



**Convention sur la
diversité biologique**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
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DÉCLARATION

MR. AHMED DJOGLAF

**SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIF DE LA
CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE**

À L'OCCASION DE LA

**9ÈME COMITÉ CONSULTATIF RÉGIONAL (CCR) –
PARTENARIAT POUR LES FORÊTS DU BASSIN DU CONGO (PFBC)**

**BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI
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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,

Protecting biodiversity means protecting the essence of societies and cultures around the world. Biodiversity is life and biodiversity is our life. This was the slogan of last year's 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, which culminated with the historic Nagoya Biodiversity Summit.

Last October, thanks to the leadership of Japan, more than 18,000 participants representing 193 Parties and their partners adopted, during the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10), the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact comprising a global and comprehensive biodiversity strategy for 2011-2020, known as the Aichi Targets. In addition, the Nagoya meeting recommended to the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2011-2020 the *United Nations Decade on Biodiversity*, which will be launched in at regional level around the world in the summer of 2011, with a global launch in Tokyo at the end of 2011. In particular, the United Nations declared 2011 as the *International Year of Forests*, so as to highlight and celebrate the central role of people in the management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests.

Building on the great success of Nagoya, the *International Decade on Biodiversity* is beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. Many countries in the region have already gained substantial experience in developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). But, new NBSAPs must be formulated and implemented as soon as possible to avoid any delays in the achievement of the Aichi Targets. To assist eligible countries in translating the Aichi Targets into NBSAPs before COP11, Japan has established a Biodiversity Fund, which is now fully operational. In addition, the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol is an urgent matter. The CBD Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) are working to ensure that the first meeting of the governing body of this historic instrument will take place in India in October 2012 back-to-back with COP11. Nonetheless, 50 ratifications are required before 19 July 2012 in order to get there.

The task we set ourselves in Nagoya was ambitious. It will require leadership, decisive actions and close collaboration at all levels to ensure the timely delivery of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at national and regional levels. This workshop is therefore opportune and of the utmost importance as it sets to discuss the Nagoya recommendations on the sustainability of forest ecosystems with the goal of strengthening coordination in the development of emerging initiatives.

I hope that in your discussions you will specifically address the implementation of the forest-related targets of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, notably:

- to at **least halve deforestation**, and where feasible bring it close to zero (Target 5)
- to manage **all areas under forestry sustainably** (Target 7)
- to **conserve at least 17 per cent** of terrestrial and inland water areas (Target 11)
- and to **restore at least 15 per cent** of degraded forest ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification (Target 15).

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership is well placed to support governments and civil society in one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world in achieving these targets.

I have no doubt that your deliberations will highlight the importance of forest biodiversity to humankind and inspire further actions for preserving forest biodiversity in the Congo Basin. I urge all participants to remember that we are working to ensure our constituencies are fully empowered to move towards a better future for forests and people, because what is really at stake in this process is nothing less than the future of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.