



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



STATEMENT

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE CONFERENCE ON DELIVERING GLOBAL FOOD
SECURITY:**

***GLOBAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-
2010 ERA***

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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,

Cervantes said, “Good actions ennoble us, and we are the sons of our deeds.” A generation from now our children will be looking back and judging us based on our actions at the beginning of this second decade of the new millennium. Were they good actions or bad ones? Did we do our utmost to pass on a rich and stable planet to future generations, or did we overuse and overexploit Nature’s bounty and thereby rob them of their just inheritance?

Today we are in need of good actions more than ever. This past May the Secretariat issued the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook. Based on 120 national reports from Parties to the Convention as well as the scientific literature, GBO3 warns that today species continue to go extinct at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate. The report further warns massive further loss of biodiversity is projected to occur before the end of this century and that ecosystem are approaching tipping points beyond which irreversible degradation will take place, with dire consequences for human wellbeing.

This is most certainly true when it comes to food security. Seventy-five per cent of the food crop varieties we once grew have disappeared from our fields in the last 100 years. Twenty-one per cent of the world’s 7,000 livestock breeds are classified as being at risk, while more than 60 breeds are reported to have become extinct during the first six years of this century alone. Of the 7,000 species of plants that have been domesticated over the history of agriculture, a mere 30 account for 90 per cent of all the food that we eat every day.

But it is also true when it comes to human wellbeing more generally. 300 million people worldwide, the majority poor, are estimated to depend substantially on forest biodiversity, including non-wood forest products, for their survival and livelihood. And yet 13 million hectares of the world’s forests are lost due to deforestation each year.

1 billion people depend on fish as their sole or main source of animal protein, while fish provided more than 2.6 billion people with at least 20 percent of their average per capita animal protein intake. And yet 80 percent of examined world marine fish stocks are fully exploited or overexploited.

Around 30 million people in the poorest and most vulnerable coastal and inland communities entirely depend on coral reefs for their livelihoods. And yet 60 per cent of coral reefs could be lost by 2030 through fishing damage, pollution, disease, invasive alien species and coral bleaching.

In Africa, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the people rely on traditional medicines, as in Ghana, where 60 per cent of childhood malarial fevers are first treated with plant-based medicines. However, about 8 per cent of the 52,000 medicinal plants used today are threatened with extinction.

Overall, it is estimated that natural capital constitutes 26 per cent of the total wealth of low-income countries. Hence, it is the poorest amongst us who will suffer the most if we continue to destroy biodiversity

Indeed, small-scale or informal sectors based on such activities as small-scale farming, animal husbandry, informal forestry, fisheries are collectively termed the "GDP of the poor", being the basement sectors from which most of the developing world's poor draw their livelihood and employment. If tabulated against conventional GDP the contribution of ecosystem services

comes to about 7 per cent. However, if only the “GDP of the poor” is considered, the contribution of ecosystem services jumps to 57 per cent.

Moreover, most countries termed as poor abound in biodiversity. Hence, biodiversity should not only be considered as a static element to maintain and protect. It can also serve as a productive base from which to plan development strategies.

The clear connection between biodiversity and human wellbeing is why the target of slowing biodiversity loss by 2010 was incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals and 2010 was declared the International Year of Biodiversity. It is also why this September in New York, for the first time ever a high-level segment of the UN General Assembly discussed biodiversity and its links to poverty alleviation, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Building on these events, the Convention’s tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Aichi/Nagoya will mark a new dawn in the relationship between humans and nature, a new beginning in our attempt to live in peace and harmony with our fellow species on planet Earth.

The Aichi/Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing will be one of the most important legal instruments in the history of the environmental movement. By operationalizing the third objective of the CBD, the protocol will be a unique tool for achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty. It will promote a new economic order by establishing a renewed North-South relationship through a genuine partnership between the owners and users of genetic resources.

This renewed partnership will guide and inspire the Aichi/Nagoya 2011-2020 strategic plan of the CBD. The new strategic plan will incorporate a 2050 biodiversity vision, a 2020 biodiversity target and sub-targets, and contain a means of implementation as well as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Moreover, it will comprehensively address biodiversity loss so as to ensure that the poor will not become poorer and that humanity as a whole will not suffer in the future from the extensive loss of biological goods and ecosystem services.

To do this, the new strategic plan is expected to have several other key components, which include:

- drawing strong links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing;
- addressing the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- making explicit the importance of biodiversity preservation for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- addressing both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, the latter including *inter alia* excessive consumption, for example of fossil fuels and meat, population growth, environmentally harmful subsidies, and a lack of public awareness about the harmful consequences of biodiversity loss;
- promoting concerted action by all by all sectors of government and society in addressing biodiversity loss; and
- linking such action with efforts to combat and adapt to climate change.

Overall, the new strategic plan will emphasize that biodiversity loss is interlinked with a range of issues, from poverty to climate change, water scarcity, growth in demand, development and international conflict, and therefore can no longer be treated as a stand-alone issue. It will emphasize that the preservation of our biological resources must be mainstreamed into society at large, including our economic systems and markets.

With this in mind, *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB), whose final phase will be made public in Nagoya, will help bring attention to the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development and ultimately contribute to the successful implementation of our post-2010 strategic plan.

Further, the 2020 biodiversity target will be integrated in the plan of action on cities and biodiversity that will be adopted at the Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit. An Urban Biodiversity Index developed under the leadership of Singapore will be also adopted at COP10, while the 2020 biodiversity target will be integrated into the multi-year plan of action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, which was developed through a partnership between the Group of 77 and China and the Secretariat of the CBD.

In addition, at COP10 the strategic plan will be presented to the heads of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, while the ministerial segment of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit will also be held with the participation of heads of state and their partners. The expected 120 ministers will establish a dialogue with their partners, in particular with mayors, parliamentarians, youth, indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations, but also with CEO of companies. Finally, a Business and Biodiversity Initiative will be adopted at COP10.

Overall, in Nagoya a Global Alliance to protect life on Earth will be established, in accordance with the slogan of the International Year: Biodiversity is life... Biodiversity is our life.

Thank you for your kind attention.