



Convention on Biological Diversity
Year in Review 2006

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	2
Foreword	3
The State of Biodiversity	4
A New Enhanced Phase of Implementation	10
Implementing the Curitiba Decisions	22



PREFACE



Marina Silva,
Minister of Environment, Brazil

No one questions the critical importance of biodiversity for the balance of the global environment. Anything that threatens its conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of its resources must be rejected, and seen as a threat to the survival of humanity and the planet itself. It is essential to extract the political and legal consequences of this paradigm. The first, and most important, is to avoid backtracking on advances that have already been achieved. It also follows that we need to work for the implementation of regulatory milestones and incentives that will protect biodiversity and the legitimate development expectations of poor countries, the main stewards of the natural heritage of the world. It was in this spirit of political responsibility that Brazil recently hosted the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

For developing countries, the largest holders of global biodiversity, determination and political will are necessary to translate into action the commitments made under the Convention. However, the difficulties many of those countries face have to be recognized, and we have to consider the international agreements—foreseen by the Convention itself and based on the Rio Principles—that link the implementation, by developing countries, of these commitments to the actual fulfillment, by developed countries, of their counterpart obligations regarding the provision of financial resources and technology transfer.

In this framework, it is essential to build a covenant for the implementation of the CBD, and to build solid partnerships between the various sectors of society. Likewise, it is important to consider ethical ways and means to reach this objective.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment indicates that some economic sectors have benefited, over the last century, from the conversion of natural ecosystems, and from the unsustainable exploitation of natural ecosystems. These gains, however, were made at the expense of increasing losses in biodiversity, degradation of goods and services rendered by ecosystems and by widening income gaps and increases in poverty levels.

Sustainable environmental logic is not compatible with any economic system based on increasing and asphyxiating social inequalities. Today, the richest 25% of the Earth's inhabitants consume 80% of the available resources. In 1960, the income difference between the 20% richest and poorest citizens was thirty-fold, yet today it is more than seventy-fold. One in every three urban citizens live in slums, and 150 million immigrants have had to leave their countries because they were abandoned by their State, or were alienated by local markets affected by globalization. With this in mind, protection of biodiversity goes well beyond environmental conservation. It is as much about economic development and social inclusion.

As the president of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Brazil proposed and adopted a platform of action for its two-year term of office. While these actions are primarily internal, they will also benchmark our efforts to promote and facilitate real and significant advances at the international level on key issues, and to achieve the three objectives of the Convention—conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The effective implementation of the Convention must include, among other issues, new forms of financing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which respect our basic commitment to share benefits. One of these forms, which will also rescue historical commitments assumed at the Rio conference, is the adoption and implementation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. There is no more time for small adjustments or minor adaptations. Just keeping with business as usual will not reverse the current status of biodiversity, which is deteriorating, and our deficit with the 2010 Biodiversity Target will only increase.

Our commitment to this Convention is not only with ourselves, it is with life on Earth. Side by side with all sectors of society, we need to designate actions that will define the kind of planet that we shall leave to future generations. ❖

FOREWORD

Biological diversity is currently declining at an alarming rate. Over the past 50 years humans have changed ecosystems faster and more extensively than in any other time in human history. As evidenced in the CBD Global Biodiversity Outlook 2, biodiversity continues to be lost in all areas of the world and at all scales, from genes to ecosystems, with the rate of species extinctions now at a level not seen since the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Of 15 indicators designed to measure progress towards a decline in the rate of biodiversity loss, only one—the coverage of protected areas—is moving in a direction likely to reverse current trends. It is therefore fitting that the first Annual Review of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) presents an overview of the current state of biodiversity.

Biological diversity underpins a wide range of services provided to humans by ecosystems, from provision of food and fresh water to protection from storms and regulation of the climate. Conservation efforts must work hand in hand with human needs as healthy and diverse ecosystems are the foundation for human well-being. When these ecosystems become threatened it is the poor who ultimately bear the brunt of biodiversity loss. Environmental degradation reduces the income and security of billions of rural people who depend directly on natural resources for their well-being. If we do not stop this downward spiral, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in particular combating poverty will remain illusive. Our production systems, consumption patterns and trade arrangements can no longer afford to ignore environmental considerations.

In 2002, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This commitment was reiterated by 154 Heads of State and Governments at the 2005 World Review Summit of the United Nations General Assembly.

Meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target remains a key challenge facing multilateral cooperation for sustainable development in the years to come. The 1395 experts from 95 countries who spent four years reviewing the health of our planet's ecosystems for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment suggest that achieving the 2010 Target is indeed feasible, but requires unprecedented efforts at the national, regional and global level.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tools and the political will exists to achieve the 2010 Target and beyond. What is required now is the concerted effort of all stakeholders to ensure that tomorrow's generation of young people can look ahead to a greener and more environmentally sustainable future. It is well within our means to do so and there can be no greater legacy for us to pass onto future generations than leaving them a sustainable and biologically diverse planet. The Secretariat of the Convention is fully committed to play its role in achieving this inter-generational responsibility. ❖



Ahmed Djoghlaoui,
Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity

THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY IN 2006

FACT

The effective use of biodiversity at all levels—genes, species and ecosystems—is a precondition for sustainable development.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to the variety of life on Earth. Biodiversity, the combination of life forms, their interactions with one another and with the physical environment makes the Earth habitable for humans. Our biodiverse ecosystems are made up of dynamic interactions between plants, animals, microorganisms and their environment. These ecosystems, working together as functional units, provide the basic necessities of life, offer protection from natural disasters and disease, and are the very foundation for human existence and survival.

However, much of the world's biodiversity is in rapid decline. The loss of biodiversity today is

occurring at a rate of up to a thousand times faster than the natural background rate according to the recent groundbreaking Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) which says that a full two-thirds of the ecological services provided by biodiverse ecosystems are being badly degraded.

The loss of biodiversity is important not only for ethical, moral and aesthetic reasons, but also because it impacts on the world's economy. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is essential for poverty eradication in economically developing countries. Healthy ecosystems provide mankind with a vast range of goods and services, such as supplies of clean water and air and the pollination of crops.

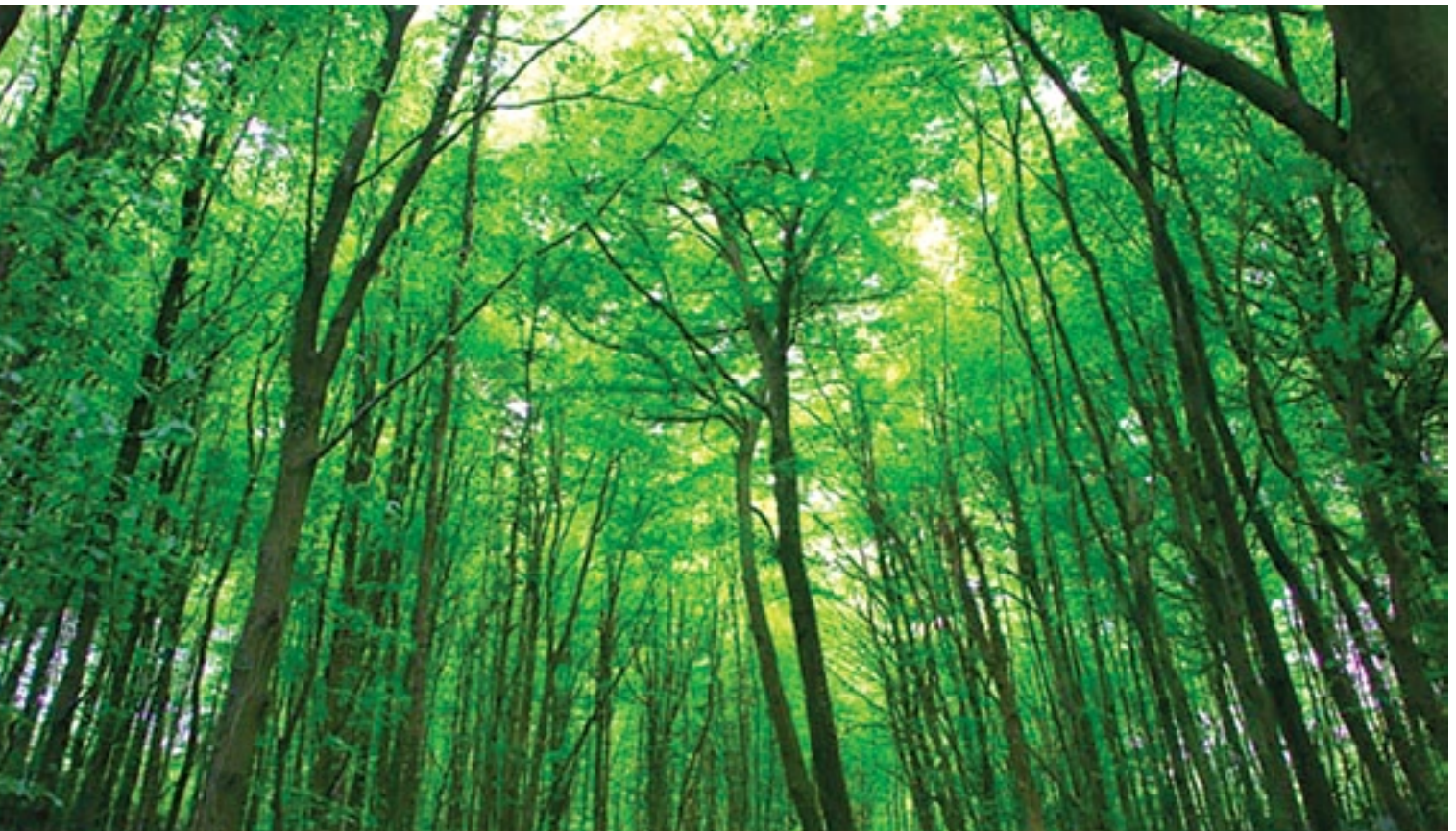


Photo: Ian Britton/www.freefoto.com



Polar Bears, Canada.
Photo: Amanda Graham/www.flickr.com

It is a well-established fact that the poor suffer the most from environmental degradation, which is both a major cause and consequence of poverty.

The need for poor people to gain greater control over the management of natural resources was one of the strongest messages from the September 2006 IUCN Conference on “Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation.” Since approximately 25% of the total wealth of low-income countries comes from the environment—compared to less than four per cent in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)—conserving the diversity of species and ecosystems is crucial for the economic advance of developing countries.

However, out of 24 ecosystem services assessed by the MA study, two-thirds were found to be in decline which affects fresh water supplies, marine fishery production, habitats for indigenous and/or traditional populations, the ability of the atmosphere to cleanse itself of pollutants, natural hazard regulation, pollination, and the capacity of agricultural ecosystems to provide pest control.

The second Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO2) report produced and released by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006, supports the main findings of the MA study. Conclusions reached in the GBO2 report suggest, among other things, that the global demand for resources

now exceeds by 20% the biological capacity of the Earth to renew these resources.

Outlining the priority issues for engaging with the key sectors of food and agriculture, trade, poverty reduction, and development, GBO2 also notes the importance of integrating biodiversity concerns into the energy sector, given that climate change now is an increasingly significant driver of biodiversity loss and that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to both climate change, mitigation and adaptation.

The report also highlights several areas of global concern that require immediate attention and points out that there is still time to slow down, halt, or even reverse many of these trends. In several cases, concerted efforts are now being made to do just that.

These areas of global concern include deforestation. The conversion of forests into agricultural land is happening at a very high rate. The loss of primary forest—the most biodiverse—has been estimated at six million hectares annually since 2000.

In 2006, a number of new conservation initiatives were launched to protect biodiversity. In March, Brazil announced that it would place 6.4 million hectares of the Amazon rainforest, an area twice the size of Belgium, under direct environmental protection. At the same time, the governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia announced the “Heart

FACT
Goods and services provided annually by natural ecosystems are worth trillions of dollars in conventional economic terms, and the prosperity of all societies hinges upon safeguarding them.



Amazon Forest
Photo: hazelbrae/www.flickr.com



School of Trevally Jacks.
Photo: Matt Brown/www.flickr.com

of Borneo” conservation plan, intended to protect biodiversity by preserving 220,000 square kilometres of equatorial rainforest on the island of Borneo.

This area sustains rich, rare, endemic and unique biota, and is one of the only two places on Earth, the other being Sumatra, where endangered species such as orangutans, Asian elephants, Sumatran rhinoceros and proboscis monkey still co-exist. Also, in September 2006, the Republic of the Congo created two new protected areas of nearly one million hectares, which contain some of the highest densities of gorillas on Earth as well as elephants, chimpanzees, hippos and crocodiles.

Coastal and marine ecosystems have also been heavily impacted by human activities, with degradation leading to a reduced coverage of kelp forests, seagrasses and corals. In the Caribbean, average hard coral cover declined from about 50% to 10% in the past 30 years. In countries for which adequate data are available it is known that some 35% of mangroves have been lost in the last two decades.

Although the number and size of areas under protection is increasing, most regions are falling

well short of the target of protecting 10% of their surface area. Marine ecosystems in particular are poorly protected, with only approximately 0.6% of the ocean and about 1.4% of the coastal shelf areas under protection.

However, several important marine reserves were created in 2006. They include the Micronesia Challenge initiative, which aims to place 30% of the marine areas and 20% of the forest across Micronesia under environmental protection; the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, which covers some 360,000 square kilometres of reefs, atolls and shallow and deep sea in the Pacific Ocean, and is the single largest conservation area under the United States flag; and a new initiative announced by the Australian Government to create 13 new marine protected areas (MPAs) covering 226,000 square kilometres of new protected zones in order to preserve the unique environment of Australia’s south-eastern waters.

Across the world, species are facing declining numbers and extinction. Some 3,000 species showed a consistent decline in abundance of about

FACT

Coastal zones, which include some of the most diverse and productive marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, tidal mudflats and kelp forests, are particularly threatened by human activities.



Pele Island, Vanuatu.
Photo: Roger & Celia
www.flickr.com



**Arabian Oryx,
Saudi Arabia**
Photo courtesy of KKWRC,
Thumana Saudi Arabia

The Convention for Life on Earth

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) represents the first time that biological diversity has been comprehensively addressed in an international treaty. Negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The CBD has three objectives—the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It addresses issues relating to research and training, public education and awareness, and technical and scientific cooperation. The Convention is legally binding, and Parties are obliged to implement its provisions. It presently includes 190 members—189 countries and the European Union.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings. The COP has established seven thematic programmes of work—agricultural biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity. Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to, guide future work. They also set out key issues for consideration, identify potential outputs, and suggest a timetable and means for achieving these. Implementation of the work programmes depends on contributions from Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations. They are periodically reviewed by the COP and the open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which conducts assessments of status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity and provides the COP with scientifically, technically and technologically sound advice on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

40% between 1970 and 2000 with inland water species declining by 50%, and marine and terrestrial species both declining by around 30%. Studies of amphibians globally, African mammals, birds in agricultural lands, British butterflies, Caribbean and Indo-Pacific corals, and commonly harvested fish all show that numbers are falling for the majority of species. Birds have shown a continuing deterioration across all biomes over the last two decades and preliminary findings for other major groups, such as amphibians and mammals, indicate that their situation is probably worse. Between 12 and 52% of species within well-studied higher taxa are threatened with extinction. However, 2006 also saw the discovery of dozens of new species in New Guinea, including frogs, butterflies, plants, a new bird, and a tree kangaroo.

The intensification of fishing has led to a decline in large high-value fish high up on the food chain, such as tuna, cod, sea bass and swordfish. In the North Atlantic, the number of large fish has declined by two thirds in the last 50 years. A study published by the journal *Science* in November 2006 suggests that the loss of ocean biodiversity is accelerating and is severely reducing the ocean's ability to produce seafood, resist diseases, filter pollutants and rebound from such stresses as over-fishing and climate change. These findings were the work of scientists from the United States, Canada, Sweden and the United Kingdom who analysed data from the FAO.

According to their report, 29% of fish and invertebrate fisheries within all 64 large marine ecosystems worldwide had collapsed. If this trend continues, there will be little or no seafood available for human consumption by mid-century. However, the report suggests that there is still time to reverse this trend and recommends an ecosystem management approach that sets aside some zones completely off-limits to any human activity while allowing only certain specified uses in others, such as recreation, research, and sport fishing. The ocean provides about 130 million tonnes of food every year, although demand is forecast to rise to between 180 million and 230 million tonnes by 2030.

To achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss and meet the 2010 Target remains one of the most important challenges for multilateral cooperation in the years to come. The 1,395 experts from 95 countries who undertook a four-year review of the health of the planet's ecosystems made it clear in finalizing the MA that although it is still possible to achieve the 2010 Target it will require unprecedented efforts at national, regional and global levels.

Therefore, the 190 Parties to the Convention are redoubling their efforts to further the implementation of the three objectives and realize the target of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. ❖

FACT
Individual species play a critical role in human food, medicine, biological pest control, materials and recreation.

A NEW ENHANCED PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

FACT

Climate variability and change affects vast proportions of island territories, resulting in proportionately large land losses, particularly in low-lying islands.



Carlos Richa, Mayor of Curitiba, hands over the logo of the COP-MOP conference to Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif. The logo symbolizes the three objectives of the Convention.

Brazil, one of the most megadiverse countries in the world and the birthplace of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), provided the appropriate setting to ring in the new enhanced phase of implementation for the Convention. Held in Curitiba from 20 to 31 March 2006, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) adopted 34 decisions and proved to be a landmark event in the history of the CBD, setting a new record in terms of participation, with over 4,000 participants, representing some 160 Governments, 1,000 NGOs, as well as 885 organizations, including 348 indigenous organizations, and an unprecedented number of side events.

Some of the greatest treasures remaining on the planet are the fragile ecosystems of islands. Earth is home to over 100,000 islands, and more than 600

million people live on islands. They play a unique role in global biodiversity yet face conservation threats amplified by their unique geography. The Micronesia Challenge initiative, launched at COP 8 by the President of Palau and the Vice President of Micronesia, aims to address this issue by placing 30% of the marine areas and 20% of the forest across Micronesia under environmental protection.

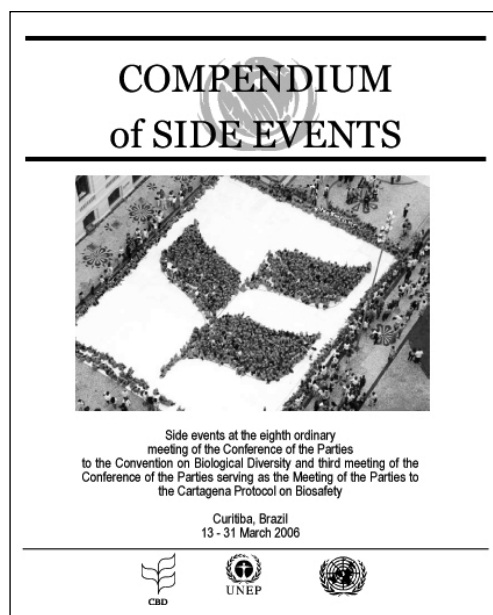
The launch of the Micronesia Challenge coincided with the adoption of a new programme of work on island biodiversity. This represents the first time that the uniqueness and fragility of island biodiversity have been addressed through a specific work programme, and in a manner that will provide for new partnerships. The overall goal is to significantly reduce island biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond as a contribution to poverty alleviation and



the sustainable development of islands, particularly small island developing States.

Discussions on the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity at COP 8 centered on the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources that lie beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and on ways to enhance the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management. The other thematic programme of work considered at the meeting was that on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. In addition, the preparation of the full review of the work programme on agricultural biodiversity was initiated for consideration at its next meeting.

Regarding protected areas, defined by the CBD as “a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific con-



COP 8 opens in Curitiba, Brazil, with participation from various indigenous communities. Photo: ENB/IIISD RS



[TOP] Delegates were transported in and out of the conference venue using low-emission buses. Photo: ENB/HSO RS

Several thousand volunteers contributed to the success of the conference and assisted more than 5,000 participants. Photos: ENB/HSO RS

[OPPOSITE] GEF CEO, Monique Barbut visited the Secretariat in November 2006

servation objectives,” participants considered the outcomes of COP 7, particularly with reference to the review of the programme of work and the options for mobilizing financial resources for its implementation. Concerning incentive measures, which usually take the form of a new policy, law, or economic or social programme, Parties considered the application of tools for the valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity functions and resources and initiated a structured, transparent and inclusive process for the in-depth review of the programme of work, to be undertaken at their ninth meeting.

With regard to the need for multi-sector activities, information generation, and synergies between the three Rio conventions, the Parties called for the strengthening of implementation of the joint work programme between the CBD and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

and adopted a decision on biodiversity and climate change focusing on promoting synergy among activities for biodiversity conservation, mitigating or adapting to climate change and combating land degradation. To raise public awareness, the participants adopted a short-list of priority activities and a plan of implementation for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, which aims to promote understanding among the public on biological diversity and the measures needed for its conservation.

Parties also established an inter-sessional process for the in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention dealing, respectively, with improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the CBD, and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

(NBSAPs) and integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors.

All Parties to the CBD have an obligation, among other things, to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or to adapt existing strategies, plans or programmes. Particular emphasis was therefore placed on the implementation of NBSAPs, with Parties adopting voluntary guidelines to be used for the review and updating of such strategies and action plans. The Parties re-emphasized the need for increased technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation, as supporting mechanisms and tools for more effective implementation. Several measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of and streamlining CBD processes with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention were also adopted.

Access to, and transfer of, technology, together with scientific and technical cooperation, are key elements in the Convention. With regard to the scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism, the Parties adopted an updated strate-

gic plan for the period 2005-2010 and a programme of work up to 2010.

The availability of financial resources for the implementation of the CBD continues to be an important issue. Hence the Parties agreed to conduct an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources. Parties also provided further guidance to the financial mechanism on a number of issues and requested that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) include in its regular report to the COP, information on the initial application of the Resource Allocation Framework, focusing on the biodiversity focal area, and on how the Framework was likely to affect funding available to eligible countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Convention.

Monique Barbut, GEF Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, visited the Secretariat in November

FACT

Protected areas now cover about 12% of the Earth's land surface and act as a buffer against the continuing loss of ecosystems and species.



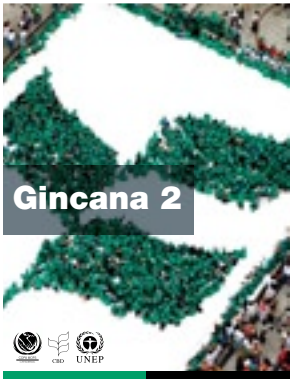
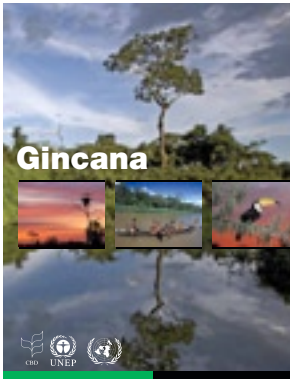
National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) help identify biodiversity at imminent risk and provide an effective strategy to prevent loss. The development and adoption of a national biodiversity strategy serves as a cornerstone to implementation of the Convention by the Parties, and reflects how the country intends to fulfill the objectives of the Convention in light of specific national circumstances and the sequence of steps to be taken to meet these goals.

By the end of 2006, 134 Parties had finalized their NBSAPs, 11 Parties had completed revisions and another three Parties had informed the CBD that a revision was being carried out. Another 36 Parties are presently preparing their first NBSAPs. These figures indicate that, in all, some 90% of Parties are currently involved, to a greater or lesser extent, in biodiversity planning.

Sixteen Parties submitted their first NBSAP during 2006: Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Guinée-Bissau, Lao, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, Ethiopia informed the Secretariat of the completion of its NBSAP and India indicated that its NBSAP was in the final stages of preparation and is being linked to its National Environment Plan. Sweden submitted a revised NBSAP.

Brazil became the first Party to adopt a set of measurable biodiversity targets within the 2010 framework. Belgium, the Czech Republic and Sweden have also linked their NBSAPs to this framework and Ghana convened a national meeting to develop its action plan and agreed to prioritize actions which would support implementation of the 2010 Target.



2006, the first visit by Ms. Barbut to a GEF-related convention as head of the GEF. Emphasizing her commitment to increase the impact of the GEF with respect to the implementation of environmental agreements, Ms. Barbut elaborated on new initiatives in country dialogues and strategies, new strategies for biodiversity, involvement of the private sector, technology-capacity development, addressing land degradation in Africa, and a comprehensive programme on forests. She invited the CBD Secretariat to sit on the technical advisory group to refine the focal strategy.

Much of the success of the Curitiba biodiversity meetings can no doubt be attributed to the “Gincana” spirit of the host country. The term “Gincana” loosely translates into working hard together in a fun and competitive atmosphere towards a common goal, and that spirit of cooperation is reflected in the first edition of the *Gincana* magazine, produced and released by the CBD to coincide with the meeting, and featuring articles written by four Heads of State or Government and other eminent persons involved in biodiversity-related issues. A second edition of the magazine was published in December 2006.

The meetings also highlighted the urgent need to place biodiversity-related issues prominently on the global agenda. To this end, following an initiative taken by Brazil, the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006 proclaimed 2010 as the International Year on Biodiversity. In addition, achieving the 2010 Target serves as the guiding principle of European action, with biodiversity-related issues figuring prominently on the agenda of the European Union Presidencies. With the “Triple Presidency” of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, all three countries are taking on a major responsibility in preparing and implementing concrete, practicable regulations and measures for achieving the 2010 Target at European and global levels.

It is no exaggeration to conclude that the outcomes of the Curitiba meetings served to reaffirm the role of the Convention as the key international instrument in setting the global biodiversity agenda, as well as its contribution to the efforts of the international community towards a more sustainable future. The meetings were an important and significant step towards achieving the 2010 Target and can be viewed as the starting point of a new phase of enhanced implementation for the Convention.



Greenpeace International's Kids for Forest at COP 8, Curitiba, Brazil

Ministers and heads of delegation hold high-level talks

The biodiversity meetings in Curitiba included the first-ever interactive High-Level Ministerial Segment of a COP conference. Opened by the President of Brazil, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and presided over by Ms. Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister for Environment, Water Resources and the Legal Amazon, representatives from 134 countries emphasized that the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Millennium Development Goals should be mutually supportive, and discussed ways to strengthen the CBD and effectively promote sustainable development.

General consensus was reached on several issues, including:

- Implementation of the CBD and the achievement of its objectives can only be reached through cross-cutting policies and actions
- Equal priority must be given to implementation of the CBD and the various international agreements and conventions addressing issues related to the Convention's three objectives
- Education and awareness raising must play a key role for all major groups, particularly young people, to better understand the essential ecological services that biodiversity provides and the risks to human society that its loss represents
- Ministers of Environment have a dual responsibility to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity within such sectors as food and agriculture and trade and development
- Long-term funding for the implementation of the CBD must be secured
- Recognition that it is imperative to act more quickly at all levels if the objectives of the CBD and the 2010 Target are to be achieved.



President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil opens the COP 8 High-Level Segment Ministerial Segment in Curitiba, Brazil. Photo: ENB/UISD RS

Global Biosafety: Renewed spirit of consensus and cooperation

Heralding a renewed spirit of consensus and international cooperation in promoting the safe use of modern biotechnology, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 3), held in Curitiba from 13-17 March 2006 with the participation of 1295 delegates, adopted a number of important decisions.

Building on the achievements of the first two meetings held in 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, and in 2005 in Montreal, COP-MOP 3 made a major breakthrough on the sensitive and important issue of detailed requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms (LMOs) intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, which had previously eluded Parties, and

concluded an agreement that clearly outlines the information required on documentation accompanying these shipments.

Other important decisions adopted by COP-MOP 3 included:

- A format for the first regular national report on the implementation of the Protocol, including the schedule and process for preparing the report
- Further guidance on measures to enhance the operation, accessibility and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), and measures for building capacities to enhance national participation in the BCH
- A revised Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol, as well as measures to facilitate its implementation and to foster coordination and



[ABOVE] The panel during the COP 8 High-Level Segment Ministerial Meeting: Cristian Samper (Smithsonian Institution); AH Zakri (UNU-IAS); Marina Silva, Minister of Environment for Brazil; CEO Len Good (GEF); CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif; Achim Steiner (former IUCN Director General and current UNEP Executive Director); and UNEP Executive Director, Klaus Töpfer
Photo: ENB/ISD RS



[RIGHT] President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil in conversation with Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, and Carlos Alberto Richa, Mayor of Curitiba.

synergies between different capacity-building initiatives

- Measures aimed at strengthening the quality, effectiveness and level of use of the Roster of Biosafety Experts
- Further measures for enhancing capacity-building in risk assessment and risk management and the process for collecting and sharing available information and guidance materials
- Measures to enhance cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives
- A process to facilitate the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol at COP-MOP 4.

Parties also decided to change the frequency of the ordinary meetings of the COP-MOP from one year to every two years. Accordingly, COP-MOP 4 is scheduled to take place in 2008 in Bonn, Germany, in conjunction with COP 9.

Biosafety Clearing-House

The Secretariat continued to develop and implement the Central Portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) during 2006 by expanding the range of biosafety information available through the BCH, including the addition of an easily accessible Central Registry of Living Modified Organisms that provides information on the transformation event, gene in-



[ABOVE] View of the COP-MOP 3 plenary.
Photo: ENB/ISD RS

[LEFT] From left: Teresita Castillo, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, in conversation with Marina Silva, Brazil's Environment Minister during a High-Level Ministerial Luncheon at COP 8, Curitiba, Brazil.

[RIGHT] Fatima Nasron, COP-MOP 3 President, and Cyrie Shendashonga, COP-MOP 3 Secretary, at the opening plenary of MOP 3. Photo: ENB/ISD RS

sert and characteristics of the modification, and its unique identification code.

The Secretariat continued to expand the search and help features available through the Central Portal throughout the year, including providing access to all linked records in search results; a new facility to undertake 'global' decision searching; a 'virtual notebook' to save records; and online access to the training modules developed under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-GEF project on building capacity for effective participation in the BCH. The full texts of the interim national reports on implementation of the Protocol are also available through the BCH, as well as an analysis tool for searching and examining multiple reports at once.

As part of its role in providing technical assistance to Parties, the Secretariat conducted a BCH Training Workshop on 11-12 March 2006, back-to-back with the third meeting of the COP-MOP, in

collaboration with the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Unit and their Regional Advisors for the BCH. Additionally, offline versions of the BCH on CD-ROM were produced by the Secretariat to assist users with limited or expensive Internet access. The CD-ROM includes all records that are contained in the BCH databases as well as the search functions required to access those records. The March 2006 release was circulated during the third meeting of the COP-MOP and the December 2006 (English-only) version was produced and distributed by mail to Focal Points at the end of the year. The CD will be available in all the other official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) in 2007.

In December 2006, the Secretariat reviewed all of the national records registered in the BCH were reviewed and sent summaries of this information to each government for their review. At the end of



CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif presents Cyrie Sendashonga, in her final role as a Secretariat staff member—COP-MOP 3 Secretary, with a plaque in recognition of her valuable contribution and service to the Protocol.
Photo: ENB/ISD RS

the year, the BCH contained a total of 10258 biosafety records.

Partnership agreements with international nodes to provide information to the BCH continued to be implemented with OECD and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), as well as national nodes for Switzerland and the United States. Testing is in progress for interoperability with several additional governments and organizations.

Biosafety Protocol Compliance Committee

During 2006, the CBD Secretariat undertook a number of activities to help Parties meet their obligations

under the Protocol. The second meeting of the Compliance Committee (in the context of the Biosafety Protocol) was held in Montreal from 6-8 February 2006. The meeting analyzed the interim national reports and identified issues that needed attention in order to ensure a good start in the effective implementation of the requirements of the Biosafety Protocol and the achievement of its objective. The Committee also used information registered with the BCH to identify some general issues that affect compliance with the requirements of making various types of information available. Recommendations were subsequently submitted to COP-MOP 3, where a decision was adopted to review the effectiveness of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance, including measures concerning repeated cases of non-compliance, at its fourth meeting.

Biosafety Capacity -Building Activities

The Second Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities, sponsored and hosted by the Government of Norway, and held 18-20 January 2006 in Tromsø, Norway resulted in the development of an interim guiding framework for promoting synergies and complementarities between biosafety capacity-building initiatives at the country level.

The third meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety met in Tromsø from 20-21 January 2006, back-to-back with the Coordination meeting. The meeting reviewed and provided advice on the progress report, and effectiveness, of the implementation of the capacity-building Action Plan as well as the draft report on the roster of biosafety experts that were prepared by the Executive Secretary for consideration by COP-MOP 3, a recommendation subsequently adopted.

Liability and Redress

The Second meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Liability and Redress in the context of the Biosafety Protocol was held from 20-24 February 2006 in Montreal. At this meeting,



the Working Group developed an indicative list of criteria for the assessment of the effectiveness of any rules and procedures referred to in Article 27 of the Protocol. Article 27 requires the COP to adopt a process with respect to the appropriate elaboration of international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of LMOs, analysing and taking due account of the on-going processes in international law on these matters, and to endeavour to complete this process within four years. The Working Group also considered a synthesis of views and proposed text on the approaches, options and issues from the annex to the report of the first meeting of the Working Group. In particular, the Working Group developed different options for operational text on scope, damage and causation.

Cooperation on Biosafety

During 2006 the Secretariat intensified its collaborative efforts, including efforts to gain World Trade Organization (WTO) observer status in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement

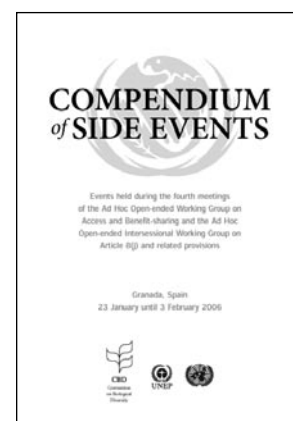
(SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) committees, and enhancing synergies with other processes and initiatives.

The Secretariat also continued to strengthen its working relationship with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and in October 2006 the Secretariat initiated a process to enhance cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). A new expanded Memorandum of Cooperation was prepared, replacing the one signed in 2001. Under the new MoC, the two organizations will cooperate in strengthening the capacity of developing countries with regard to the implementation of the Protocol and promoting biosafety information exchange.

During 2006, support for the Protocol continued to grow. The number of Parties to the Protocol grew by nine per cent from the previous year and the Protocol entered into force in 14 additional countries. By the end of the year the number of Parties to the Protocol was 136, with six countries submitting letters to the Secretariat stating their political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol.

FACT

Article 8(j) of the Convention states that benefits arising from the application of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be shared equitably with the indigenous and local communities concerned.



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, with members of the Article 8 (j) Advisory Group. From left: Erjen C. Khamaganova, Russian Federation, Marianne Jensen, Denmark/Greenland, Lucy Mullenkei, Kenya, Jannie Lasim-bag, Malaysia, Sonia Smallacombe, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Secretariat, Gladman Chibememe, Zimbabwe and Sandy Gauntlett, New Zealand. Photo: ENB/ISD RS



[ABOVE] Indigenous communities offer a prayer during the COP 8 opening ceremonies in Curitiba. Photo: ENB/ISD RS

Enhancing the pivotal role of indigenous and local communities

Indigenous and local communities, and the knowledge they hold, are pivotal to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. What these cultural communities have in common is a long-term association with the lands and waters on which they depend. Indigenous and local communities are stewards of 99% of the world's biological resources. Considering that indigenous and local communities represent less than 5% of the world's population, such statistics are evidence of both their great cultural diversity and of their location in biologically rich and diverse regions.

The CBD contains a number of provisions of particular importance to indigenous peoples. The main provision is Article 8(j) in which Parties undertake to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. They also undertake to promote the wider application of such knowledge, innovations and practices with the approval and involvement of the indigenous peoples concerned.

The fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD, held 23-27 January 2006 in Granada, Spain, saw delegates consider and adopt nine recommendations for COP 8. About 370 participants attended the meeting, representing 95 governments.

The COP 8 meeting in Curitiba was attended by more than 1,000 NGOs, including 348 indigenous organizations. The meeting considered innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; a plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices embodying traditional lifestyle relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; as well as on collaboration with the Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) on the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

It also considered the implementation and in-depth review of the programme of work; the development of elements of *sui generis* systems for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities; the mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and



The fourth ABS-Working Group plenary session. Photo: ENB/IIISD RS

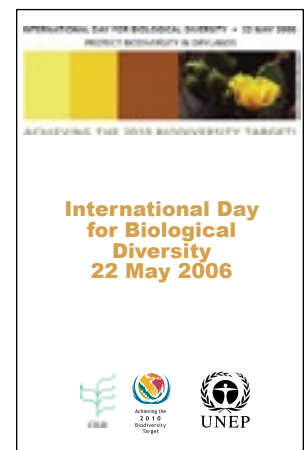
local communities including criteria for the operation of the voluntary funding mechanism and the role of the thematic focal point under the Clearing House Mechanism. Consideration was also given to elements of an ethical code of conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; to indicators for assessing progress toward achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target on issues related to status and trends of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, as well as the recommendations to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The CBD is committed to working with indigenous and local communities and to promote their full and effective participation and involvement in policy development and decision-making.

International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity was established by the Parties at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Nassau, Bahamas in 1994, to raise global awareness of the importance of biodiversity to all life on Earth, and

to establish the role of the Convention in ensuring a sustainable future for us all. Endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, the Day has become a major tool, not only to enhance public awareness of the Convention, but also as a way to mobilize the international community in support of the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. Celebrated each year on 22 May, which coincides with the adoption of the text of the Convention in 1992, it provides an ideal opportunity for policy makers and citizens to come together to celebrate the richness of the world's biodiversity and the crucial role it plays for sustaining life on Earth. To mark the International Year on Deserts and Desertification, the 2006 International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated under the theme, "Protecting biodiversity in drylands." Over 30 countries held a variety of events, including workshops that emphasized the importance of biological diversity, outreach activities for school children, seminars, walking tours, exhibits and events designed to interest and educate the media. In addition, the European Commission adopted a communiqué which set out an ambitious policy approach to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. 🐦



IMPLEMENTING THE CURITIBA DECISIONS

Under the leadership of the Bureau of the Convention, the Secretariat has embarked on implementing the Curitiba decisions that fall under its responsibility.

In response to the decisions on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the Secretariat has compiled lessons learned and case studies into an online database. This database will be available to the public on the new enhanced CBD website, to be launched on 22 May 2007 to coincide with the International Day for Biological Diversity. At the invitation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Secretariat convened the Regional Synergy Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on Agro-Ecosystems within Dry and Sub-humid Lands on 20-23 November 2006. In partnership with UNEP and the government of Italy, preparations for a workshop

on the preparation of a joint programme with the UNCCD on drylands for achieving the 2010 Target has also been initiated.

Responding to the decision adopted by the Curitiba meeting on capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach, the Secretariat, jointly with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies and the IUCN, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the FAO, and in close collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) organized a workshop on the Ecosystem Approach and Customary Practice in Protected Areas in Small Islands in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-16 December 2006.

Discussions centered on the lessons learned by small island practitioners in applying the ecosystem

Reaffirming its leadership role, the COP Bureau met in Brasilia, Brazil, on 5 December 2006, to provide guidance for the implementation of the Secretariat's work programme, prepare for meetings on ABS and to review the implementation of the CBD. Under the leadership of Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment, Brazil, this marked the first time a Bureau meeting convened in the capital of a COP President during an intersessional period.



The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) comprises 11 members; two representatives elected by the COP as vice-presidents from each of the five regional groups (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean; the Western European and Others Group; and Eastern and Central Europe), and the President of the COP, from the host country. The Bureau provides guidance to the President and to the Secretariat on the conduct of the COP and during the inter-sessional period between COP meetings. The Bureau plays a similar role during meetings of subsidiary bodies established by the COP, such as the various ad hoc open-ended working groups. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has its own Bureau, which was established under the Convention.

approach to the planning, establishment, management and monitoring of protected areas, bearing in mind global and regional targets for protected areas, including the Micronesia Challenge. Financial support was received from the government of the Netherlands, for this very important workshop on the application of the ecosystem approach to facilitate links between Parties, partners, experts and other stakeholders and to encourage capacity-building. The discussions led to the recognition that the Ecosystem Approach is a good way of ensuring that landscapes/seascapes outside protected areas are also properly taken into account. The Secretariat finalized the list of potential partners for the new programme of work and contacted 75 organizations requesting their confirmation of the partnership. By 31 December 2006, 22 responses had been received. In light of these responses, a joint action plan will be designed, with partners listed on the island biodiversity programme of work website.

Reaffirming its commitment to play a leadership role, the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention met in Paris on 26 July 2006, where it considered the recommendations and suggestions of the meetings of the past, present and future chairs of the scientific body of the Convention, also held in Paris on 24-25 July 2006.

To further analyse and explore options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats discussions were initiated with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS). During the eighth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in Beijing, China, from 13-14 October 2006, discussions on the development of a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) for the implementation of joint activities took place.

Aiming to address the lack of taxonomic information and expertise available in many parts of the world, and to improve decision-making in conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from genetic resources, a draft



Former, current and future SBSTTA Chairs meet in Paris, 24-25 July 2006. From left: James Seyani, Malawi, Jo Mulongoy, CBD, Asghar Fazel, Iran, Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Ghana, Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, Bakary Kante UNEP, Peter Schei, Norway, A.H. Zakri, Malaysia, and Christian Prip, Denmark.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, congratulates Marina Silva, Minister of Environment for Brazil and COP 8 President, on being awarded as one of the Champions of the Earth for the Latin America & Caribbean region. Photo: ENB/ISD RS

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, and Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat and the Greenbelt Movement of Kenya for offsetting the Secretariat's carbon emissions.



CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif welcomed the visit to the Secretariat by ABS Co-chairs Timothy Hodges of Canada, left, and Fernando Casas, from Colombia.

Meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, with Ryan Hill, CBD, Christophe Häuser, Germany, and Olivier Jalbert, CBD.

guide has been completed for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) to be published in 2007. Activities relating to the various elements of the programme of work agreed upon at the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI, held at the CBD Secretariat on 20-21 November 2006, include activities related to communication, education and public awareness; and a way forward for providing inputs to the negotiations on ABS.

With regard to ABS, the preparation for the convening of the Group of Technical Experts on an internationally recognized certificate of origin/source/legal provenance was finalized in close consultation with the Co-Chairs who paid a working visit to the Secretariat on 7 September. The fifth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) is scheduled to be held in Montreal in October 2007.

In response to the Curitiba decisions on trade, the CBD Executive Secretary met with WTO Director-General, Pascal Lamy, on 30 April 2006, to identify opportunities for further cooperation. The Secretariat delivered a report to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in a Special Session on the trade-relevant outcomes of Curitiba, and continues

to closely follow the discussions and negotiations in relevant WTO bodies. An informal meeting took place on 10 October 2006 with the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures with a view to consult on a number of issues related to alien invasive species. As part of its outreach and awareness raising campaign on the importance of biodiversity and the Cartagena Protocol in the trade community, the Secretariat participated for the first time in a WTO regional seminar on trade and environment, which took place for French-speaking African countries in Rabat, Morocco, on 22-24 November 2006.

Responding to a call for enhanced collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) towards implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the associated joint work programme, a regional synergy workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean was held 20-23 November 2006. Several suggested activities were identified, including the organization and follow-up of national and regional synergy workshops, and the need to develop synergies between the three regional proposals from the Caribbean, Mesoamerica and South America.

Work has also continued on harmonizing national reporting procedures between the CBD and the UNCCD in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre). Also within the framework of the COP decision on dry and sub-humid lands, a database of good practice examples on implementation of the programme of work has been developed and will be launched on 22 May 2007.

Enhancing partnerships and collaboration

At the margins of the High-Level Ministerial Segment at COP 8 a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with a consortium of scientific institutions aimed at promoting the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocol through the organization of training and education activities



Participants to the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, held on 8-9 September 2006, at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, United Kingdom.

focusing on policy, technical and scientific issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol. The first meeting of the Steering Committee of this innovative partnership was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, in the United Kingdom on 8-9 September.

Signatory institutions to the MoU include: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation; Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences; The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico; Scientific institutions of Montreal will sign in early 2007 at the Secretariat offices with the participation of the Mayor of Montreal.

At the margins of the Curitiba meeting, a Heads of Agencies Task Force for 2010 was established. The objective of this unique initiative is to bring together all United Nations agencies and organizations to ensure their active participation, and coordination of their activities, in support of the 2010 Target. At the invitation of the IUCN, the first meeting of the task force was held in Gland, Switzerland on 15

September 2006. The task force collectively agreed to: Promote the integration of the 2010 Target in the Millennium Development Goals as a way of mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors and related work on indicators; make use of communication, education, public awareness and outreach to increase understanding about biodiversity and the 2010 Target as a key component of capacity development, and; Increase inter-agency collaboration on specific issues.

In addition a joint work programme between the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC was signed aimed at assisting in building capacity of eligible Parties for implementation of the Convention.

The fifth meeting of the Biodiversity-related Conventions Liaison Group (BLG) was held on 14 September 2006, in Gland, Switzerland and included, for the first time, a representative of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The members agreed on several concrete and operational measures aimed at enhancing collaboration.

Responding to the request of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, a brainstorming session on the preparation of a multi-year plan of action in



[TOP LEFT] First meeting of the Heads of Agencies Task Force in Gland, Switzerland. From left: Robert Hoft, CBD; CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif; UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner; Ibrahim Thiaw, then Acting Director General of IUCN; Martha Chouchena-Rojas, IUCN; William Jackson, IUCN.

[ABOVE] From left: Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary, Group of 77 and China (G-77), Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, G-77 Chairman, Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo and President of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

[ABOVE RIGHT] Jim Knight, former UK Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity signs MoU with the CBD on behalf of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Photo: ENB/ISD RS

South-South Cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention was held in Montreal on 6-8 November 2006. The 24 experts who participated laid the groundwork for a plan of action to enhance the capacity of developing countries. The meeting also included representatives from the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Collaboration with the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions is continuing within the theme of biodiversity and climate change. A joint side event was held between the CBD and CMS during the twelfth meeting of the COP to the UNFCCC. Also at the UNFCCC, the *CBD Technical Series No 25: Guidance for promoting synergy among activities addressing biological diversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change*, was officially launched during the High-Level Segment. It concludes that national policies, programmes

and plans for adaptation should take biodiversity considerations into account and that maintaining biodiversity should be part of all of these activities so as to allow ecosystems to continue providing goods and services.

Partnerships were also established with local communities. At the initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba, a meeting on “Cities and Biodiversity” will be held in Curitiba from 27 to 29 March 2007. On this occasion, the mayors of cities that have hosted or will host a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as mayors of cities that are host to United Nations institutions, will have the opportunity to share experiences with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to discuss how cities could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and of the 2010 Target.

A meeting was held in July with Mr. Anders Johnson, the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), to emphasize the importance



(ABOVE) Celebrating the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification: Deputy Prime Minister of Gabon, H.E. Madam Georgette Koko, met with Hama Arba Diallo, UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary and Richard Kinley, UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary at the margins of the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 16 May 2006, UN Headquarters, New York, US.

(LEFT) Press conference on the results of a successful meeting of High Level Experts on the implementation of the Convention held in Potsdam, Germany. From left: Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; Klaus Töpfer, former UNEP Executive Director; and Matthias Machnig, Secretary of State Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany.

(BELOW) Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Special Advisor to former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, met with Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary and the staff of the Secretariat

of engaging Parliamentarians during the enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention. This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Donald Oliver, Vice President of IPU. As a result of these meetings, a panel on biodiversity will be convened in April 2007 at the next meeting of the IPU assembly.

Several meetings were held with Canadian authorities with a view towards enhancing the support of the host country to the Convention. On the occasion of the 2006 International Day for Biological Diversity, for example, a Letter of Intent to mobilize the scientific and technical communities of the host country in support of the enhanced phase of implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol was signed with Canadian universities and research institutions. The first planning meeting of this important partnership was held at the Secretariat in September to finalize the programme of action for the partnership for 2006-2007.

Efforts were also made to secure accession to the Convention by the few countries that are not yet a Party to the Convention. Timor-Leste deposited its instrument of accession, on 10 October 2006, and





Representatives of major Canadian universities and research institutes gather in the Secretariat's Joke Hunter-Waller Conference Room to sign Letter of Intent on scientific collaboration.

became the 189th State Party to the Convention on 8 January 2007. Letters were sent to the Minister of Brunei Darussalam responsible for the environment, on 18 April and 7 June, and to the Government of Iraq, on 10 February and 15 August 2006. Both countries have expressed interest and are actively considering the matter.

Finance and administration

In terms of contributions to the core budgets of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol in 2006, there was a 90.4% collection rate for the Convention from Parties and 91% for the Protocol. Additionally, approximately US\$ 2,000,000 has already been paid in advance for 2007 for the Convention and US\$ 800,000 for the Protocol.

Donors also indicated their interest in supporting the activities of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol by pledging voluntary contributions of some US\$ 3,000,000 during 2006 to the four voluntary Trust Funds.

Funding for the operations of the Secretariat of the Convention was increased by both COP 8 and MOP 3 for the 2007-2008 biennium over the 2005-2006 biennium by 4.6% and 16.7% respectively. This highlights the Parties' continued support for the work of the Secretariat, at a time when other environmental conventions are generally seeing a decrease in funding.

At the end of 2006, the Secretariat had a staff of 64 (34 professionals and 30 support staff) from all sources of funding. Additionally, six interns assigned to cover different aspects of the Convention were working at the Secretariat.

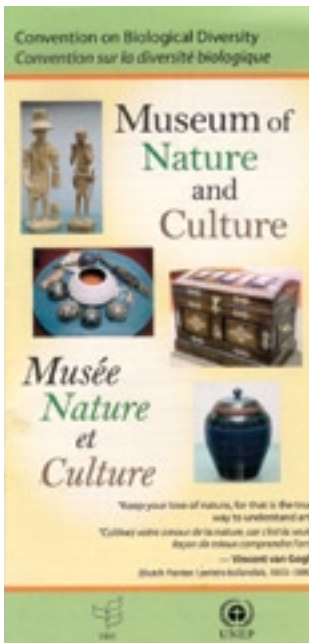
Moving forward

The new enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on life on Earth also calls for a new era in the cooperation of the CBD and its financial mechanism. The commitment of the GEF to establish a vibrant partnership with the Convention and its Protocol was evidenced





On behalf of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, Ambassador Abdesslem Hetira donates a mosaic to the CBD Secretariat, represented by Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlat.



[TOP LEFT] The CBD's Museum of Nature and Culture provides a unique opportunity for Parties to display their rich cultural and biological heritage to the many guests from all over the world that visit the Secretariat. Twenty-three new collections were added to the museum in 2006, and are featured in the Museum brochure produced by the SCBD in 2006.

[TOP RIGHT] The Government of Canada donated a sculpture, made of skull and baleen from a bowhead whale and the ivory tusk of a walrus, titled "Light is Life" by Inuit artist Ruben Anton Komangapik.

[RIGHT] Mr. A. Raja, Minister of Environment and Forests, India, presented Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary a peacock vase to add to the CBD's Museum of Nature and Culture collection.

by the first ever visit by a GEF CEO to the headquarters of the Secretariat in Montreal in November 2006. The GEF has a crucial role to play in the implementation of the Curitiba accords, and such support is essential to build upon the momentum of these meetings and help Parties redouble their efforts for achieving the 2010 Target.

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth meeting of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in May 2008 will therefore be of crucial importance to the Convention and its Protocol, especially since they take place less than two years before the agreed deadline for the 2010 Target and the Curitiba agreement on the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing, as well as the celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity.

Germany, as the host of these two strategic meetings, convened an international workshop on the CBD held in Potsdam on 13-14 December 2006. A number of innovative recommendations were adopted by the experts aimed at making the Bonn meetings a landmark event in the life of the Convention. Importantly, a Biodiversity Agenda has been adopted by the triple European Union Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. It is also rewarding to note that Japan has offered to host COP 10, to be held in 2010.

Biodiversity loss affects us all, and engaging the global community to move forward and intensify its efforts on biodiversity-related issues is essential. The mere presence of the CBD reflects a consensus



in the world that biological diversity is in fact a shared concern of humanity. The greatest challenge now lies in the implementation of the Convention and moving the biodiversity agenda forward. The CBD remains the best means by which to combat biodiversity loss, yet the usefulness and power of law and policy—be it national legislation or international treaty—is only as great as its potential for implementation and enforcement. ♡

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