



# Gincana 6

## Towards the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE  
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## Towards the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit



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# Message on the International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May

**T**his Day serves as a reminder of the importance of the Earth's biodiversity, and as a wake-up call about the devastating loss we are experiencing as irreplaceable species become extinct at an unprecedented rate.

In any attempt to address this problem, agriculture should be viewed as a starting point. The crops and domesticated livestock of today are a reflection of human management. And the news is not good. About a fifth of domestic animal breeds are at risk of extinction, with an average of one lost each month. Of the 7,000 species of plants that have been domesticated over the 10,000-year history of agriculture, only 30 account for the vast majority of the food we eat every day. Relying on so

few species for sustenance is a losing strategy.

Climate change is complicating the picture. Fluctuations in temperature and precipitation are wreaking havoc on crops. Experts say these factors may cost southern Africa up to 30 per cent of its maize crop by 2030. A diversity of crops and livestock is our best insurance in the face of these changes.

Livestock production is itself a major culprit in climate change, responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than transport. Biodiversity is directly threatened by this industry; about a fifth of terrestrial animal biomass goes to livestock—land that was once habitat for wildlife, and that can provide an important



buffer against the impacts of climate change.

In a world where the population is projected to jump 50 per cent by the year 2050, these trends can spell widespread hunger and malnutrition, creating conditions where poverty, disease and even conflict can metastasize.

Preserving our planet's precious biodiversity is essential to development and security. Not just livestock and crops raised in agricultural landscapes, but also the many thousands of plants and animals in forests, oceans and other ecosystems need protection to maintain the planet's basic environmental balance.

We must rally behind attempts at a solution, such as the Global Plan of Action for Animal

Genetic Resources adopted last September at a meeting supported by the United Nations. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are meeting in May to work, with all other partners, to redouble efforts to reduce biodiversity loss as they seek to achieve the global target set for 2010.

We all have a stake in supporting functional ecosystems, diverse in species and genetic resources, to sustain life everywhere. It is too late to undo the damage the planet has suffered, but it is never too soon to start preserving all that we have left. May this International Day for Biological Diversity unite us in this mission. 🌱





# Future Growth must be Green

2008 will be remembered as one of the landmark years in history as a result of the food and fuel shocks, the credit crunch, turmoil in the financial markets and finally a full-scale economic crisis.

The theme of International Biodiversity Day—Biological Diversity and Agriculture—echoed to at least one if not more of these challenges: namely the important link between sustainable agriculture and food production and the natural world. And not just for agriculture but also for new and more effective pharmaceuticals as well as for buffering communities and countries against climatic shocks.

One of the most persistent challenges facing in particular the people of the South is poverty and unemployment or underemployment.

Progress needs to be urgently made. Poverty is both a challenge to maintaining biodiversity but biodiversity and ecosystems are also an opportunity for overcoming it.

One of the most encouraging developments that took place at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 9) was a decision by governments to begin negotiating an international regime on access and benefits sharing (ABS).

If this can be successfully navigated by the next CBD COP in Japan in 2010, the international community may have found a way of recompensing countries and communities for the use of their genetic resources. This in turn could trigger financial flows from North to South boosting incomes and livelihoods while supporting investments in conservation and more sustainable harvesting of nature-based resources.

The economics are perhaps getting brighter as a result of the climate change agenda too, with progress on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation under the climate convention. Norway has pledged close to \$3 billion and other developed countries are also stepping up to the bar.

UNEP, along with the UN Development Programme and the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization, have also launched the UN REDD Programme. Nine countries have already expressed formal interest in receiving assistance through the UN REDD Programme—Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

The programme has many aims but central is building the capacity of key countries to take part in REDD projects under a new climate change agreement that must be agreed in Copenhagen in late 2009. Safeguards must be in place to ensure that local and indigenous peoples benefit for REDD and are not marginalized by such initiatives. If this can be resolved



on Protected Areas, but also published figures estimating that around 15 per cent of stored carbon is held in the globe's protected area estate. \$45 billion would thus seem to be something of a bargain but one that could play a part in maintaining this natural infrastructure while stimulating jobs and incomes in conservation-based enterprises while also countering climate change.

Just before the CBD Cop in Bonn, Germany, governments gathered for the

***“Progress needs to be urgently made. Poverty is both a challenge to maintaining biodiversity but biodiversity and ecosystems are also an opportunity for overcoming it.”***

the implications for biodiversity and ecosystems, and for addressing climate change, are profound.

Deforestation currently accounts for 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. A report by an advisor to Gordon Brown, the UK Prime Minister, estimates that deforestation rates could be halved with an investment of \$17 to \$33 billion a year.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity report, commissioned by the government of Germany and the European Commission and launched at CBD, estimates that an annual investment of \$45 billion could secure the ecosystem services of the world's 100,000 protected areas worth \$5.2 trillion a year.

Meanwhile at the IUCN Congress in Barcelona, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre not only unveiled with partners the new World Data Base

meeting of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Achievements here included a roadmap towards an “International Instrument on Liability and Redress” under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

In 2008 the issue of an Intergovernmental Panel or Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (IPBES) also came to the fore. Such a scientific body might in some ways mirror the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which has successfully bridged the gap between scientific knowledge and political action.

At a meeting in Malaysia, governments discussed the pros and the cons of such a body and recommendations from there will be presented to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2009.

As I write, governments are preparing to gather in Poznań, Poland for the next





meeting of the UN Climate Convention. We know that unless climate change is checked and the destruction and degradation of the natural world is not addressed, then the crises of today will seem as nothing to the ones shortly to come.

It is also clear that economies cannot deal with all of these in isolation picking off one challenge at a time. Faced with the aftermath of the Great Depression of the last century, President Roosevelt adopted his New Deal. He intervened to steer the US economy onto a healthier and wealthier footing and in doing so

triggered the greatest growth the world has ever seen.

Growth in the 21st century has to be Green Growth—growth that puts resource efficiency and investments in clean and green energy and in the planet's ecosystems at the heart of economic activity, sustainable development and job creation.

In October UNEP launched its Green Economy Initiative—dubbed a Global Green New Deal—with this transition in mind. We are bringing some of the brightest and the freshest economic minds on

board and plan to release a series of interim reports over the coming months culminating in strategic, comprehensive and forward-looking report in 18 to 24 months time.

From the ashes of the current crises, there has emerged inordinate opportunity. We are determined to assist governments in making that change and in making that transition to a Green Economy: Anything less will short-change the planet and its ecosystems infrastructure and mortgage the future of six billion, shortly rising to nine billion people. ✎



**Ahmed Djoghlaif**, *Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

## Reinforcing International Cooperation and Global Leadership on Biodiversity

Over 5,000 participants representing 191 Parties and their partners participated in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008. These individuals had gathered to reinforce international cooperation and global leadership; to secure the well-being of our planet; to ensure a healthy future and to guarantee that every individual does their part to reduce environmental degradation and mitigate its impacts.

For the first time, a meeting on Cities and Biodiversity was convened in conjunction with a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The results from the meeting in Erfurt, Germany were submitted to and discussed at the high-level segment. As a result, the Parties adopted a decision on Cities and Biodiversity with a view to preparing a work programme to be adopted in 2010.

Parliamentarians were mobilised. A meeting on the theme “Parliamentarians and biodiversity” was convened in collaboration with the German Bundestag Committee on Nature Conservation,

and an initiative to involve parliamentarians in the conservation of biodiversity was launched in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Global Legislators for Environment.

We reached out to the community of development practitioners and funding agencies through the launching of an initiative on biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation, in collaboration with Germany and France.

*The Green Wave*, a biodiversity education campaign aimed at children and youth, was launched in partnership with the host country on 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity. Since then, it has attracted the attention of Airbus Industries and the National Geographic Society, who are partners in its implementation.

The Convention on Biological Diversity also moved closer to universal participation as Brunei Darussalam, one the most biodiversity-rich countries in the world, became its 191st Party and participated in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Iraq also announced that it was in the process of completing its accession

procedures.

The Parties adopted thirty-five decisions, aimed at initiating a new era of enhanced commitment to and implementation of the Convention, meeting the 2010 target of reducing biodiversity loss and furthering the fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention.

One major breakthrough was the agreement on a firm process and a clear road map towards the finalization of the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Conference of the Parties also agreed to move towards the development of a global network of protected areas, one of the central instruments for halting the global loss of species and habitats and for providing a solid basis for the conservation of natural resources. Delegates agreed to a framework of research, identification and financing that would allow the existing protected areas on land and sea not only to expand, but also to cover the most significant ecosystems of the world.



More significantly however, was the establishment of a major financing mechanism for protected areas. The Life Web initiative, proposed by Germany in collaboration with the Convention, will provide significant resources to ensure the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas around the world. The initiative will match voluntary commitments for the designation of new protected areas and improved management of existing areas with commitments for the dedicated financing of those areas. More than 60 parties have committed themselves to supporting the initiative either financially or by extending protected-area coverage.

the Parties adopted a message on biological diversity and finance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The high-level segment of the meeting was a tremendous success with a record participation of 117 ministers and vice-ministers. Inaugurated by the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, and closed by the President of Germany, Horst Köhler, the session counted on the participation of the Prime Minister of Canada, the President of Palau, the President of the European Commission and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. During

objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, but support the implementation of its relevant provisions, including with respect to the rights of indigenous and local communities.

The Parties also adopted decisions recognizing and strengthening the links between the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. They also called for additional technical and scientific work on the links between biodiversity and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

COP 9 was also notable for the enhanced synergies among the three Rio Conventions, including the active participation of the executive secretaries

***“One major breakthrough was the agreement on a firm process and a clear road map towards the finalization of the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”***

The issue of biofuels was considered against the backdrop of a global food crisis triggered by rising commodity prices. Parties agreed that the sustainable production and use of biofuels could have many positive contributions but its success depended on the methods of production, the feedstocks and the agricultural practices involved. They therefore called for the development of sound policy frameworks on biofuels.

In recognition of the important role of women as stakeholders in the process of biodiversity conservation, a Gender Plan of Action was adopted — the first under any multilateral environmental agreement.

The Parties acknowledged the importance of South-South cooperation in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and adopted a decision on a multi-year programme of work on South-South cooperation to be prepared in partnership with the Group of 77 and China.

As a contribution to ongoing important processes in the United Nations,

the meeting, the Federal Chancellor of Germany announced a contribution of €500 million for biodiversity for the period 2009-2012.

The Parties also adopted a comprehensive decision on measures to mark the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including a draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly that recommended convening a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2010.

The International Day for Biological Diversity was observed during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 22 May with a special focus on agricultural biodiversity.

The Parties welcomed emerging efforts towards reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as a potential way to reduce the current rate of loss of forest biodiversity. They called on Parties, other Governments and international organizations to ensure that efforts to reduce such emissions do not run counter to the

of the other two Rio Conventions, joint staff meetings and the hosting of a joint information kiosk. The sixth meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the second meeting of the chairs of the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions were also convened in conjunction with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Parties welcomed the offer of the city of Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010.

The multi disciplinary work of COP 9 reflected the reality that biodiversity loss is not a stand alone problem and cannot be tackled through isolated initiatives that merely target species loss as an issue separate from poverty, climate change, water scarcity, development, conflict, and the many other challenges that face our world. As we prepare to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and prepare for the challenges of COP-10 we are well positioned to encourage the engagement of all to save biodiversity, the foundation of life on Earth. ♡



**Horst Köhler**, *President of the Federal Republic of Germany*



## No Alternative to Cooperative Global Politics

**T**hank you for proving your willingness to accept joint global responsibility. Responsibility for conserving the natural wealth of our planet and thus securing for mankind an important basis of life in the future as well. You know better than I do that this basis of life is under threat not only from climate change but also from the dramatic loss of biological diversity. Animal and plant species are becoming extinct, entire ecosystems are endangered. Two-fifths of the tropical rainforest have already been destroyed, and it continues to shrink by an area the size of southern Germany each year. We are truly tearing down the very house in which we live!

Thus the launch of the Convention on Biological Diversity by the international community in 1992 was an urgently needed step. It was equally imperative that at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, the heads of State and Government decided to significantly reduce the loss of

biodiversity by 2010. Unfortunately, far too little has happened since then and 2010 is not very far away. We must boost our efforts considerably if we still want to achieve this target. North or South, East or West—wherever we live, we all have to realise that the wonderful diversity of nature is our common heritage which we can only preserve by working together. For me the key questions here are as follows: how can we ensure that the conservation of biological diversity is in the interests of all countries—industrialised, newly industrialising and developing? How can we make certain that the countries of origin of genetic resources have a fair share of the benefits which arise from their use? And finally, how can we use market-based instruments to enable money to be made from protecting nature rather than from destroying it?

I am pleased that the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties made good progress in answering these questions.

Biodiversity conservation and climate protection demonstrate more clearly than any other issue that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there is no sensible alternative to cooperative global policies. Our aim must be to involve every single country on Earth in this cooperation. In view of the worldwide public debate on global environmental problems, I am optimistic. Concepts which thousands of environmental policy documents and seminars previously tried in vain to communicate have suddenly become common knowledge: that we all share one planet, that everything we do or fail to do has an impact on the lives of people in distant regions of the world, and that there are problems which we can only solve jointly as a global community. Global environmental problems make it especially clear that the nations of the world are a community of fate. We must seize this major opportunity to also finally become a community of responsibility and learning.✴



**Sigmar Gabriel**, *Federal Minister for the Environment, Germany*

## Bonn Meeting Sends a Signal for the Protection of Biological Diversity

**T**he 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity took place from 19 to 30 May 2008 in the UN city of Bonn. Under the German Chair, more than 6000 delegates from 191 countries discussed measures to combat the continuing loss of biodiversity. This time, expectations of the

negotiations were particularly high in the run-up to the meeting. Therefore I personally - and doubtless all of us and the CBD as a whole - attached great importance to the fact that we reached agreement on many very difficult key issues, thus giving much needed new impetus to the Convention.

The decisions taken at the meeting in Bonn, in which the environment ministers

of the Parties also participated during the last three days, sent out a global signal that the debate on nature conservation is back on the international agenda. I would like to remind you of some of the successful results which I am particularly proud of and which are especially important to me.

In the field of access and benefit sharing (ABS), after 16 years, we finally





succeeded in finding a common path which will lead to an internationally binding agreement on the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. In Bonn a concrete mandate was agreed on with a clear roadmap for the next two years, to enable an international ABS regime to be adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Japan. This means that an important decision has at last been taken on the third pillar of the Convention—the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biological diversity. Developing countries have been calling for this since the CBD was adopted. An ABS regime will finally give the countries of origin of biological resources the possibility of fair benefit sharing and enable them to take action against biopiracy.

Another example is the LifeWeb Initiative. We officially launched this Initiative during the High-Level Segment. It met generally with a very positive response

financing. Of particular note is the fact that we succeeded in setting off a process within the CBD to review the use of innovative financing mechanisms, such as the use of revenues from the auctioning of CO2 emission allowances, for the conservation of biodiversity worldwide.

In the past, a lack of funding was also a major problem for the conservation of forests. COP 9 achieved a breakthrough on this issue. The earmarking of funds for the LifeWeb Initiative will provide financing on an unprecedented scale for existing and new forest protected areas.

New successes for forest conservation were also achieved in terms of content. For instance, the aim of protecting 10 percent of all forest types was reiterated and the identification of priority areas for biodiversity started. We agreed that measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation need to be taken under the CBD, and that forests should be protected against unsustain-

of climate policy. To this end, an expert group was appointed with the mandate to elaborate recommendations on how to incorporate biodiversity aspects into the ongoing process under the Framework Convention on Climate Change to develop a mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation.

In a difficult but ultimately constructive negotiation process, a separate decision was adopted on biofuels and biodiversity. This significantly strengthens the standing of the issue of biofuels and biodiversity within the CBD. Delegates agreed that the production and use of biofuels must be sustainable. Furthermore, there was recognition that the CBD remains the right framework for developing this link, also with regard to processes for establishing general sustainability requirements for biofuels.

The interim report on the study “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity”, initiated by Germany and

***“The decisions taken at the meeting in Bonn, in which the environment ministers of the Parties also participated during the last three days, sent out a global signal that the debate on nature conservation is back on the international agenda.”***

and broad support because it facilitates the financing of new or existing protected areas in a swift and unbureaucratic way.

Even during the High-Level Segment we received proposals for new protected areas corresponding to an area more than one and a half times the size of Germany. As announced by Chancellor Merkel, the German government will make additional funding of 500 million euro available between 2009 and 2012, in order to facilitate swift solutions to the problem of conserving forests and other ecosystems in places where such areas are under threat. From 2013, Germany will make a long-term commitment of half a billion euro per year for the international conservation of rainforests and other endangered ecosystems. These funds will help breathe life into COP 9's LifeWeb Initiative.

For the first time in the history of the CBD, a Conference of the Parties adopted a strategy for mobilising new sources of

able biofuel production and use. COP 9 also voiced much stronger support for additional national and international measures against illegal logging and trade in illegally logged timber.

There was also a breakthrough in Bonn on the issue of marine protection, with the adoption of criteria for the designation of marine protected areas. To date only one percent of global marine areas are under protection, and there is not a single protected area on the high seas. There were no international criteria for the selection of particularly valuable areas. The adoption of such criteria represents a big step forward in achieving the overarching objective of creating a global network of marine protected areas by 2012. Delegates also agreed to initiate a process as a basis for designating appropriate marine protected areas.

The delegates agreed that cooperation between the Rio Conventions needed to be improved, especially in the field

the EU Commission and led by Pavan Sukhdev, met with an overall very positive response. Many Parties and NGOs confirmed the serious need for concrete data on the economic costs of the loss of biological diversity. The second phase of the study began directly after the conclusion of COP 9. The TEEB Secretariat will be established on the UN campus in Bonn before the end of this year.

With regard to biofuels, so far we have not adopted any concrete criteria on environmentally and socially sound cultivation, which in my view is an important goal. However, such an outcome was not seriously to be expected in Bonn: COP 9 was the first meeting of the Parties to even address this issue, and achieving a sound consensus would therefore not have been possible. Nevertheless, it was agreed that production and use of biofuels must be environmentally sound and that the CBD must in the future continue to play an important role in this area.



## Outlook

On the first day of the meeting Germany took over the CBD Chair until the next Conference of the Parties in Japan in autumn 2010. We thus have a great responsibility to ensure the decisions taken in Bonn are implemented fully and in good time. For we only have another two years to achieve the 2010 target adopted by the heads of state and government at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The German CBD Presidency will follow a clear roadmap until COP 10 in Japan in 2010. This roadmap is the Bonn Agenda for Global Biological Diversity, adopted during the High-Level Segment. It specifies areas in which I would particularly like to see progress during the German Presidency: the adoption of an internationally binding agreement on the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity, the continuation of the LifeWeb Initiative for a voluntary global network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, the mobilisation of financial resources, the thorough assessment of the 2010 target, the conclusion of the TEEB study describing the economic costs of the destruction of nature, and the creation of an international science-policy interface for biodiversity along the lines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The delegates broadly welcomed another initiative which the German CBD Presidency will actively promote: The Business and Biodiversity Initiative to strengthen the involvement of the business sector in nature and species conservation. This initiative must now be consolidated and further developed into an effective instrument for the conservation of biodiversity in a business context.

In addition to advancing these goals, I hope that we will enhance cooperation and team-spirit among the Parties and bodies of the CBD. We will try to bridge gaps inside the CBD family and to other organisations. We will also try to convince those countries still outside the CBD to join us. I would like the Convention to become a truly global convention for all life in all of the countries on Earth! ♡

# Preparing for a Successful COP 10

At the outset, I would like to express my deepest congratulations to the Government of Germany on the success of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the High Level Segment held in Bonn in May last year. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government and citizens of Bonn for the cordial hospitality that they provided to participants in the meetings. The meetings proved to be highly successful in paving the way towards 2010—the International Year of Biodiversity.

At the COP 9, it was also decided that the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties will be held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan in 2010. In response to this decision, the preparation process has already started towards a successful COP 10.

As the first step of the preparations, Japan held the 16th meeting of the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific, ECO Asia 2008, on 13–14 September this year in Nagoya, Aichi. It was the first time that the ECO Asia was held under the theme of biodiversity and the meeting was attended by a number

of participants, including representatives from 11 countries, 16 international organizations, interested local governments and economic associations. At ECO Asia 2008, where I served as the chair, based on the various introductory presentations including the statement by the Executive Secretary Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, participants agreed upon the importance of addressing and promoting implementation of policy measures and actions at the various levels in Asia and the Pacific.

Animated discussions took place and the following points were highlighted and shared in the discussion as key issues:

- Importance of development, implementation and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Interlinkage between biodiversity, climate change and poverty eradication
- Enhancement of scientific capabilities for monitoring of biodiversity
- Importance of Satoyama landscape in Japan as a model in promoting sustainable use of biodiversity
- Mainstreaming of the concept of biodiversity.





Japan would like to deliver these key issues as messages from Asia and the Pacific and incorporate them into the outcomes of the COP 10. In particular, Japan would like to ask Parties to the Convention for understanding of, and support for, the “Satoyama Initiative”\* which Japan is promoting as a starting point in elevating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to a new paradigm.

As a further step of the preparation for the COP 10, the Inter- Ministerial Preparation Council was established with involvement of nine ministries and convened its first meeting on 30 September. At the local level, the Aichi Nagoya CBD COP 10 Organization Committee was also established on 2 September, comprised of the Governor of Aichi, the Mayor of Nagoya and local economic associations, etc. The Committee provides the necessary support for the conference, promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and facilitating the development of the region in harmony with nature.

I sincerely hope for a successful hosting of the COP 10, in 2010, a landmark year for biological diversity, taking over the positive results of the COP 9. To this end, Japan ensures close liaison among relevant ministries, local authorities, business sector, NGOs, researchers and other stakeholders through above mentioned council and committee and would like to actively participate in the intersessional process of the CBD. Japan will make utmost efforts to make significant progress at the COP 10 towards achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. I would like to ask for your continuous support towards a successful COP 10.

**\*Satoyama Initiative:**

To collect and disseminate information on traditional and local knowledge on, and practices for living in balance and harmony with nature such as Satoyama, a country landscape in Japan and similar ecosystems in Asia and all over the world.

To develop and propose models of society coexisting in harmony with nature through the holding of international workshops and expert meetings. ❖

## Outcome of the 4th Conference of the Parties to the Protocol on Biosafety



**S**ince its entry into force five years ago, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has developed into one of the key global instruments for the handling of genetically modified organisms. The Cartagena Protocol is, in fact, the first instrument under international law that addresses, in a targeted manner, aspects of the safety of environment and health in connection with the use of genetically modified living organisms.

The Protocol aims to promote the safe transfer, handling and use

handling and broad support of the objectives of the Protocol and thus also of the Agenda 21, the global action programme on sustainable development. A large number of states (150 so far) and a wide range of organisations worked together constructively to press ahead with the implementation by developing legal, administrative and other accompanying measures.

At the largest meeting of the contracting parties so far, the progress made to date in the implementation was reviewed.

*“One of the main issues on the agenda of this five-day meeting was the report presented by the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress which was established in February 2004 at the first meeting of the contracting parties.”*

of living modified organisms (LMO) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It represents a tool that allows a positive and transparent use of modern biotechnology, with the protection of the environment being safeguarded, and also marks a historic step in developing a sustainable use of modern biotechnology and its application in the environment.

The negotiations on the implementation of the Protocol that started with its entry into force were shaped by a responsible

Additional decisions to advance the process and on the practical handling of genetically modified organisms were adopted under German chairmanship on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4) held in Bonn in May 2008. Constructive discussions on the instruments to implement the Cartagena Protocol that have been devised during the five years of the existence of the Protocol such as the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House, capacity-building, the





deployment of experts on biosafety, risk assessment and risk management, as well as the handling, transport, packaging and labelling of LMO shipments ensured the further development of the implementing measures.

One of the main issues on the agenda of this five-day meeting was the report presented by the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress which was established in February 2004 at the first meeting of the contracting parties. The Working Group was mandated to elaborate potential options for elements of international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from the transboundary movements of living modified organisms.

The conference participants agreed, after hard negotiations, that those who cause damage through genetically modified organisms shall also be liable for it. This political agreement on a legally binding regime governing the liability and redress with regard to the transboundary transportation of genetically modified organisms marked a further key milestone in the implementation of the Protocol. This very promising outcome will safeguard an adequate implementation of the Protocol for the next two years. Technical legal details on this will be worked out by legal experts in further talks to be held until the next Conference of the Parties.

This historic step could only be achieved through the tireless efforts and exemplary commitment of all those involved. The readiness to compromise shown by the delegates who were aware of their international responsibility was ultimately crowned with success.

What matters is to keep this spirit of consensus and cooperation alive and to transfer it to the next meeting of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan. Guided by the target of sustainable development, in the interest of the objectives of the Protocol and thus in the interest of conserving biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources ensures a full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. ❖

## Conserving Biodiversity— The Basis for Successful Development Cooperation

Every 20 minutes an animal or plant species becomes extinct; the world loses some 26,000 species every year. When we think of the topic of biodiversity, we are tempted to think mainly of our moral obligation to protect nature and save animals that are facing extinction. However, the suffering of our environment and animal and plant species affects us in even more direct ways. To name but one example, more than 70 per cent of the global population depend on medicinal plants.

Biodiversity is far more than the diversity of animal and plant species. It includes the wealth of diverse ecosystems and genetic diversity, most of which are to be found in developing countries. Many people in these regions rely on these complex natural systems for their livelihoods. Poor and indigenous people and small-scale farmers in particular depend on biodiversity. They need fertile soil in order to guarantee their supply of food. Intact ecosystems are vital in ensuring the long-term supply of water, food, medicine and energy that people need in their daily lives. Biological resources are a vital source of income, as they are the sole raw material used in producing many goods.

In the light of this, the destruction of natural resources poses a threat to people's livelihoods and thus jeopardises the chances of survival of poor people in rural regions in particular. At the same time, poverty forces these people to exploit the natural resources in their environment more intensively than is sustainable. There is a close connection between the loss of biodiversity and indigenous peoples' loss of cultural diversity, on the one hand, and

their poverty on the other.

Biodiversity and development—a contribution to poverty reduction

If biodiversity is to be harnessed to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, targeted and additional efforts will be required.

The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which took place in May 2008 in Bonn, made an important contribution. The conference drew public attention to

the importance of conserving biodiversity and emphasised the interdependence between conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development by fostering an initial exchange of views between high-ranking government representatives during a panel discussion.

Moreover, the conference underlined that Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) with regard

to genetic resources is an aim that is on an equal footing with the Convention's other aims of protection and sustainable use. One of the conference's central achievements was therefore the decision to adopt an international regime by 2010 that allows local people in particular to share in the benefits of genetic resources. This reflected a central concern of the developing countries.

One important objective of German development cooperation is to link biodiversity conservation to poverty reduction and sustainable development. That is why the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa. The initiative helps African players and institutions to offer





economic incentives for the conservation of genetic resources.

In 2008, Germany pledged funding of some 180 million euros to its partners in developing countries for projects aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Convention. In addition, Germany contributes to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and supports non-governmental organisations.

This financial support is to be increased. At the opening of the ministerial segment of the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that German funding for the protection of tropical forests and biodiversity will be increased by a total of 500 million euros by 2012 and that the German government will be providing 500 million euros per year as of 2013.

#### **Strong partnerships—vital to conserving biodiversity**

The Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention (SCBD), with which we signed an agreement last year, is an important

partner in German development policy. Our work with the SCBD is mainly focused on developing strategies and methods for better integrating the Convention's objectives into local, sectoral, national and global development strategies.

This intensified cooperation focuses on areas such as ABS, the management of protected areas, the development of national biodiversity strategies and communication and awareness raising. Moreover, we are able to take the experience we have gained of linking biodiversity and sustainable development and integrate it in our strategic partnerships with other players. Examples of these are the Poverty and Environment Partnerships and the Equator Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme. The BMZ has been participating in this initiative since 2003. The initiative highlights the significant role played by local and indigenous communities in conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. It has provided many excellent examples demonstrating that

communities in developing countries around the world can be tremendously successful in improving their living conditions through the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Conserving biodiversity is vital to development. That is why the topic must play a more significant role on the international agenda. The Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD and the UNDP signed at the conference during the panel discussion on biodiversity and poverty reduction is an important step in this direction, because economic growth, protection of natural resources, good governance and poverty reduction are all mutually reinforcing.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are the foundation of human life on Earth. Effective implementation of the Biodiversity Convention is therefore vital for global justice, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Germany's development policymakers are committed to pushing forward with its implementation. ✎

**Zhou Shenxian**, *Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China*

## **Achievements and Experiences of China in the Conservation of Biodiversity**



**C**hina has vast a territory, complex climate, all kinds of geomorphology, rich species and natural conditions for their growth. It is one of the countries with the richest biological diversity in the world.

However, biodiversity in China is facing serious threats due to such factors as rapid economic growth, population increase, growing development of natural resources, environmental pollution and ecological damage. Confronting the problems of biodiversity conservation, the Chinese Government has actively implemented the Convention on Biological

Diversity and has taken a series of effective measures, such as:

- Continuous development of laws & regulations. The Chinese Government has issued and implemented such laws and regulations as the Law on the Protection of Wildlife, Regulations on Nature Reserves, Regulations on the Conservation of Wild Plants and Measures on the Management of Import & Export of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora, which basically develops a legal system for the conservation of biodiversity.

- Development of relevant strategies, plans, and programs. The Chinese Government has issued and carried out such programs as the China Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity, Outline of National Plan for the Development of Nature Reserves (1996—2020), National Outline of the Conservation on Ecological Environment and Outline of National Plan for the Conservation and Utilization of Biological Species Resource. At present, China is developing a National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity.



- Strengthening basic investigations and enhancing on-the-site conservation. China has strengthened the investigation and catalogue of species resources of key regions, areas and special communities and enhanced the development of nature reserves based on the above work. Up to the end of 2007, China had established 2531 nature reserves (excluding those in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) with a total area of 151.88 million hectares. The total area of land nature reserve accounts for 15.2% of the total land area of China. These have developed a national nature

reserve network with all typical types, relatively appropriate layout and various functions.

- Increase of input and enhancement of international cooperation. China increases its capital input in the conservation of biodiversity year by year. This is especially true since 1998 when China launched six key forest projects. The accumulated input in this field exceeds 200 billion Yuan RMB. At the same time, China has strengthened international cooperation and carried out a series of key biodiversity conservation projects in cooperation with such international organizations

as GEF, ADB and EU.

- Enhancement of publicity and public awareness. China has raised the capacity of the staff in biodiversity-related departments and public awareness of biodiversity conservation through training and publicity on TV, the internet and in newspapers.

Biodiversity conservation work in China has made big progress after long-term unremitting efforts with enhanced capacity and containment of the loss of biodiversity. Right now, biodiversity conservation work in China is marching toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target. ✎



**Koïchiro Matsuura**, *Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

## UNESCO and CBD: Building the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity

**W**e live in a time of rapid social, economic, political and environmental transformation. One of the consequences of these changes is that the Earth's rich diversity - from genes, species, ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes, to languages, practices, traditions, and value and knowledge systems, is being lost at an unprecedented rate. The combined impacts of diminishing biological diversity, which affects ecosystems, and the loss of cultural diversity<sup>1</sup>, which affects humanity's capacity to learn, exchange and transfer knowledge and practices, are profound, resulting in social-ecological systems that are unable to resist, recover from, mitigate and/or adapt to change at all scales. Put simply,

this is jeopardizing our ability to achieve sustainable development. UNESCO, whose interdisciplinary mandate combining education, the sciences, culture and communication puts it in a unique position to highlight the interactions between biological and cultural diversity through its programmatic activities, is working to bring about a shift in international thinking about the issue and to give it the prominent place on the political agenda that it deserves.

For UNESCO, the concept of the dynamic interdependence between humans and nature goes back to the 1970s. At a time dominated by a sectoral approach, UNESCO launched, in 1971, the Man and the Biosphere programme, which aimed to study the interactions between Man and Nature. A year later, in 1972, the adoption of the World Heritage Convention constituted the first attempt

to consider Nature and Culture as two parts of a single, shared, human heritage. A landmark decision in 1992 to include cultural landscapes further enhanced the recognition of linkages between nature and culture, people and places, and between the tangible and the intangible. It provided a new focus on key areas of biological and cultural diversity, including sustainable use, and accepted traditional custodianship and customary land tenure in world heritage protection. Three years later, the 1995 International Conference on Biosphere Reserves, organized by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in Seville, Spain, adopted a series of recommendations which together form the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves. This identifies the specific role of biosphere reserves in achieving a new vision of the relationship between conservation and development, taking





into account both cultural and natural dimensions.

Since then, UNESCO has further developed the issue through other programmes related to traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation. These include the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme—LINKS—programme and the development of an indicator on the Status and Trends of Linguistic Diversity and Numbers of Speakers of Indigenous Languages to measure progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target, as well as the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, both of which deal explicitly with the issue of cultural diversity.

The 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible cultural Heritage focuses on the custodians of intangible cultural heritage, i.e., communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals who create, perform, transmit and re-create various forms of intangible cultural heritage. One such form, “knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe”, includes “practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills—as well as instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith” developed by communities in interaction with their natural environment.

“Safeguarding” is understood in this Convention as ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage through such measures as inventorying, documentation, research, protection, promotion, transmission and revitalization.

It is now largely recognized that the interactions between biological and cultural diversity are numerous, vary in scale and nature, and that they must be both better documented and reflected in policies pertaining to the achievement of sustainable development. Examples of interactions include natural resources use and management, shaping landscapes through fire, traditional knowledge for early warning systems and risk management, linguistic diversity and naming varieties of species, rites and rituals and sacred sites, representation of nature, cosmology, etc. The strong convergence in our respective fields indicate a clear need for enhanced and more strategic ties to be established between UNESCO and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Indeed, the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requested its Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with UNESCO, and its two Conventions dealing with cultural diversity. In line with this decision, UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat are preparing a renewed Memorandum of Understanding which will include, inter-

alia, cooperation on access and benefit-sharing in relation to genetic resources; traditional knowledge systems and linguistic diversity; implementation of the Ecosystem Approach; and communication, education and public awareness-raising activities. We have also recently launched a Joint Programme on the links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

UNESCO is ready to make available to CBD and its States Parties its expertise, to share results and to discuss better use of Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites as learning laboratories.

In conclusion, the collaboration between UNESCO and the CBD on issues at the interface of biological and cultural diversity offers great potential for the development of more holistic and forward-looking policy guidance for the implementation of the existing international agreements on biological and cultural diversity. Building on enhanced synergies between the biological and cultural diversity agendas will ensure that efforts to reduce the rate of diversity loss occur in coherence with the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals and a sustainable future for all of us. ✎

1. The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity defines cultural diversity as “the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, [...] encompassing in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”.



## ECOSOC puts spotlight on sustainable development

**T**he Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the UN system, including specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also serves as the central forum for discussing wide ranging issues, from international economic and social issues to cultural, educational, health and related matters, and formulates policy recommendations to the General Assembly, Member States and the United Nations system. It was fitting, therefore, with a heightening attention to climate change and other emerging challenges, that the Council held an informal high-level roundtable on “Emerging challenges to efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger: climate change, desertification and health crises” during its substantive session in 2007. It was also natural that the Council chose sustainable development as the theme for the second Annual Ministerial Review held in 2008. The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is one of the two new functions mandated by the 2005 World Summit. At the 2005 World Summit, the Heads of State and Government mandated the Council to convene annual ministerial-level substantive reviews and a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum. Subsequently, Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) was launched at the substantive session of the Council held in Geneva in 2007 and the first Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was held during the substantive session of the Council in New York in 2008.

During the 2008 Annual Ministerial Review, Ministers discussed how best to implement the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development. The AMR aims to assess and advance progress made in the implementation of the UN

development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), defined through a series of landmark United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s. As a high-profile forum for political engagement and knowledge exchange, the AMR aims to advance implementation by promoting synergies and linkages, and by identifying successful approaches and lessons-learned that merit scaling up. Member States, UN system organizations, other major institutional stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives and academics all played an important role in the deliberations. They also contributed to the Annual Ministerial Review’s innovation fair where they showcased examples of best practices and lessons-learned in advancing sustainable development.

The Annual Ministerial Review consists of two main elements: National Voluntary Presentations and a global review on the theme of the year. During National Voluntary Presentations (NVP), volunteering countries present the progress they have made in implementing their national development strategies. In 2008, Chile, Kazakhstan, Tanzania and Lao PDR presented the lessons which they have learned in formulating and implementing their national development strategies and Belgium, Luxembourg, Finland, and the United Kingdom reported on their progress in pursuing sustainable development as well as assisting developing countries in their efforts.

For development to be sustainable in the long-run, all stakeholders need to place the issue of sustainability at the center of their national development strategies. Developing countries will need assistance if they are to integrate environmental concerns into their national policies. This will require greater efforts to promote technology transfer on a concessional and preferential basis. Here, special



priority should be given to energy and resource-efficient modern technologies and affordable and renewable energy systems. In addition, donors will need to live up to their pledges to provide more and better aid. This was a clear message emerged from the discussion held among Ministers, from different lines of ministries, including Finance, Development Planning, and the Environment, during the National Voluntary Presentations.

During the global thematic review, Ministers and high-level officials recognized that it is not possible to achieve MDGs without putting the world on a more sustainable path to development. Indeed, to ensure sustainable development, it is necessary to address production and consumption patterns, transportation, public health, population growth, migration, social exclusion and a myriad of other complex challenges. Several speakers noted that this will require adoption of environmental practices and codes which mainstream environmental concerns into national and economic decision making. Delegations cited concerns about deforestation, desertification, reduced air and water quality, loss of biological diversity and the depletion or irreversible damage of fragile ecosystems.

The global thematic review was complemented by a panel discussion on “The role of ecosystem services in sustainable development”, which was held on 2 July 2008. Today, it is widely recognized that ecosystem services are





systematically undervalued, frequently resulting in their overexploitation. The Panel discussion aimed to promote a better understanding of the role of economic valuation and incentives for conservation of ecosystems. The Panel was composed of Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Hillary Masundire, Chair, Commission on Ecosystem Management, IUCN, Ms. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlement Programme, Mr. Dane Gobin, Chief Executive Officer of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development, Guyana and Jorge Mario Rodriguez, Director of National Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO), Costa Rica and Mr. Magnus Ngoile, Director General, National Environment Management Council, Tanzania and was moderated by Mr. Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme. The Panel highlighted the importance as well as the challenges in mainstreaming the ecosystem approach in national development strategies. It also presented a number of case studies: Mr. Gobin, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Ngoile demonstrated that existing challenges can be overcome and that the Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) and related forms of economic incentives for conservation, which have long been part of the array of conservation policies in some countries, are viable not only in developed countries but also in developing countries.

During a separate high-level thematic debate, Ministers also addressed the emerging challenges such as climate change, rising food and oil prices, all of which are closely related to the issue of sustainability. On the food crisis the Council stressed that while in the short run efforts should focus on alleviating immediate effects of hunger, in the long run, if dealt with effectively, the higher food prices provide a window of opportunity to revitalize agriculture, especially in developing countries, where productivity gains have been slow in recent decades. By using smallholder farmers as a vehicle to achieve global food security, there is a historic opportunity to make marked progress towards eliminating rural poverty.

In 2008, the Economic and Social

Council also held its first Development Cooperation Forum. The Forum took the first decisive steps in positioning the Council as a key venue for global dialogue and policy review of the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. By providing opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to engage, the Forum also indicated a promise of becoming a key global platform for representative, participatory and multi-stakeholder dialogue on development cooperation issues.

The deliberations at the 2008 Forum served to provide strategic input to the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development and the Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which will bring further attention to aid delivery and management and making development assistance work better for improving the lives of the poor. Selected recommendations on practical measures and policy options made at the Forum with a view of enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of international development cooperation included:<sup>1</sup>

Policy coherence on trade, debt, investment, technology, climate change, food security and systemic issues is critical if development cooperation is to have a meaningful impact. This includes mutually supportive policies across the core areas of the Monterrey Consensus, which constitutes the international framework for cooperation for development.

Aid allocation is not adequately balanced across countries and sectors and does not maximize progress towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals. Regular review is required to ensure that aid allocation is based on transparent criteria, responsive to the needs of programme countries and oriented to maximize development results. In terms of sectors, increases in aid should particularly support agriculture and food security, economic infrastructure and energy, and trade.

The implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda needs to demonstrate that it is able to go beyond commitments in principle and procedural changes by producing real change in the behavior of development actors. The agenda would have to move towards broader agreement

by setting measurable targets for untying aid, transforming technical assistance, reducing conditionality, maximizing concessionality, increasing multi-year predictability and improving flexibility to combat exogenous shocks.

This should be complemented by making all aid agreements, policies and data publicly available to facilitate scrutiny by parliamentarians and other stakeholders. Development cooperation channeled through civil society organizations, global funds and the private sector should be integrated into an enlarged aid quality framework, which takes account of the particularities of these actors, while demonstrating clear effectiveness in achieving results.

In terms of South-South and triangular development cooperation, a process is needed to facilitate the exchange of information and enhanced analysis, through which other development actors can learn the positive lessons from such cooperation. Recognizing that South-South cooperation is a complement to North-South cooperation, these lessons could be used to arrive at more widely agreed development cooperation practices and objectives, to help programme countries access and use the best available assistance through a nationally-owned framework.

Looking ahead, the Development Cooperation Forum would have to give due consideration to the broad range of issues which affect the effectiveness of development cooperation such as climate change, food security and policy coherence. At the same time, the Forum has a key role to play as an international mutual accountability mechanism that will draw together analysis of progress in national and global-level mutual accountability processes, and thereby contribute to holding donors and programme countries to account. More specifically, the 2010 Forum could focus on playing an instrumental role in developing a more inclusive framework for guiding effective development cooperation, taking into consideration the concerns of stakeholders. ❖

1. For the official summary, please visit: [www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/2008dcf.shtml](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/2008dcf.shtml)





## Parliamentarians and Biodiversity

Within the framework of the ninth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Bonn, a meeting also took place involving parliamentarians from many different countries. We discussed biodiversity, the urgency of the need to protect it, and the need to take immediate and decisive action.

Looking at the debate on nature conservation and biodiversity which has taken place in recent years within society and in the political arena, both in Germany and internationally, it is clear that a new understanding of the issue is developing and that far more attention is being paid to biodiversity and nature conservation. Nature is increasingly being seen as something we are part of, rather than something apart from us. That definitely constitutes a significant change in attitudes and a very important step.

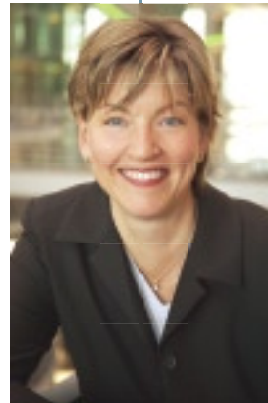
Nonetheless, we must face up to the fact that, 14 years after the CBD's entry into force, only 11 per cent of land habitats and less than one per cent of the world's oceans are protected. That is far too little.

Species and habitats are currently

being lost at a rate 100 to 1000 times higher than ever before in the Earth's history. That is a dramatic loss, and it is essential that we curb it immediately.

Germany holds the CBD Presidency until 2010. This gives Germany the opportunity to press for urgently needed measures to be taken in the field of nature conservation and biodiversity.

But nature is an extremely complex system. Protecting biodiversity therefore requires many concerted efforts. This cannot work without the involvement of the national parliaments. Parliamentarians act as disseminators of information about international agreements: they have the task of conveying the importance of these agreements to the general public. In addition, they have the important role of scrutinising the work of their governments, and transposing decisions taken at international level into national law.



I therefore believe that an inter-parliamentary conference, like that held in Bonn on 27 May 2008, is of great importance. This was also demonstrated by the Bonn Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity adopted at our meeting. Cooperation between national parliamentarians to support biodiversity should definitely be continued. After all, nature is our habitat, and we need to look after it. It is essential that we now take the right measures to protect nature in all its rich

diversity. And we parliamentarians, as legislators and monitors of government action, have an important role to play. We can, and should, strengthen our influence by engaging in international and interparliamentary cooperation.

I would like to thank the CBD Secretariat, which has greatly assisted the work of the parliamentarians, and look forward to continued close cooperation. ✧



Masanori Tanimoto, *Governor, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan*

## Ishikawa's Satoyama for Future Generations: Ishikawa Prefecture's Initiatives for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

Our lives receive a variety of blessings from a variety of life forms, including food. Thus, biological diversity is the foundation that supports the life of all life forms including humans and the conservation of such biological diversity is as important a global environmental issue as the measures against

global warming.

The conservation of biological diversity can be considered from a variety of approaches; for example, controlling excessive exploitation of natural resources and reckless hunting of animals, preventing the incursion of introduced species or protecting the rare wild life species.

Ishikawa Prefecture's initiative towards conservation of biological diversity is centered on the idea of use and preservation of "Satoyama" and "Satoumi". Satoyama means an environment where there is a small village, surrounded by paddies or fields, with a small forest in the interior of the village and where certain limited



degree of human interference or action helps to preserve the rich Nature and provides a precious habitat to numerous living creatures. Moreover, Satoumi indicates the sea with a strong connection to people's lives, as people have led their lives since ancient times by utilizing the blessings of the sea.

Our Prefecture is just about 1 hour by air from Tokyo, but unlike a metropolitan city like Tokyo, Prefecture of Ishikawa is blessed with a rich Nature and has a smaller population of 1,200,000 with 60% of its land is Satoyama. A part of Ishikawa Prefecture is Noto Peninsula which is surrounded by Satoumi and is closely connected with people's daily lives. However, there have been many changes in the lifestyles, depopulation, ageing population, etc. and Satoyama, Satoumi environment is getting derelict and this dereliction is resulting in the loss of habitat for various species and spoiling the landscape.

In April of this year, United Nations University (UNU), Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) Ishikawa Kanazawa Operating Unit was established in Ishikawa. This Unit is the only research organization in Japan to be under the direct administration of UNU-IAS. The Unit is involved in Satoyama-Satoumi Sub-Global Assessment (SGA), which aims at a scientific evaluation of functions of Satoyama and Satoumi. The Satoyama-Satoumi SGA is being carried out in the framework of United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) which was started in 2001, after an appeal from Kofi Annan, the then UN Secretary-General.

In May of 2008, upon a request from UNU-IAS, I had an opportunity to deliver a speech at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9) introducing Ishikawa Prefecture's Satoyama preservation initiatives. The symposium was attended by a big number of participants exceeding our expectations and it was a big success; the symposium was a meaningful one since it again made us realize the amount of interest regarding "Satoyama".

Nagoya has been officially decided as the conference venue for COP 10 and I hope that Ishikawa will also be

able to contribute in our small way to UN efforts related to the preservation of biological diversity by working hard towards utilization and preservation of Satoyama-Satoumi; our motto will be "Solutions to Global Problems Start at the Local Level".

In July, we also set up a project team which will be working on a wide variety of issues such as promoting agricultural and fishing industry, preservation of landscape, vitalization of region, and usage and preservation policies for Satoyama as well as protection of Nature. We hope that this Project Team will provide a model

Satoumi environment and landscape besides promotion of agricultural, forestry and fishing industries; thus, the Vision is closely connected with lives of the people of Ishikawa and will ultimately contribute to the promotion of Satoyama-Satoumi. Furthermore, another important aim of this Vision is to enlighten people about the fact that regeneration of activities related to the utilization and preservation of Satoyama is extremely important to Ishikawa Prefecture's biological diversity and increase people's awareness in this direction. We are preparing our plans for COP 10 and we hope to spread the word

***Our aim is create an environment where administration, industry and local people will share a common awareness of the matter and will work towards a common goal.***

for the rest of the world.

In order to strengthen Satoyama-Satoumi initiatives, we are involved in preparing its basis in form of a plan called "Ishikawa's Vision of Biodiversity Strategy". We will be forming "Biological Diversity Strategy Vision Planning Committee" by inviting experts of Satoyama-Satoumi and Biodiversity and planning our strategy based on the discussions and suggestions of this committee. This committee will take into consideration various projects such as initiatives taken by the Prefecture, cities or towns as well as results of survey and research carried out by research cells of universities besides taking into consideration various activities carried out by private sector organizations such industries, NPOs and Satoyama action groups; thus, industry, administration and academic world will work together, incorporating the results of UNU's Satoyama-Satoumi SGA which I mentioned earlier as well as take into account the opinions from a wide section of society.

The Strategic Vision will reflect Ishikawa's identity as well since it not only includes protection of rare species and conservation of ecosystems but also preservation and regeneration of Satoyama-

overseas about Ishikawa's activities and receive a wider global acceptance of the idea.

I feel that our prefecture of Ishikawa has an ideal environment to spread the global awareness since it is blessed with a rich Satoyama and Satoumi. I hope that Ishikawa will be able to contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by raising people's awareness about Satoyama-Satoumi which is a true model of Human-Nature coexistence and by passing on this inheritance to future generations.

The initiatives related to conservation of biodiversity are not limited to making people aware and these initiatives are not about forcing people to carry any burden either. Our aim is create an environment where administration, industry and local people will share a common awareness of the matter and will work towards a common goal.

Efforts of one person may not bring any great results but when these efforts of one spread regionally, nationally or even globally, they will bring great results. I would like to make an appeal to everyone, to consider the issue of biological diversity as a close one and start with something that you can do on your own. ♡



**Bärbel Dieckmann**, *Mayor of Bonn, Germany*

# Beyond Bonn—The Global Relevance of Local Action



**O**n the threshold of COP 9 in Bonn, I stressed the need for joint and multilevel action for biodiversity. This core message of the Mayors Conference in Bonn and the “Bonn Call for Action” has now led to a “Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity”. On the occasion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, cities and their partners announced the launch of the new multilevel initiative.

During COP 9, the Mayors Conference “Local Action for Biodiversity”, organized by the City of Bonn, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and the German development agency InWEnt, brought together 140 mayors and senior city representatives from 30 nations.

The “Bonn Call for Action” summed up the interest of cities and their networks in biodiversity, their expectations, their vulnerability, their resilience, their best practice and their eagerness to involve themselves in the architecture of strategies to implement the UN CBD. Within the High Level Segment, the Mayors of Bonn, Curitiba, Montreal and Nagoya called on the parties to recognize the stakeholder-ship of the local level and to endorse a “Global and multilevel partnership on cities and biodiversity”.

The call did not remain unanswered: With decision IX/28, the Parties to the UN CBD officially recognised the role of cities, for the first time in the history of major environmental conventions! The door once open, a first roadmap was designed without delay. Only a few months later, I attended the official launch of the “Global partnership on cities and biodiversity” during the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 7 October 2008.

## Born stakeholders

Local governments and their networks have proven reliable partners in the successful implementation of international framework conventions—but only if they

are enabled to do so, can they fully unfold their local potential.

Cities are responsible for the well-being of their citizens and they fear that, one day, they will no longer be able to meet this responsibility. In economic terms, cities do not only depend on well-functioning ecosystems, they also have a strong interest in their economic well being. Therefore, they also have an interest in conserving, maintaining and improving biodiversity on top of their given responsibility.

In a simple addition: doing nothing bears high risks and will cost a fortune! In his TEEB-study, Pavan Sukhdev pointed out how costly the loss of biodiversity will be—and he will include cities in phase II of his research.

Besides, local governments are able to raise awareness and initiate a change of habits—and partnerships of the local level for biodiversity have a great potential.

## Life base under threat

Cities are dependent on their biodiversity—and there is more to it than only the presence of animals and plants. Urban biodiversity is fragile and threatened, increasingly under pressure with increasing urbanisation.

On the one hand, urban areas have the potential for the development and growth of biodiversity. But on the other hand, the loss of biodiversity has an immediate impact on the well-being of citizens by entailing poverty and social exclusion.

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide the basis for urban life. They bring environmental, economic and social benefits. However, they also call for a successful integration of development and biodiversity.

## Unleashing potential via cooperation at a global scale

Local governments have declared their concern and made their offer (Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity in

2007, Bonn Call for Action 2008). They run international projects like “Local Action for Biodiversity”, where 21 cities have done pioneer work in terms of assessment, best practices and strategies. They have committed themselves (IUCN Countdown 2010, Durban Commitment. Cities act responsibly and use their great potential for conserving and managing biodiversity. They invest considerable amounts of money: In Bonn, 12 per cent of the overall budget are spent on our sustainable future. Their influence on the awareness and behaviour of their citizens should not be neglected.

Cities and their partners incorporate the philosophy of synergies and links within a global and multilevel partnership. They contribute their best practice in efficient action, potentials, commitment and instruments to partner programmes. They crosslink with existing programmes and partners on all levels and, above all, pick up the claim of the “UN in Bonn: Working towards a sustainable development worldwide”.

The challenges ahead require innovative alliances—and cities offer innovation as well as experience.

## Needs and potentials

This requires support from other levels of government, leading to enabling framework conditions. Biodiversity goals, tasks and resources need higher priorities and a powerful advocacy!

The Global Partnership of Cities & Biodiversity shall strengthen the capacity of cities, towns, counties and interested







# Keeping the Forests through Concerted Efforts

**W**WF's Living Planet Index measures trends in biodiversity and monitors the health of Earth's ecosystems. This index has fallen by about 30 per cent since 1970, indicating that natural ecosystems are being degraded at a rate unprecedented in human history. Harbours the majority of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, intact forests can play a major role in helping to stop the decline.

Forests also play a vital role in mitigating dangerous climate change through carbon storage and sequestration. Additionally, some 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods, with 60 million indigenous people depending on forests for their subsistence.

regional governments to improve management and to conserve biodiversity through technical cooperation, capacity building projects, communication, and joint advocacy. In offering contribution to future partners, local governments clearly need support in their global interaction within appropriate projects.

Time has not been wasted since COP 9 in Bonn and decision IX/28.

The global partnership has been launched. There is a vision and a strategic framesetting. There are devoted people within the partner cities and organisations who feel personally responsible and advance projects. However, there is a lot of work to be done, potential partners to be involved and funds to be raised.

If we succeed in doing so, we will be able to establish the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity as an efficient instrument for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. ❖

#### Notions:

1. Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann and President Beate Jessel open updated version of "Cities and Biodiversity" in the Federal Agency for Nature Protection on November 19, 2008

2. Mayors Conference "Local Action for Biodiversity, May 26-28, 2008 in Bonn

However forests are still under immense pressure, with deforestation continuing at an alarming rate of 13 million hectares per year, or 36 football fields a minute. WWF recognises that the world will fail on mitigating dangerous climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity without reversing this trend.

Many countries have undertaken efforts to stop forest loss, with some remarkable achievements. For example, the creation of a protected area network in the Brazilian Amazon under the Amazon Regional Protected Area (ARPA) Programme, and the three-country Heart of Borneo initiative which saw a historic declaration signed by the three Bornean governments—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia—to conserve and sustainably manage 220,000 km<sup>2</sup> of equatorial rainforests on one of the world's most important centres of biological diversity, are steps in the right direction and give us hope.

There is still though much to be done and more concerted efforts are needed. WWF is pleased therefore that at the CBD COP 9 in Bonn in May 2008, delegates from 67 countries pledged their support to WWF's call for zero net deforestation by 2020.\*

Countries with high deforestation rates can develop and implement national programmes and governance systems to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of forests. For example, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008, Paraguay announced it is extending its Zero Deforestation Law by another five years, as a follow up to its pledge in Bonn.

Developed countries can provide funds to contribute their fair share to support developing countries in their efforts to curb deforestation, such as through preparing for and implementing initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

The private sector can help by adopting responsible and sustainable production

practices, such as maintaining areas with high conservation values, and respecting the rights and interests of local communities, including access to natural resources.

We also appreciate the increased cooperation among various international processes related to forest conservation. These include the CBD, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has acknowledged the need to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the UN Forest Forum (UNFF). Only through such collaborative efforts supported by other relevant organisations and partnerships working to reduce forest loss, can we succeed in conserving forests, and thereby contribute significantly to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

WWF is fully committed to support efforts in reversing global forest loss. Forests are important for all countries, be they in boreal, temperate, or tropical areas. WWF offices around the world are at the forefront addressing the challenge of keeping these forests. However the urgency of some regions made it important for WWF to focus our efforts in key places such as the Amazon, Congo Basin and Indonesia. We are collaborating with the private sector to transform markets towards a sustainable path and are intensively engaged in negotiations for a new global climate deal that acknowledges the role of healthy forests in mitigating climate change.

We will continue to work with governments and other stakeholders in their efforts to meet the target of zero net deforestation by 2020, and hope to see CBD Parties adopt this as a target in the upcoming COP 10 in Japan in 2010. WWF will of course continue to support the CBD in fulfilling its mission to maintain global biodiversity. ❖

\* See WWF Briefing Paper: Zero Net Deforestation by 2020 at [http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_2020\\_zero\\_net\\_deforest\\_brief.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_2020_zero_net_deforest_brief.pdf)



Jorgen B. Thomsen, *Executive Director, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Senior Vice President, Conservation International*

## Engaging Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation

**T**he threats facing our global biodiversity and all its benefits to people have never been clearer. No less clear is the need for united effort to face the challenges.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) unites global leaders to enable civil society participation in protecting the Earth's biologically richest regions—its biodiversity hotspots. Our unique focus on civil society recognizes the need to engage all stakeholders in addressing the many challenges effectively. The convergence of critical areas for conservation with millions of people who are living in poverty and highly dependent on healthy ecosystems is also more evident in the hotspots than anywhere else.

CEPF is a partnership between Conservation International, the French Development Agency, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Collaboration is the hallmark at all levels of the program, including in the development of each of the program's regional investment strategies together with stakeholders.

CEPF grants go directly to nongovernmental and private sector organizations to build this vital constituency for conservation alongside governmental partners.

Since its founding in 2000, CEPF has provided \$103 million in grants to more than 1,300 civil society groups in 33 countries to help conserve the natural wealth of the hotspots. Grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives to local and international NGOs. Many grants support community groups and fledgling organizations that are often outside the reach of traditional funding mechanisms.

The work of these civil society groups together with communities and national governments has resulted in significant contributions toward the CBD goal 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. Among the most recent results is a new community-led way of managing Madagascar's wetlands and a blueprint

***“What could be more fundamental in our vision than the intertwined well-being of humanity and nature with all its life-sustaining services?”***

for reversing destruction of Laguna Del Tigre, Guatemala's largest national park and one of the most critical ecosystems in Mesoamerica.

Overall, key achievements to date include:

- Improved management of 20 million hectares of protected areas, including creation of nearly 10 million hectares of new protected areas
- Introduction of sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes through improved use and management of natural resources, reduction or elimination of harmful practices, and development and adoption of a variety of alternative livelihood opportunities
- Strengthened protection of critical biological corridors through improved land-use planning, collaboration with the private sector and development of supportive policy and legislative frameworks
- Successful piloting of new financing mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services.

While the conservation outcomes are critical to meet the international community's goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss, the genesis of these results may be the most profound and durable tie to sustainability: a stronger voice, influence



and action by civil societies. Together, these partners are creating strong, local institutions and stewardship of our global biodiversity where it matters most. They are also creating new partnerships working in unity toward this common vision.

Each of us can make a difference, yet together we can do more and, importantly, enable others to join us. This year, CEPF embarked on a major consolidation and expansion that will include more than doubling the number of civil society partners supported through new investments in up to 10 additional hotspots. This new phase focuses on strengthening protection and management of globally significant biodiversity, and increasing local and national capacity to integrate biodiversity conservation into development and landscape planning.

Our emphasis on the direct link between biodiversity conservation and human well-being will continue as well. What could be more fundamental in our vision than the intertwined well-being of humanity and nature with all its life-sustaining services?

In all the critical ecosystems in which we invest, we have worked hand-in-hand with diverse partners and stand ready to further assist in developing and supporting new, innovative approaches to achieve our shared goal of a sustainable future for the benefit of all life on Earth. ♻



# Was the UN Biodiversity Summit a Success? An Evaluation by German NGOs

About 1000 participants from nearly 200 NGOs, local groups and initiatives represented the NGO community at the CBD COP 9 in Bonn. The so-called “UN Biodiversity Summit” was expected to make ambitious progress towards achieving the 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss. The summit should also reinforce the importance of the CBD and speed up the implementation of the Convention.

The NGOs set 10 essential targets for a successful COP 9. This catalogue was used to assess the results and decisions taken by the parties. How then did the UN Biodiversity Summit in Bonn fulfil these NGO demands?

1. *Increase public funding towards the estimated global need of 30 billion euro per year for the protected area system*

**PARTLY FULFILLED:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel started an important initiative and pledged 500 million euro for the time between 2009 and 2012. As from 2013 on 500 million euro shall be spent yearly. Other states, especially those belonging to the G 8, should each follow towards a 2 billion target, but so far they have not supported this initiative.

2. *Put a stop to biopiracy by deciding on a clear Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)-mandate and timetable for the successful conclusion by COP 10*

**PARTLY FULFILLED:** COP 9 decided on a roadmap to negotiate a legally binding agreement until COP 10, but there was little progress in discussing substantial elements of the regime.

3. *Fully respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities*

**PARTLY FULFILLED:** There was some progress by integrating the

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into COP 9 decisions.

4. *Stop deforestation by adopting time bound targets to achieve zero deforestation by 2015*

**NOT FULFILLED:** COP 9 was a big disappointment regarding the ending of deforestation. Obviously a lot of diverging interests impeded major progress under the CBD.

5. *Develop a global mechanism to halt illegal logging by 2012*

**NOT FULFILLED:** COP 9 did not succeed in starting negotiations for halting illegal logging. Although the EU had promised to focus on that issue, no initiative was started.

6. *Protection of biodiversity shall be fully integrated into future climate change agreements*

**PARTLY FULFILLED:** Only an expert group was set up to provide information for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings. Intensive cooperation of CBD and UNFCCC is needed, especially on including biodiversity into a mechanism on the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

7. *Prevent negative impacts of biomass production by developing ecological and social standards for the production of biomass and biofuels*

**PARTLY FULFILLED:** CBD parties shall implement biomass production only in a sustainable way. This approach is too little progress in respect of the enormous pressure on cutting tropical forest for increasing production needs.

8. *Adopt criteria for identification of high seas marine protected areas*



**FULFILLED:** COP 9 decided on a set of scientific criteria and a procedure towards establishing a global network of marine protected areas by 2012.

9. *Apply the precautionary principle by adopting bans, at least moratoria, preventing release of genetically modified trees, as well as ocean fertilisation experiments.*

**FULFILLED:** CBD parties shall apply the precautionary principle by using risk assessment before releasing genetically modified trees. The release can be suspended if, for e.g., risk assessment is not available. COP 9 also decided that ocean fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities. This means a de-facto-moratorium.

10. *Improve the effectiveness of decisions and the efficiency of the CBD*

**NOT FULFILLED:** COP 9 did not discuss any rules of procedure to improve the efficiency of the CBD.

This evaluation of the implementation of NGO demands should be a signal to the German CBD presidency to strengthen their efforts in the run-up to COP 10 in Japan in the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. ❖



“We will try to bridge gaps inside the CBD family and to other organisations. We will also try to convince those countries still outside the CBD to join us. I would like the Convention to become a truly global convention for all life in all of the countries on Earth!”

—*Sigmar Gabriel*

