



For information media • not an official record

PRESS RELEASE

Rio + 20 outcome recognizes importance of biodiversity for sustainable development

Rio de Janeiro 22 June 2012. The nations of the world have recognized the crucial role of biodiversity in ensuring sustainable development in the outcome document of the Rio + 20 conference and called for greater efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The outcome document, entitled: "The Future we Want," agreed by heads of state in Rio de Janeiro reiterated the international commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was opened for signature at the 1992 "Earth Summit" held in Rio De Janeiro.

In keeping with this, governments affirmed the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its twenty Aichi targets, which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at their tenth meeting in Nagoya Japan in 2010.

Noting the adoption of a new legal instrument on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources – the Nagoya Protocol, Parties to the Convention were invited to ratify or accede to the Protocol so as to ensure its entry into force at the earliest possible opportunity.

Governments recognized the need for resources and therefore welcomed the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the commitment to substantially increasing resources from all sources in support of biodiversity.

"This document shows that the world recognizes that biodiversity is a central intertwined component of sustainable development, and further that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the tool needed to ensure that it is protected and used sustainably for all in present and future generations" said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

"I call upon governments to look at the commitments in this document and to use the opportunity of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, including the Nagoya Protocol, to take the actions in support of the future we want. The agenda of sustainable development agreed by heads of states at the Rio+20 shall provide an enabling environment for an effective implementation of the objectives and targets of the CBD" he said.

The document also contained references to action in oceans, forests and dry and sub humid lands that support the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.







Note to Editors

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held 2010, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, comprising five strategic goals and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Plan is the overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 162 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information: www.cbd.int

For additional information, please contact:

David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int

Johan Hedlund on + 1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
