



**MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**STATEMENT TO**

**The Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility**

**Cancun, Mexico**

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)



Estimado Secretario Guerra,

Dear Naoko,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Four years ago, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity reviewed the decade-long efforts to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss and concluded that the 2010 target was missed. In response, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the targets to substantially increase financial support. At that time, the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund was replenished at a record level that was substantially higher over its previous period.

Now four years have passed. As the mid-point of the Strategic Plan is fast approaching, the global progress report card shows, however, some mixed results. The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, which is under finalization by the Convention Secretariat, has examined progress towards meeting the Aichi Targets and actions required to keep on track, and prospects for achieving the longer-term vision.

There has been significant progress towards meeting some components of the majority of the Aichi Targets. The conservation target for protecting at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas is on track to be met quantitatively. The target for every country to update national biodiversity strategy and action plan by 2015 will likely be met. The Secretariat has already received 25 revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and is being informed by a large number of Parties that their national planning process is well under way. Time has come to ensure that the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be implemented with adequate financial resources.

There are already 37 ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. With the upcoming ratifications by many states from all continents in the coming weeks as we are told, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be organized concurrently with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in October 2014 in the Republic of Korea. I want to urge all Parties to the Convention that have not deposited their instrument of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol to expedite their domestic process in order to be able to fully participate in the decision making at the first Meeting of the Parties.

The progress so far set the solid foundation for further implementing the other components of the Strategic Plan, but it is in most cases estimated by GBO-4 not to be sufficient to achieve all the goals and targets set for 2020. Some examples of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which are likely to be missed, are:

- At least halve and, where feasible, bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests
- Achieve a conservation target of 10% of marine and coastal areas
- Restore at least 15% of degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities

According to the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Outlook, extrapolations for a range of indicators suggest that based on current trends, pressures on biodiversity will continue to increase at least until 2020, and that the status of biodiversity will continue to decline.

To counter the trend, it is important that the 2020 global biodiversity goals and targets are met, and this requires innovative and bold action in many areas, and a sustained focus on biodiversity in a wide range of policy areas for the second half of this decade. Success stories have demonstrated that effective action comes from simultaneously addressing multiple causes of biodiversity loss. In this regard, we welcome the new integrated approach pilots of GEF-6: (i) taking deforestation out of the commodities supply chain; (ii) sustainable cities—harnessing local action for global commons; and (iii) fostering sustainability and resilience of food production systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. We want to encourage the financial mechanism to explore further along this line.

The preliminary funding targets agreed by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the final targets to be deliberated by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties constitute an integral part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Fulfilling these funding commitments provide the necessary enabling condition for achieving other goals and targets of the Strategic Plan. These commitments include by 2015:

- Doubled, by 2015, against a baseline of 2006 – 2010, total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to contribute to the achievement of the Convention's three objectives
- Include biodiversity in national priorities or development plans and make appropriate domestic financial provisions
- Report domestic biodiversity expenditures, as well as funding needs, gaps and priorities
- Prepare national financial plans for biodiversity, and assess and/or evaluate the values of biological diversity and its components

There is one more year to meet these funding targets, but the review of the progress indicates that greater efforts must be made in order for these targets to be met.

I welcome the successful completion of the negotiation for replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. I want to congratulate those countries that have increased their pledges to the GEF-6 Trust Fund and, on behalf of the Convention, put on record a note of gratitude to these countries,

namely (in descending order in terms of percentage increase), Brazil, Mexico, Sweden, Australia, China, Norway, India, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark, and France. I note that the agreed replenishment for GEF-6 represents a 30% increase for the biodiversity focal area against the baseline of GEF-4 which corresponds to the baseline of 2006-2010 referred to in the COP-11 decision.

A substantially replenished and effective Global Environment Facility will be the best message from the financial mechanism to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will certainly take good note of such messages. Taking this opportunity, I want to extend the invitation of the Convention to all of you, ministers and deputies of finance, international and regional organizations, GEF agencies, civil society organizations to attend the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties this coming October in the Republic of Korea.

Finally, I want to thank the Mexican Government for hosting this meeting.

Thank you very much.