

Statement by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla
at the occasion of the
**Official launch of the third edition of
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK**
10 May 2010, UNEP, Nairobi

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asante sana (thank you very much in Kiswahili), Mr. Thomas Lovejoy for your presentation.

Asante sana to Canada, the European Commission, Germany and Japan for your financial contribution, without which the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook would have not been possible

Asante sana to Mr. Achim Steiner and to the UNEP Regional Offices for the launch of the GBO-3 in all UNEP's offices in Panama, Brasilia, Manama, Geneva, and Bangkok.

Asante sana to the Director General of UNON Mr. Achim Steiner for the services provided by UNON for translating GBO-3 into the six UN Languages. It is my pleasure to present to Mr. Steiner, copies of the GBO-3 in the six UN Languages.

Asante sana to the regional economic and social commissions of the United Nations for launching the report in Santiago and Addis Ababa.

Asante sana for the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their support.

Asante sana for the CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, under the leadership of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, who is organizing a training session on the topic of GBO-3 for SBSTTA-14 delegates on 15 May in Nairobi.

Asante sana mara mingi to the exceptional GBO team. I am sure that Mr. Steiner will agree with me that of the most important challenges facing a senior United Nations manager in fulfilling his or her duties to recognize and reward the hard work of performing staff members. But we have a very simple tool at our disposal to convey our gratitude which is to simply say "thank you" *Asante sana*.

It is therefore my pleasure to say *Asante sana* engraved for eternity in Kenyan wood to the GBO-3 team as reflected in this commemorative plaque. It is my pleasure to present the plaque to the GBO-3 team through Jo Mulongoy who has also just been awarded the UNEP Baobab Award. Thank you, Jo and your team.

A team is comprised of individuals and I want to individually thank Kieran Mooney the sole short-term staff at the General Service level who has GBO-3 under his terms of reference. Thank you, Kieran.

I want also to acknowledge the unique contribution of Robert Höft, now known as the GBO-3 man, who has no GBO-3 in his terms of reference. Thank you, Robert.

I would also like to thank David Cooper for his support to the GBO team, and recognise his outstanding job in preparing the draft strategic plan and assisting countries in finalizing their national reports and updating their NBSAPs. I sincerely hope that COP 10 will translate his hard work in concrete gratitude. Thank you, David.