



MESSAGE BY
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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE TWENTY FIRST MEETING OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION
FACILITY GOVERNING BOARD**

NEW DELHI, INDIA

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**The Chair of the Governing Board of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF),
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Convention on Biological Diversity achieved an important milestone four years ago with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS). I am pleased to announce that, on 14 July 2014, we received the 50th instrument of ratification for the Nagoya Protocol, meaning that it will enter into force on 12 October 2014. As a result, the first meeting of Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 1) will take place next month in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in conjunction with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 12). At these meetings the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the adoption and operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol will be reviewed globally in light of the findings of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 4) and information provided by Parties in their Fifth National Reports.

Let me use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the GBIF community of experts for their significant contribution to the assessment of the status and trends of global biodiversity as well as for their support to Parties in making national information available through national clearing house mechanisms. I would also like to thank the GBIF Secretariat for taking the lead on the information relating to the assessment of progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 9 and 19 on invasive alien species and on sharing information biodiversity, respectively. And perhaps most significantly, we owe our thanks to the skills of GBIF Secretariat staff in pulling together information from a range of sources and turning it into coherent draft versions of GBO-4. This has not been a trivial task and it demonstrates the contribution of GBIF of turning data and information from disparate sources into analysable datasets from which policy-relevant conclusions can be drawn.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You may also be aware that the member states of United Nations have agreed to propose a set of Sustainable Development Goals building upon the Millennium Development Goals in order to define the post 2015 development agenda. In this context, the importance of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets* in this process was reaffirmed by governments at Rio+20 United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012.

In line with this ongoing process the theme of COP 12 next month will be “***biodiversity for sustainable development***”. A major COP 12 outcome is expected to be a set of decisions on actions required to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, which may become known as the “Pyeongchang Roadmap.” This roadmap would guide Parties in the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets through ***further capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, as well as financial measures***. A decision is also expected on how to further integrate biodiversity into the sustainable development agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Invasive alien species are a major direct driver of biodiversity loss. Many island nations and developing countries have been suffering from the devastating impacts of invasive alien species with their negative impacts on native species, their ecosystems and agricultural and health sectors. I need not emphasize here that invasive alien species hinder countries’ economic development, and are an obstacle to

sustainable development. In order to address these and other negative impacts of invasive alien species, governments need appropriate scientific information on which to base their decisions and actions.

In this context I wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the proactive role played by GBIF in supporting invasive alien species initiatives through the Global Invasive Alien Species Partnership, which was launched at the margins of COP11 in Hyderabad, India. Thanks to GBIF's effective efforts, major data providers such as CABI, the IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group, and many other institutions and researchers are publishing invasive species data through GBIF. The first integrated system of the Partnership will be presented at the COP 12 as a fruit of collaboration among the partners.

I would like to thank Mr. Donald Hobern who has actively taken the role of co-chair of the GIASI Partnership Steering Committee with me, and he remains an important driver of this important journey. GBIF's role as a global inter-governmental partner and promoter of this important partnership is critical to improve the scientific knowledge needed in order to sustain healthy ecosystems. I therefore appeal, not only to this forum but also within the CBD constituency, to recognize the benefits of a viable, active and strong GBIF, primarily to benefit countries in having access to information to guide their own sustainable development agenda, because this would - almost as a side effect - enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

The last meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Hyderabad, India in 2012, saw a synthesis of the Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook Report which was subsequently launched by GBIF in 2013, and presented for the first time, a consolidated proposal for a platform for biodiversity data from all sources. I hope the 21st meeting of the GBIF Governing Board will pave the way to further mobilize data useful to countries for both scientific advances and for decision making at the political level. The Secretariat of the CBD is pleased to continue its collaboration with GBIF in a mutually beneficial partnership. I wish you a successful 21st meeting of the GBIF Governing Body in India.

Thank you.