

STATEMENT

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE OPENING SESSION OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS'
ECOSYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE PAVILION:**

*The linkages between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land
management*

**18 OCTOBER 2010
NAGOYA, JAPAN**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now widely recognized that climate change, land degradation and biodiversity are interconnected, not only through effects of climate change on biodiversity and land management, but also through changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning that affect climate change. Thus, the challenges—and solutions—to climate change, biodiversity loss, and the degradation of the world's drylands, are becoming increasingly interlinked.

To promote enhanced synergies between climate change, land degradation and biodiversity, the Rio Convention secretariats – of the CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC – along with the Global Environment Facility, governments, international and civil society organizations have teamed up to develop a platform to raise public awareness and share information about these interlinkages at a series of major international conferences.

Bringing together 19 partners, the “*Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion – Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management*” is making its debut this year, the International Year of Biodiversity, here at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. A collaborative outreach initiative, the Pavilion will also be featured at the Cancun Climate Conference that begins at the end of November, at the Desertification Conference next year in Changwon, Republic of Korea, and at the Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

The Pavilion provides a space for delegates, representatives from non-governmental organizations, business and civil society to discuss solutions and approaches to the challenges of enhancing national synergies between the Rio Conventions. Allow me to thank the six national and regional governments involved: Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain and the Government of Flanders. I would also like to thank several key partners, including the European Commission, TEEB (the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), the UN Development Programme, the UN Environment Programme, ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas, Conservation International, and the Global Island Partnership.

During the course of this historic two-week Conference in Nagoya, the Pavilion will feature exhibits and panel discussions on topics that include the links between forest biodiversity and adaptation and mitigation; indigenous peoples and communities, water, the role of protected areas, the economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change biodiversity loss, desertification and land degradation, and financing.

The Pavilion, through its partnership-based approach, captures and promotes actions needed to move ahead towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the mutually supportive and reinforcing objectives of the Rio Conventions in a manner that is coordinated, cost effective and efficient.

The implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and mitigation and the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and strategies will require enhanced cooperation and synergies between the different biodiversity and climate change actors, especially the three Rio Conventions, while taking into account their different mandates and Parties.

Many best practice examples of mechanisms to promote synergies at the national and local level are available, including the establishment of national committees consisting of focal points to the three Rio Conventions, the development of common pools of experts, the integrated management of funding to address biodiversity and climate change, and the integration of climate change and biodiversity elements within national biodiversity strategy and action plans and national adaptation plans and programmes.

All of this makes the Pavilion a key outreach tool as we strive to finalize and adopt the international community's 2011-2020 biodiversity strategy here in Nagoya, and as we work in collaboration with the other Rio Conventions toward Rio plus 20 in 2012, the Millennium Development Goal Review in 2105, and beyond.

Thank you for your kind attention.