



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

**MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS**

*on the occasion of the*

**THIRD MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE  
HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON THE GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES FOR  
IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

*14-15 March 2014*

*Brasilia, Brazil*

Honourable Vice-Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends:

It is well known that the successful implementation and delivery of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets requires the development of an appropriate and coherent political and institutional framework, and strong political will, particularly at national and regional levels, and that investment in 'natural capital' will deliver significant co-benefits for sustainable development. However, quantifying such costs and benefits has been challenging.

The first report of the High-level Panel submitted to COP 11, demonstrated that, while the benefits are likely to greatly outweigh costs, significant investment is required. Furthermore the sooner those investments are made the more cost-effective they will be. Questions were rightfully asked at COP-11 of how the global figures were derived, and calls were made for second, bottom-up assessment to be reported to COP-12. I have been following the recent progress of the Panel with interest, and am pleased to hear that the latest research more or less supports those initial findings, as well as begins to set out the level of benefits that can be expected from those investments.

I commend the work that UNEP-WCMC and ICF GHK have done to date in support of the Panel by facilitating and spearheading the underlying research. The range of evidence and the conclusions that can be drawn are exemplary of the effort that has gone into producing this report to date. I would like to thank in particular, the chair of this panel, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, and the government of UK and India for guiding this process.

It is now up to the Panel itself to take ownership of this report and the messages it is conveying. We will all have to stand up at WGRI and COP and be able to respond to the comments that Parties may have, and to be ready to answer the tough questions that will surely come. I think the information is there in the messages of this report, but we need to make it presentable so that the delegates can take them back to their capitals and convince their



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government colleagues and others that there are considerable benefits to investing in biodiversity conservation.

I am glad that this meeting is being held back-to-back with the regional workshop for resource mobilisation, and that there will be some interaction between the two events. There are mutual lessons to be learnt from both processes. I am also pleased to see that we have colleagues here from a range of key agencies such as the GEF Secretariat, the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP. You are in vital positions to disseminate these messages and to build on them with a wide range of international, national and local level stakeholders. My thanks to all of you for your commitment and insights that helped to take the work of the High-level Panel forward.

I also wish to thank, through you, Honourable Vice-Minister, and the Government of Brazil for the readiness and kind support provided in hosting the meeting here in Brasilia, as well as the Governments of the United Kingdom, Japan and Norway for their financial support and representative of COP President for their active involvement. I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful meeting.

Thank you.