



**STATEMENT BY**

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND  
WILDLIFE COMMISSION AND THE  
1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK**

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Life in harmony, into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to pay tribute to Minister Djombo for his outstanding commitment in promoting the forest agenda and therefore the biodiversity agenda in his country and in the world. I would like also convey my greetings to the distinguished participants of the 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the 1st African Forestry and Wildlife Week. You will address many important and pertinent issues this week, including the role of non-wood forest products, such as bushmeat, in food security and poverty reduction in Africa. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has identified the unsustainable hunting of bushmeat, and its effect on non-target species, as a priority issue (decision IX/5). I would therefore like to outline some the collaborative work of the FAO and CBD on the sustainable harvest of bushmeat, and in particular draw attention to the recent recommendations of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat.

As you are aware, the bushmeat crisis<sup>1</sup> is an urgent concern with multiple dimensions. It affects food security, local livelihoods, and many other aspects of human well-being, as well as the ecological stability and resilience of forest ecosystems. In Central Africa, up to 80% of protein intake in rural households is derived from wild meat, and the populations of many animal species which are targeted by bushmeat hunting are disappearing fast. The IUCN Red List of Mammals in 2008 estimated that one in four mammals globally is under some level of threat of extinction, and in many cases, the reason is unsustainable hunting combined with habitat loss. Finally, the health and stability of forests depend on seed dispersal, and up to 75% of tropical tree species seeds are dispersed by wildlife.

For these reasons, the CBD Expanded programme of work on forests includes an objective to promote the sustainable use of forest resources. In May 2008, in decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD urged Parties to strengthen the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, and identified the unsustainable use of bushmeat as a priority issue.

In response, the CBD Secretariat convened, in collaboration with the FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), a Liaison Group to develop policy recommendations for the sustainable use and conservation of bushmeat species. This first meeting of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat<sup>2</sup>, held in October 2009, built on the efforts of the previous Liaison Group on Non-Timber Forest Products, which developed an information document on the bushmeat crisis, including recommendations, available as CBD Technical Series Nr. 33.<sup>3</sup> The Liaison Group on Bushmeat's recommendations are annexed below and address, among other issues, the sustainable management of wildlife, the role of forest certification, land rights and tenure, capacity building, and research needs.

Solutions do exist to address the urgent food security and biodiversity challenges we have at our hands in many developing countries, but strong political leadership is needed now to move from words to action. The CBD applauds those leaders in the public and private sector who are already supporting the conservation and sustainable use of forest fauna. The celebration of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Liaison Group defines bushmeat (or wild meat) hunting as the harvesting of wild animals in tropical and sub-tropical forests for food and for non-food purposes, including for medicinal use.

<sup>2</sup> The full report of the Bushmeat Liaison Group meeting is available at [www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=LGB-01](http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=LGB-01)

<sup>3</sup> CBD Technical Series Nr. 33 "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis" is available in Spanish, French, and English at [cbd.int/ts](http://cbd.int/ts).

2010 International Year of Biodiversity offers a unique opportunity to place the issues of biodiversity loss, including in forest ecosystems, and the serious impacts on human well-being, firmly onto the political agenda. To this end, in September the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly will convene for the first time ever a high-level segment on biodiversity with the participation of heads of state and government. And at their tenth meeting in October in Nagoya, Japan, the Parties to the CBD will make a final assessment of progress toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target, create new biodiversity targets for 2020 and 2050, finalize a comprehensive post-2010 strategic plan for ultimately stopping biodiversity loss in the years to come, and establish an International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing. All of this will be done using a bottom-up approach, with the participation and input of a broad range of stakeholders, including youth, indigenous and local authorities, parliamentarians, the private sector, and cooperative agencies. We look forward to working with FAO and other partners to build on the achievements of the International Year of Biodiversity, which will be followed by another important event for the biodiversity family: the 2011 International Year of Forests.

I hope that the Liaison Group on Bushmeat recommendations will find broad ownership and support amongst stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels. The CBD Secretariat and its partners are committed to address the bushmeat crisis as a priority issue, and we are grateful for your active support in this important task.

In this spirit, I wish you a fruitful meeting, and I look forward to hearing about the results of your discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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