



## **STATEMENT**

**BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF**

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE  
OF ORIENTAL WHITE STORKS**

**30 OCTOBER 2010  
TOYOOKA, JAPAN**



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Life in harmony, into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be addressing this 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Future of White Oriental Storks. You have gathered in Toyooka because of a shared commitment to re-establishing and managing wild populations of this magnificent bird. I applaud you for your efforts and your commitment to life on Earth.

Allow me to thank Toyooka city in particular. Not only has the city been hosting this conference for many years now, but it is leading by example. Toyooka has increased the numbers of storks living in the city to more than 40 through a successful breeding program over the past 4 years. This is no small feat, given how difficult reestablishment programmes can be to successfully implement. And yet as the great Zen Master Dogen said, “Something you want badly enough can always be gained. No matter how fierce the enemy...or how carefully guarded the treasure, there is always a means to the goal for the earnest seeker.” This is a piece of wisdom that Toyooka has taken to heart.

Your efforts to save the Oriental White Stork are perfectly in line with the vision of the Convention. Article 8 of its text calls on Parties, amongst other things, to:

- Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;
- Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas; and
- Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies.

I thank you for your commitment to doing all of these things. Your attempts to re-establish the Oriental White Stork should serve as inspiration to the international community in this time of crisis. In May the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook showed that species worldwide continue to disappear at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate. The report further warns that without concerted action massive further loss of biodiversity is projected to occur before the end of the century and that ecosystems are approaching tipping points beyond which they will be irreversibly degraded.

Following your lead, we must change these trends. That is why last week in Nagoya, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a comprehensive strategic plan for the 2011-2020 period. This was done with the participation of all stakeholders, including youth, local and indigenous authorities, parliamentarians and the private sector. In Nagoya, a grand global alliance was formed to save life on Earth.

With continued engagement over the next decade, I am sure that our efforts to stop biodiversity loss worldwide and your efforts to save the Oriental White Stork will both be increasingly successful. Allow me to point out that over the last 20 years, 36 bird species and 24 mammal species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat on the IUCN Red List as a consequence of successful conservation action. In the years to come, the Oriental White Stork,

and many other species beside, will no doubt help to swell that list.

Thank you for your kind attention.