas listed in World Database on Protected Areas cover 12.2% of the planet’s surface area. However, marine protected areas occupy only 5.9% of the world’s territorial seas and only 0.5% of the extraterritorial seas. Considering the current annual growth rate of marine protected areas (4.6%) achieving the 10% target of the CBD strategic plan and the PoWPA marine target may well nigh be impossible within the next 20 years.

While these are commendable achievements, there are still some areas that are lagging behind. The social costs and benefits, the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and the diversification of various governance types need more commitment and resolute actions. The evaluation and improvement of management effectiveness, and the development and implementation of sustainable

finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated. Strengthening implementation of PoWPA will require concerted efforts and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities and business and the private sector.

At COP9 in Bonn, the CBD COP decided to undertake the in-depth review of the PoWPA at its tenth meeting in Nagoya, Japan and, requested the Executive Secretary to convene regional and sub-regional capacity-building and progress-review workshops for preparing the in-depth review for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to COIP 10. Set in front of this impressive background, the organization of this workshop intends to recognize best practices and lessons learned, to identify current shortcomings or omissions, and suggest ways and means to strengthen implementation of the PoWPA. ..

Excellency, Ladies and Gentleman:

At this critical moment, the political climate is ripe for a long-term push toward mainstreaming biodiversity protection into all sectors of society. The last three meetings of G8 environment ministers have all endorsed the 2010 Biodiversity Target and called for increased engagement at the highest political levels, putting biodiversity loss on the agenda at G8 summits in Heiligendamm in 2007, Hokkaido/Toyako in 2008, and L'Aquila in 2009. In next September, just prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Nagoya, heads of state and government attending the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly will for the first time ever discuss the importance of biodiversity.

The future before us has to be one where the value of biodiversity is widely appreciated and protecting ecosystems is a part of our everyday lives. This is the objective of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and I am very pleased to unveil in French and English the official logo of this unique event in Africa.. As biodiversity is indeed OUR life, let us celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity in a befitting manner to improve our lives and set out on the path to a sustainable future. In this regard I reiterate my earlier request to the Government of Cote D'Ivoire to organize a joint event, on the margins of the next Assembly of the African Development Bank, to celebrate the IYB. I take this opportunity to also request the Excellency, to donate a suitable souvenir to the CBD Museum of Nature and culture depicting the biological significance of Cote d'Ivoire and to contribute an article for Gincana special issue on IYB.

I am confident that this workshop will come out with tangible solutions to safeguard the life on our planet by contributing to achieve ecologically representative, effectively managed, sustainably funded national and regional protected areas and enhanced implementation of PoWPA. The adoption of an updated Strategic Plan, including a revised biodiversity target, will be a key outcome of COP 10; I hope your discussions will also provide the necessary impetus and inputs for formulating the revised strategic plan and the new biodiversity target.

I once again express my sincere thanks and pay tribute to the Honble Prime Minister for gracing the occasion and to the Government of Cote D'Ivoire for hosting this workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention.