



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE WILD FOUNDATION WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS TO FINANCE THE CONSERVATION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

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SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA**



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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,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to convey my warm greetings to everyone gathered in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the workshop on an interim funding mechanism to protect tropical forests and surrounding habitat. The theme of the workshop strikes a chord with the large and growing global community of experts and enthusiasts who strive to conserve biodiversity and explore new ways to do so.

I would especially like to congratulate the WILD foundation for organizing this timely workshop. Tropical forests are facing immense pressures and we are in a race against time to find ways of conserving and using them sustainably for the benefit of present and future generations. Payments for ecosystem services such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – REDD – provide new ways to generate benefits from intact forests, so our societies can make better use of these immense ecological and economic assets without further degrading or destroying them.

The Convention on Biological Diversity supports innovative approaches to financing for biodiversity. At their ninth meeting in Bonn, Germany, in 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD invited relevant organizations, including non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, to take actions to implement the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's objectives.

COP 9 also adopted various decisions that make reference to REDD. The decisions call attention to the opportunities provided by REDD, and point at associated challenges for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as for the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities. Based on decision IX/16, the COP established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which has elaborated specific guidance on the opportunities for, and possible negative impacts on, biodiversity that may arise from REDD.

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group's goal was to provide biodiversity-related information to the UNFCCC process. In the same spirit, the Secretariat of the CBD is actively seeking to strengthen synergies between the three Rio Conventions, *inter alia* in relation to REDD. However, the CBD Secretariat is aware that REDD is being discussed under the UNFCCC and discussions within the CBD must not pre-empt the decisions of our sister Rio Convention.

During this 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its tenth meeting, from 18 – 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, is expected to further advance the interlinkages between the CBD and UNFCCC on the issue of REDD and other climate change related opportunities for the implementation of the CBD. Moreover, just prior to COP10, heads of state attending the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in New York will discuss the importance of biodiversity while considering the relation between climate change and biodiversity, including REDD. In seeking to facilitate such synergies, the CBD Secretariat will continue to fulfil its mandate to support Parties in their efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Ladies and gentlemen, this workshop is about sharing knowledge, and creating synergies. I regret that I am unable to be with you but I look forward to learning about the dialogue and ideas that emerge from this event, and I wish you a productive workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention.