



STATEMENT BY
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ON THE OCCASION OF
INTER-REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON REDD+ AND AICHI
BIODIVERSITY TARGETS
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Convention on
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**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all participants of this inter-regional capacity-building workshop on REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is a pleasure for the CBD Secretariat to be able to organize this workshop in collaboration with the Government of Costa Rica and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center in the beautiful country of Costa Rica, which is at the forefront of biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, with many successful programmes such as Payments for Ecosystem Services.

As you know, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. Parties to the Convention have been translating these targets into national targets as part of their updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Some countries are also in the process of designing their REDD+ strategies, identifying and developing frameworks for the application of their REDD+ safeguards and examining potential linkages to meet international obligations and policy commitments. In this regard, I take note of the growing number of national reports which have referenced REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs which are drawing linkages to REDD+ objectives.

Hence, at this workshop we will focus on increasing further awareness of the potential synergies between REDD+ actions and actions needed to plan for and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including goals outlined in NBSAPs, in order to support more coherent planning, data sharing and reporting. Making progress in these areas clearly requires an inter-sectorial approach with participation of governmental authorities of environment and forestry sectors, as well as a variety of organizations, local and indigenous communities and the private sector.

It is therefore constructive to count on experts at this workshop representing a number of countries, from both biodiversity and forestry departments, and various organizations. I hope that this mixture of experts provides a fruitful exchange of experiences, lessons learned and potential support mechanisms to further enhance coordination and information within and among countries.

It is with appreciation that I acknowledge the Government of Japan, through its Japan Biodiversity Fund, for generously providing the necessary financial support for this workshop. Further, I would like to give special thanks to the Government of Costa Rica for actively supporting this workshop as our kind host, and to UNEP-WCMC for backstopping the necessary logistical arrangements for this workshop.

As countries chart their own courses towards achieving REDD+ objectives and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, they will be looking for the most efficient and innovative solutions not only meet those objectives, but also to attain urgent socio-economic development goals. This workshop therefore aims to provide the necessary capacity to help countries in outlining synergies and realistic ways and means for achieving both REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, while minimizing trade-offs and optimising benefits.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We are approaching the CBD COP 12 in October this year which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea. COP-12 will undertake a mid-term review of progress towards the achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to identify where we are in the implementation of the biodiversity agenda, and to effectively make course corrections.

It is time to take real actions towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We cannot spare any time, particularly where the results of actions take time to manifest themselves.

I look forward to your constructive discussions and the findings from this workshop.

Thank you.