



CBD

# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## PRESS RELEASE



Achieving the  
2010  
Biodiversity  
Target

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### ***India donates art to the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture; and releases its third national report to the Convention***

*New Delhi, 20 November 2006* – Befitting his country's unique and rich cultural and biological diversity, the Honourable Thiru A. Raja, Minister of Environment and Forests of the Government of India, presented a marble vase to the Museum of Nature and Culture of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Crafted by a master artisan from the Indian state of Rajasthan, the marble vase with intricate inlay work shows India's national bird, a peacock, on two sides against a background of exquisite floral design.

The Minister presented this piece to Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the margins of the International Conference on the implications of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in New Delhi, India. The gift to the CBD museum "truly portrays the cultural richness of the people of India and their commitment to conserving nature and making use of its gifts sustainably and with equity," stated Mr. Djoghlaif.

At the same event, the Minister released India's third national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and presented the first copy to the Executive Secretary.

India, home to more than 89,000 animal and 47,000 plant species and myriads of cultures, traditions and languages is one of the great megadiverse countries of the world. Mr. Djoghlaif thanked the Government of India and, quoting Mahatma Gandhi, said: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." He added that: "India, with respect for nature ingrained in its ethos, plays a significant role in the world's conservation movement and has dedicated itself to conserve the future of life on this planet."

During his meeting with the Executive Secretary, the Minister stated that: "With its enabling policy environment, conducive leadership and political will, and heightened public awareness and participation, India is committed to achieving the 2010 biodiversity target." He added that: "We hope that Mr. Djoghlaif will be able to have an international regime on access and benefit-sharing by 2010, wherein the concerns of developing countries are adequately addressed."

India's third national report to CBD focuses on the status and trends of biodiversity, and impacts of national actions on achievement of the objectives of the Convention.



## **Information for Journalists:**

### **The Museum of Nature and Culture**

The Museum of Nature and Culture, established in early 2006 at the Convention on Biological Diversity's Secretariat in Montreal, provides a unique opportunity to display to its many visitors from around the world the cultural and biological heritage of the 189 Parties to the Convention. In keeping with the spirit of the Convention, the collection showcases the splendour of nature and all its diversity in artwork that depicts the intertwining of culture and nature.

### **National Reports**

Each Party that joins the Convention is required to report on what it has done to implement the accord, and how effective this is in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The objective of national reporting is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures. The national reports, particularly when seen together, are one of the key tools for tracking progress in meeting the Convention's objectives.

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 189 Parties—188 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal, Canada.

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