

UNDP and the International Year of Biodiversity- 2010

1. Context

The UN General Assembly at its sixty-first session Resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006, declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB).

The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity. It is cooperating with other relevant United Nations bodies, multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of the continued loss of biodiversity;

Member States have been invited to consider establishing national committees for the International Year of Biodiversity. Together with other stakeholders they are invited to take advantage of the International Year of Biodiversity to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity by promoting actions at the local, regional and international levels;

The IYB provides a unique opportunity for the global community to accomplish the goals identified by the CBD:

- 1) Enhance public awareness on the importance of conserving biodiversity and on the underlying threats to biodiversity;
- 2) Promote innovative solutions to reduce these threats;
- 3) Call on individuals, organizations, and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss;
- 4) Raise awareness of the accomplishments by communities and governments to save biodiversity; and
- 5) Initiate dialogue among stakeholders on necessary steps for the post-2010 period.

Sharing these goals, particularly as they relate to linkages between biodiversity, poverty and climate change and human development, UNDP has developed a plan of activities for the IYB.

2. UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As develop [local capacity](#), they draw on the assistance of UNDP and its wide range of partners.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](#), including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

3. UNDP activities in celebration of IYB

In celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, UNDP is planning a series of communications and activities with country partners through its network of country offices. A series of knowledge products will highlight how governments, organisations and communities are

addressing biodiversity issues, contributing to progress on reversing global biodiversity loss and how this is benefiting the poverty reduction efforts.

Showcasing successful stories

The UNDP focus during the year and in particular for Cop 10 in Nagoya Japan, will be on showcasing successful stories to inspire policy changes and on the ground actions by governments and partners. These stories need to grow and multiply if we are to make progress in reversing overall biodiversity loss.

A highlight of UNDP activities will be the country level celebrations showcasing successful stories of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use contributing to livelihoods of communities and to national and local economies.

Key messages on the contribution of biodiversity to poverty reduction and development will be prepared, drawing from the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, the Millennium Assessment and follow up work, as well as the ongoing global study on “The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity” (TEEB). The MDG biodiversity target and post 2010 outlook will be emphasised. Bridging the policy messages with on the ground realities, the (130) country offices will be invited to draw from projects and programs and demonstrate real life examples of the contribution of biodiversity to human development.

Codifying experiences in knowledge products

Production of key documents to codify knowledge and experiences will support this effort. The majority will be launched in the CBD COP to be held in Nagoya. These include A ‘How to’ Primer, to be completed in partnership with the South African Government on mainstreaming biodiversity management in land use management. It also includes UNDP findings from Protected Area Management and Finance work. Results of UNDP led economic analyses of the economic contribution of ecosystems to develop the A ‘How to’ Primer on Integrating Biodiversity Management into Commodity Supply Chains and a web based publication of photo stories illustrating local community approaches to conservation and sustainable use will be prepared and made accessible.

Biodiversity and the Human Development Report

The annual [Human Development Report](#), commissioned by UNDP, focuses on the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and policy proposals. The 20 th anniversary edition of the Human development will look into how to best integrate environmental sustainability and biodiversity.

Participation in key IYB events

UNDP officials and key staff will participate in CBD events over the year. Plans are for the Administrator, Olav Kjørven and/or Veerle Vandeweerd to participate in high level events.

These are captured in the chronogram table of UNDP IYB events and activities. UNDP’s work on Biodiversity Management is highlighted in the attached brochure.