The Convention on
Biological Diversity

Year in Review 2010

CBD

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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

CBD

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Introduction

2010: An historical year for the biodiversity family and the beginning of a new era for living in harmony with nature into the future

AHMED DJOGHLAF
Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological Diversity

2010 has been a truly historic year. It started with the launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Berlin and culminated with the High-Level Event of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York on 22 September with the participation of heads of State and government. The year was closed in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa prefecture in Japan, with the ceremony contributing to the launch of the 2011 International Year of Forests.

In early May 2010, the world received a wake-up call that warned of the consequences of continuing on our current development path. *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, based on the best available scientific evidence, and drawing upon 120 national reports of Parties to the Convention, acknowledged that we had not met the 2010 targets and warned of the consequences of further biodiversity loss. The continuing loss of species and habitats, predicted to accelerate under the growing impact of climate change, has placed so much pressure on the life-supporting ecosystems of our world that many risk passing a "tipping point". We were reminded that the status of biodiversity for millions of years to come will be determined by the actions that human society takes in the

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coming decades. This was a sobering message to receive during the International Year of Biodiversity.

However, there was also a message of hope. Humans have the power and the tools needed to avoid this scenario. During the International Year of Biodiversity, the world stepped up and responded to this challenge. Citizens around the world, through thousands of events and activities, discovered the importance of biodiversity, demonstrated the kinds of actions needed to save it, and called for the world to act.

Moreover, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October, some 18,000 participants representing the 193 Parties and their partners agreed on a package of measures that, if implemented, will ensure that the ecosystems of the planet will continue to sustain human well-being into the future.

The Nagoya biodiversity summit adopted the 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan, the "Aichi Target", which includes 20 headline targets, organized under five strategic goals that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressures on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity, and provide for capacity-building.

Among the targets, Parties agreed to at least halve and where feasible bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats including forests; protect 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of marine and coastal areas; restore at least 15 percent of degraded areas; and

Japan's Minister of the Environment, Ryu Matsumoto, and Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, celebrate the successful conclusion of COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan

"The status of biodiversity for millions of years to come will be determined by the actions that human society takes in the coming decades. This was a sobering message to receive during the International Year of Biodiversity. However, there was also a message of hope. Humans have the power and the tools needed to avoid this scenario. In 2010 the world stepped up and responded to this challenge."

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make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.

The Aichi Target was endorsed by the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly as the strategic plan of the whole biodiversity family. This overarching biodiversity framework contains means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The Parties agreed to translate the Aichi Target into national biodiversity strategies and action plans by 2014.

Moreover, the 650 participants at the Nagoya Summit on Cities and Biodiversity agreed to translate the Aichi Targets into action plans at the city level. To this end, a Singapore urban biodiversity index, tested out in 34 cities, was endorsed. A biodiversity partnership between mayors and policy makers was born in Nagoya with 122 parliamentarians of the world adopting the Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity. A Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was adopted by the G77 and China in support of the Aichi Target. At the Ecosystems Pavilion, heads of agencies and international organizations discussed ways to better integrate actions to combat biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation.

In addition, representatives of 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies agreed to translate the plan into their respective development cooperation priorities. To support developing countries in implementing the Nagoya compact, Japan established the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan committed USD 2 billion for the three coming years to financing biodiversity projects. Additional financial resources were announced by France, the European Union and Norway, with nearly USD 110 million being mobilized in support of projects under the CBD LifeWeb Initiative, which aims at enhancing the protected-area agenda. Parties will define mechanisms in time for COP 11 in India in 2012 through which additional financial resources can be identified and channeled.

And finally, a historic step was taken when Parties adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. This significant agreement creates a framework that balances access to genetic resources on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits while taking into account the important role of traditional knowledge. The Nagoya Protocol is expected to gain early entry into force by 2012, with support from the Global Environment Facility of USD 1 million. The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena protocol on Biosafety was also a major breakthrough in Nagoya.

The road from Curitiba to Nagoya was exciting. The road from Nagoya to New Delhi will be challenging. The challenge we face individually and collectively is to make sure that the Nagoya Biodiversity compact produces concrete action over the years to come. To this end, the 2011-2020 International Decade of Biodiversity is a major tool aimed at engaging all sectors of society in the battle to protect life on Earth. For indeed, Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is our Life.

The Convention for Life on Earth

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three objectives — the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It addresses issues relating to research and training, public education and awareness, and technical and scientific cooperation.

Negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention is legally binding and Parties are obliged to implement its provisions. Presently it includes 193 members—192 countries and the European Community.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the CBD through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings. The COP has established seven thematic programmes of work — agricultural biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, and inland waters biodiversity.

Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to, guide future work. They also set out key issues for consideration, identify potential outputs, and suggest a timetable and means for achieving these. Implementation of the work programmes depends on contributions from Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations. They are periodically reviewed by the COP and the open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which conducts assessments of status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity and provides the COP with scientifically, technically and technologically sound advice on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

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Snapshots of collective action

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) dedicated 365 days to promoting the notion that biodiversity is the basis of our existence. Worldwide celebrations encompassed both global education and public outreach campaigns that galvanized different sectors of society under one universal message, "Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is our Life". In its official role as the lead agency, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity took a number of measures to prepare, coordinate and facilitate the observance of the IYB. *The Implementation Strategy for the International Year of Biodiversity* was made available in the six official United Nations languages, providing our partners with initial ideas and achievable goals.

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The IYB Logo

Any successful campaign is due in part to creative branding. The IYB logo was created with the generous support of the Government of Canada and soon became one of the most easily recognizable trademarks affiliated with the International Year. In fact, the IYB logo was translated into several languages, in addition to the six official UN languages; German, Divehi (Maldivian), Greek, Basque, Farsi, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Maori, Malay, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Swedish, Turkish, Urdu and Traditional Chinese. Over 2000 organisations requested permission to use the IYB logo, who in turn partnered with their counterparts to promote the International Year in their region. The logo appeared on urban transit systems, in national parks, zoos, botanical gardens, floral arrangements, in television commercials, the Jeopardy game show, in films at the FIFA world Cup, on websites, on posters and banners at various events, calendars and postage stamps, on the Airbus A380 aircraft, in in-flight magazines, on wine, beer and a number of other products around the world.

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Social Media

The Internet played a paramount role in promoting the International Year of Biodiversity. As of this writing, some 53,883 fans actively follow the IYB Facebook page (www.facebook.com/iyb2010). And YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/chm.cbd) provided the opportunity for the world to upload their biodiversity related videos. The IYB website (www.cbd.int/2010), which contains all promotional material, videos, fact sheets, logo, messages and other pertinent information, including celebrations around the world, accounts for 21% of the total CBD website traffic.

Highlights of official government launches

The official launch of the International Year of Biodiversity took place on 11 January in **Germany**, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, representing the Presidency of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9). Held at Berlin's Museum of Natural History in the presence of over 400 participants, as well as representatives from COP 10 and the President of the Group of 77 and China, Chancellor Merkel urged the world to take the necessary steps to protect the Earth's biodiversity. The Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan, the

"Worldwide, International Year of Biodiversity celebrations encompassed both global education and public outreach campaigns that galvanized different sectors of society under one universal message, 'Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is our Life.'"

Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Germany

Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Brazil

Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in China

Environment Minister of Yemen, the United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director and the CBD Executive Secretary also delivered statements.

On 7 January, **Brazil** celebrated IYB in Curitiba, the host of COP 8, with the participation of Mayor Beto Richa of Curitiba, Brazil's Acting Minister of Environment, Izabella Teixeira, and Minister Mah Bow Tan of Singapore. The event, held at the margins of the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity, was attended by 95 participants, including representatives of 18 cities from around the world.

In **Japan**, the official Japanese launch took place in Tokyo on 25 January, as did the first meeting of the Japanese national committee for the International Year of Biodiversity. The committee, chaired by the Chairman of Nippon Keidanren, comprised national and local governments, academia, NGOs, private sector and media. The meeting was followed by the appointment of additional members of "Life on the Earth" Supporters (mostly celebrities) which attracted much attention from the Japanese media.

On 26 January, **China** kicked off its IYB celebrations in Beijing, with 500 participants attending a ceremony that featured Ministers and Vice-Ministers of all biodiversity-related central government departments, heads of provincial environment departments, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and the media.

In Madrid, **Spain**, the Spanish Ministry for Environment and Rural Affairs, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, celebrated the launch of IYB on 26-27 January, with participants from 48 European countries attending the conference on the "Post-2010 Biodiversity Vision and Target". A Spanish public-awareness campaign was launched, and the EC announced a five million euro public-awareness biodiversity campaign.

On 28 January, the **Netherlands** celebrated the launch of IYB with the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Minister of Education, Culture and Science in attendance at a high-level event.

At the official launch of the IYB in **South Africa**, held on 1 February, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs called on all South Africans to unite in a global alliance to protect life on Earth by investing in biodiversity.

FACT

There are greater opportunities than identified in earlier assessments to address the biodiversity crisis while contributing to other social objectives; for example, by reducing the scale of climate change without large-scale deployment of biofuels and accompanying loss of natural habitats. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

IYB logo even reached the top of the Brandberg in Namibia

Highlights of official UN and other organizations launches

The United Nations as a whole embraced the Year, starting with the inaugural event held in Paris, **France** by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which was followed by a scientific conference on 25-29 January at its headquarters. The ceremony included the Prime Minister of GuineaBissau and the French Minister of State, as well as the President of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Over 300 participants attended the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity held in Trondheim, **Norway**, 1-5 February, featuring Norwegian Minister of Environment Erik Solheim, Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf.

Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in North America

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in February in New York

As a contribution to IYB, the UN General Assembly convened a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its 65th session

The North American launch of the IYB took place in the **United States of America** on 10 February. The event in New York was convened by the UN Development Programme Equator Initiative and a consortium of partners including Conservation International, Fordham University School of Law, The UN Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the American Museum of Natural History which hosted the event. Some 400 people attended despite a snowstorm that closed the New York offices of the UN.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources hosted the launch of IYB in Southeast Asia on 5 March in Makati City, **Philippines**.

Global Success

Widely celebrated throughout the world, the International Year of Biodiversity provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth. The excitement generated by the IYB would not have been possible if not for our 398 official IYB partners, or the activities that were planned in 192 countries, featuring some 1143 activities. Here is a small sampling of some of the activities undertaken by various countries to commemorate this remarkable year:

Argentina: The Municipality of Posadas and the Ministry of Ecology, Renewable Natural Resources and Mission Tourism, celebrated a week of biodiversity that included roundtable discussions and tours of their Botanic Gardens.

Some 192 countries, featuring some 1143 activities, helped celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. For a more detailed look at the years' celebrations please see www.cbd.int/2010/celebrations

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The City of Montreal marked the International Year of Biodiversity with a floral display outside City Hall

Celebrating the IYB in the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo

FACT

Biodiversity and ecosystem changes could be prevented, significantly reduced or even reversed if strong action is applied urgently, comprehensively and appropriately, at international, national and local levels. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

Cayman Islands: Some $80,000 in donations raised by the National Trust in a fund drive went, according to organizers, towards the purchase of land negatively threatened by development.

India: The Shrikrishna Science Centre in Patna organised several events and activities for schoolchildren from 17 to 21 August.

Indonesia: A two-week film festival for children was held in Jakarta.

Ireland: The first Saturday of Natural Heritage Week was designated Wild Child Day, a day that encourages families and children to get outdoors, and interact and connect with the natural world.

Jamaica: The 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme included special sessions devoted to the recognition of the global economic benefits of biodiversity. Participating countries highlighted their national initiatives for the conservation of the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean.

Japan: The Japanese National Committee for IYB implemented the 'Life on Earth Project', and recruited and registered members for the 'Life on Earth Supporters' Club'.

Malta: Activities included talks to scouts and the general public by staff from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, as well as a tourism and biodiversity fair organised by the Malta Tourism Authority, at the Natural History Museum.

Namibia: Namibia was the first country to stage an International Biodiversity Action Day as part of the IYB. The Day was devised

Putting a stamp on the year

Several countries issued special stamps to mark the International Year of Biodiversity:

In Uruguay, even four-legged participants helped celebrate IYB

Celebrating IDB in Oman

by the German Ministries for Environment and Economic Co-operation and Development in co-operation with GEO magazine.

Philippines: June was designated "Philippine Environment Month" in order to foster public awareness about biodiversity, with lectures held on climate change, biodiversity development and poverty alleviation.

Republic of Korea: 90 students from the UNESCO Associated School in Korea helped deliver the IYB message as they marched through the streets of Seoul carrying images of flora and fauna, clouds, water, rain, snow, and genetic resources.

Singapore: The National Parks Board planted 600 trees belonging to 55 species in a 9-kilometre stretch across Mount Faber Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Kent Ridge Park.

South Africa: Supported by the Global Environment Facility, the IYB message was brought to some 600,000 spectators watching the 2010 FIFA World Cup matches live on giant screens.

Sweden: Nature Year, a partnership comprising some 20 stakeholder organisations and governmental agencies to raise awareness about nature, focused its attention this year on IYB.

Thailand: Twenty-five animal and plant species discovered by scientists from Chulalongkorn University since 2007 were put on display at Chamchuri Square in Bangkok.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: The Natural History Museum organized a Youth Summit on Biodiversity catering to 200 A-level students.

IYB wins award as best global environmental campaign

With the slogan "Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is our Life", the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity won the 2010 Green Award for best Global Campaign in recognition of the strength of a campaign that inspired activities throughout the world that showcase the value and beauty of biodiversity.

"The celebrations organized for the International Year of Biodiversity by the citizens and Governments of 192 countries and partners around the world have been an extraordinary human experience aimed at reconnecting people with nature. It has demonstrated the resolve of the people of the world to protect life on Earth," said Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. "The 2010 Green Award is recognition of, and tribute paid to, people of the world for this achievement."

The Green Awards help illustrate the critical role that green marketing and sustainability communications play in informing people about green issues, products and lifestyle choices. The Awards showcase examples of excellence and best practice in communicating sustainability and green issues.

JOHN FOXX / STOCKBYTE / THINKSTOCK

Sweden held its IDB celebrations at the Skansen nature park in Stockholm

Participants at IDB celebrations in Samoa

Scouts helped celebrate IDB in Algeria

International Day for Biological Diversity Celebrations 2010

Commemorated under the theme 'Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation,' this year's International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) highlighted the crucial contribution biodiversity makes to poverty reduction, due to the basic goods and services it provides, and the integral role biodiversity plays with regards to such key development sectors as agriculture and livestock, forestry, fishing and tourism. Proclaimed by the United Nations to be celebrated every 22 May, IDB provides Parties with the opportunity to increase understanding and raise awareness of biodiversity-related issues, as well as on the activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Celebrations around the World

Celebrations this year coincided with activities in 38 countries on four continents for the Biodiversity Action Day organized by the German Government serving as President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9). The main celebration of the IDB took place in Nairobi, Kenya, at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme. The occasion in Nairobi was marked with the ringing of the Mass Extinction Memorial Observatory bell, simultaneously with another in the United Kingdom.

Following is a random sampling of activities undertaken by Parties:

- Celebrations in **Algeria** took place at Jardin d'Essai du Hamma. The event comprised a variety of activities for all ages. Children were given a guided tour of the grounds and participated in such activities as drawing and a biodiversity quiz. Children could also attend workshops on gardening and ornithology. For adults, a conference held at the Horticultural School featured speakers discussing the various species found across Algeria and the importance of maintaining them. Participants were then invited to plant trees and shrubs in the botanical garden.
- Activities in **Armenia** centered on the nationwide campaign, 'Exploring Biodiversity of Rivers and Streamlets in Armenia'. The GTZ-SMB Programme and the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Nature Protection organized an event geared towards raising awareness of the country's biodiversity. Celebrations included a press conference featuring speakers from the Ministry of Nature Protection, National Institute of Education, the Ministry of Education and Science and the GTZ-SMB Programme discussing IDB and the need to raise biodiversity awareness among young people.
- **Belgium** organized several activities, including an outdoor photo exhibit by the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Urban regeneration and Aid to Individuals, of 60 photos depicting biodiversity in Brussels; a 'biogeosafari' trail game organized by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences along various biodiversity-related locations in Brussels; and, a large field inventory weekend, organized by Flemish NGO Natuurpunt,

FACT

Although they cover just 1.2% of the world's continental shelves, it is estimated that between 500 million and more than one billion people rely on coral reefs as a food resource. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

Volunteers in Brazil celebrated the IDB by doing a river cleanup

Students marched through the streets of Seoul in celebration of IDB in the Republic of Korea

Planting trees to mark IDB in the United Arab Emirates

which resulted in 39,000 sightings and 3,211 observed species.

- A day-long celebration in the Lama Forest in **Benin** featured speeches by local officials, a theatre production and folkloric dancing and singing. Many people also planted trees. Participants then trekked through the Lama Forest, listening to descriptions of the flora and fauna they passed. Local stands were also visited to see products made and cultivated from the forest, products that help the region's economy.
- Various celebrations were held across **Brazil**. In the Cerrado region, for example, 50 farmers, scientists, and government and NGO representatives walked around the area to raise awareness about the need to conserve local species. Participants met for a buffet lunch hosted by the Cerrado Taste Association, an organization that promotes the use of local food. Participants also gathered for a session in which possible solutions to the conservation issues in the area were discussed. Several zoos also participated in informing the public about local species and provided games and activities for the children.
- The Ministry for Environment and Water in **Hungary** highlighted the importance of conserving biodiversity. Students of a local school, together with scientists and taxonomists from the Danube-Ipoly National Park and the Hungarian Natural History Museum, analyzed the flora and fauna of the protected Szenas Hills. During the 24-hour-action day students observed first-hand how scientists work in nature.
- Activities in **India** included a three-day IDB celebration in the State of Sikkim, featuring a two-day trek through the Khangchendzonga National Park. Participants visited Khechupalri Lake where local representatives discussed the value and importance of the lake to the local community. Conservation techniques being used to preserve the area were also explained. Participants then headed to Yuksam where they were guided through the area by Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee members. Participants also partook in a workshop, where they were asked to come up with conservation strategies.
- In **Jordan**, the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Environment convened IDB celebrations on 24 May. The event was attended by the Minister of Environment, Minister of Education and the president of the syndicate of journalists and several stakeholders. IUCN, the Royal Botanical Garden and the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature also participated. Presentations were made on the progress towards the 2010 target and Jordan's efforts in this regard. Awards were presented to student winners of the biodiversity competition organized by the Ministry of Environment. Awards were also distributed to journalists – winners of the best articles on the Zarqa River, one of the most degraded ecosystems in Jordan.
- The main IDB celebrations in **Kenya** took place in Nairobi with the participation of delegates from around the world. Opening ceremonies were conducted by various government delegates as well as

FACT

Insects that carry pollen between crops, especially fruit and vegetables, are estimated to be worth more than US$ 200 billion per year to the global food economy. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

The **European Union** commemorated IDB by placing a unique outdoor plant installation comprising some 5,000 plants in the form of a map of the plant diversity in Europe on the façade of the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen, Denmark. The façade was in place from May to October

dignitaries from international organizations. More than 300 individuals assembled for a celebration at Karura Forest. Participants also met at Huruma with the Huruma people to see first-hand how development and biodiversity can coexist. The Huruma people stressed the importance of maintaining the ecosystems so that they continue to use the water, medicinal plants and animal feed. The day ended with participants planting over 200 trees.

- At the Parque Nacional Volcan Masaya in **Nicaragua**, a day-long celebration featured individuals from a variety of backgrounds being divided into groups and going on different excursions depending on the focus of their group: bird, mammal, vegetation or reptiles. At the end of the day the groups met to discuss their experiences.
- During the week preceding IDB, children and adults participated in camps held across the **Philippines**. Activities helped to promote and educate locals on the importance of biodiversity in their communities. Campers participated in hikes, bird watching, tree planting and various games. Adults learned about the importance of maintaining mangroves and visited vulnerable bat species in their natural habitats. The city of Bacolod held a parade, with speeches and music. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity also organized events, including a biodiversity photo exhibit and a video showing.
- **Russia** held its first IDB in a nature conservation area in Kedrovaya Pad, situated in the southern part of Russia's Far East. The area, chosen by WWF and GEO Russia, is one of Russia's oldest conservation areas and one of its richest in plant and animal life. Fifty participants took inventory of the species found on a 400-square metre area of forest. Most participants were students from the State University of the Far East, but included WWF experts, representatives of a local environmental foundation, 10 journalists and the First Secretary from the United States Embassy in Moscow.
- In **Turkey**, the KuzeyDoğa Society organized activities and press conferences in several important bird areas. In Igdir, participants to a press conference were shown the banding of birds. At Kars a press conference was held at Lake Cali, a globally important bird area that contains a breeding population of the endangered white-headed duck. In Istanbul a wildlife expert released three Eurasian Honey-buzzards found injured and rehabilitated.
- Children in the area surrounding **Vietnam**'s Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park took part in an excursion to the natural habitat of their region, where the children were encouraged to discover the local plant and animal species. Activities included a panel discussion on the importance of protecting the area and how to accomplish it, and a guided tour of the Phong Nha caves for biologists and scientists.

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The Green Wave for biodiversity

On 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity, children and youth of the world were joined by dignitaries, teachers, parents, experts and supporters from governments, companies, NGOs and other organizations to celebrate *The Green Wave*, a global wave of action for biodiversity.

Participants created the biggest wave of celebrations by planting or taking care of a tree at 10:00 a.m. in their respective time zones and became part of the second wave, virtual this time, which went live at 20:10 on the web site's interactive map.

The 2010 Green Wave reached out to thousands of students from more than 1000 schools and groups in more than 60 countries. Activities leading up to the 22 May celebrations included bio-blitzes, biodiversity treasure hunts, biodiversity symposiums, experts forums, film screenings, cleaning campaigns, symbolic tree planting events, GPS localization activities, large-scale plantations, nature walks and storytelling.

At the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10), several *Green Wave* partners and supporters, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, Airbus, CBD Parties such as Japan and Canada, cities like Montpellier and Curitiba, NGOs like Boticario and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, as well as youth groups such as Biodiversity Matters took the opportunity to meet during a two hour side-event to further engage and collaborate in order to expand the campaign's outreach.

Jean Lemire, Canadian explorer, biologist and film-maker was appointed Ambassador to *The Green Wave*. As ambassador, Mr. Lemire will help carry *The Green Wave* message on his next expedition, titled *1000 Days for the Planet*. This multi-year voyage, planned to begin in the spring of 2011, will focus on biodiversity and aims to reach out to students directly in their schools and communities via satellite. During COP 10, Mr. Lemire received the Midori Prize for Biodiversity, an award which has been established to mark the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the ÆON Environmental Foundation and to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, for his contribution as *Green Wave* ambassador and in promoting the implementation of the objectives of the CBD.

For more information, visit http://greenwave.cbd.int or contact greenwave@cbd.int

Jean Lemire, Canadian explorer, biologist, film-maker and Ambassador to *The Green Wave*

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf and Rainer Ohler head of Public Affairs and Communications for Airbus, participated in Futures Day at the Farnborough International Airshow 2010. Futures Day aims to encourage careers in aerospace and to get young people to be part of the solution to global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Some 111,000 participants from 1,588 groups in 43 prefectures across Japan took part in *The Green Wave* for biodiversity on the International Day for Biological Diversity

Global Biodiversity Outlook 3:
Inaction more expensive than investing in action now

New vision required to stave off dramatic biodiversity loss

The actions we take over the next decade or two will determine whether the relatively stable environmental conditions on which human civilization has depended for the past 10,000 years will continue beyond this century, according to the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3* (GBO-3).

Produced by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and released in May, the report confirmed that in the International Year of Biodiversity the world has failed to meet its target to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. It also formed the basis of discussion of the Convention's strategic plan at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan.

Based on scientific assessments, national reports submitted by governments and a

President of the Republic of Korea receives CBD Award for contributions to biodiversity conservation and green growth

In recognition of his unique contribution to the preservation of life on Earth, Mr. Lee Myung-bak, the President of the Republic of Korea, was presented with the CBD Award by Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary.

Presentation of the CBD Award took place during the visit of the Executive Secretary to the Presidential Office in Seoul on 24 August 2010.

The Award represents the CBD Secretariat's recognition of President Lee's outstanding contribution and commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a major instrument for achieving a green economy and sustainable development.

In recognition of his unique contribution to the preservation of life on Earth, President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea received the CBD Award from Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary

President Lee, recognized by *Time* magazine in 2007 as a "Hero of the Environment," demonstrated his strong global leadership toward achieving "low-carbon, green growth," by securing national commitments on green investment at the level of two per cent of GDP. His green leadership was demonstrated when, as Mayor of Seoul, he initiated a project to restore the once buried major stream, Cheonggyecheon, which helped move the city towards a more environmentally-friendly future.

Established in 2006, the CBD Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to advancing the three objectives of the Convention. Previous recipients include Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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study on future scenarios for biodiversity, the report was subject to an extensive independent scientific review process.

Principle conclusions reached in the report of the current state of biodiversity suggest that natural systems that support economies, lives and livelihoods across the planet are at risk of rapid degradation and collapse, unless there is swift, radical and creative action to conserve and sustainably use the variety of life on Earth.

The report also warns that massive further loss of biodiversity is becoming increasingly likely, and with it, a severe reduction of many essential services to human societies as several "tipping points" are approached, in which ecosystems shift to alternative, less productive states from which it may be difficult or impossible to recover.

These potential tipping points include:

- The dieback of large areas of the Amazon forest, due to the interactions of climate change, deforestation and fires, with consequences for the global climate, regional rainfall and widespread species extinctions.
- The shift of many freshwater lakes and other inland water bodies to eutrophic or algae-dominated states, caused by the buildup of nutrients and leading to widespread fish kills and loss of recreational amenities.
- Multiple collapses of coral reef ecosystems, due to a combination of ocean acidification, warmer water leading to

"We can no longer see the continuous loss of biodiversity as an issue separate from the core concerns of society. Realizing objectives such as tackling poverty and improving the health, wealth and security of present and future generations will be greatly strengthened if we finally give biodiversity the priority it deserves."

DESIGN PICS / ROBERT CABLE / VALUELINE / THINKSTOCK

FACT

Globally some 80% of people in developing countries rely on traditional medicines, the majority of which are derived from plants. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

bleaching, overfishing and nutrient pollution; and threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of millions directly dependent on coral reef resources.

However, the GBO-3 argues that such outcomes are avoidable if effective and coordinated action is taken to reduce the multiple pressures being imposed on biodiversity. For example, urgent action is needed to reduce land-based pollution and destructive fishing practices that weaken coral reefs, and make them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

It further notes that the linked challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change must be addressed by policymakers with equal priority and in close co-ordination, if the most severe impacts of each are to be avoided. Conserving biodiversity and the ecosystems it underpins can help to store more carbon, thus reducing further build-up of greenhouse gases and allowing people to better adapt to unavoidable climate changes if ecosystems are made more resilient with the easing of other pressures.

The Outlook, in taking into account lessons learned from the failure to meet the 2010 target, outlines possible new strategies for reducing biodiversity loss. These include addressing the underlying causes or indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, such as patterns of consumption, the impacts of increased trade and demographic change. Ending subsidies would also be an important step.

The report concludes that we can longer see the continuous loss of biodiversity as an issue separate from the core concerns of society. Realizing objectives such as tackling poverty and improving the health, wealth and security of present and future generations will be greatly strengthened if we finally give biodiversity the priority it deserves.

The full report, launched in a number of cities around the world, including Alexandria, Bonn, Brasilia, Chamonix, London, Manama, Montreal, New York, Nairobi, Panama, and Tokyo, and which was enabled by financial contributions from Canada, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme, can be accessed at: http://gbo3.cbd.int/.

Iraq submits first National Report, Japan first to approve fourth National Biodiversity Strategy

Iraq and Japan both achieved two important firsts in 2010. Iraq issued its first National Report to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in July 2010. The report, which examines and reports on the status of biodiversity within Iraq, attempts to lay the groundwork for the development of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) that Iraq can implement.

While environmental issues have played a relatively small role in the recent public discourse in Iraq, which became the 192nd Party to the Convention on 26 October 2009, environmental concerns represent a huge challenge within Iraq that are greatly complicating the development of the country. These issues pertain to water resource management; declines in biodiversity; waste management; oil development and industrial pollution, and environmental impacts caused by decades of war and conflict.

As a new Party to the Convention, Iraq is in the process of establishing the institutional and legal framework for CBD implementation.

In Japan, following review by the Central Environment Council and in accordance with the 2008 Basic Act on Biodiversity, the Japanese cabinet on 16 March approved the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2010. Thus Japan becomes the first country to revise its NBSAP for the third time.

Japan's new Strategy focuses on the role biodiversity plays in supporting life and livelihoods, and addresses some of the key drivers of biodiversity loss. Taking into account the global discussion on developing a post 2010 target, it sets short-term targets for 2020 and mid- and long-term targets for 2050, all within a 100 year perspective.

To promote necessary measures on biodiversity at the local and national levels, and on the global level as COP 10 President, the Strategy prioritizes four issues:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into the daily life of individuals
- Rebuilding relationship between human beings and nature in local communities
- Securing linkages between key ecosystems
- Taking actions at the global level, promoting the Satoyama Initiative, providing assistance to developing nations and integrating the economic base.

Japan's action plan section lists 720 actual measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the strategy, with progress to be evaluated by 35 quantitative indicators.

As of late 2010, 170 Parties have created NBSAPs. Including Japan, 32 countries have revised theirs. Another 16 are presently under revision. Only 9 Parties (including two countries - Iraq and Somalia - that recently acceded to the CBD) have yet to provide the Secretariat of the Convention information about the status of their NBSAPs.

The inauguration of the Iraq stand at COP 10

JOHN FOXX / STOCKBYTE / THINKSTOCK

Born at COP 10 – A global strategy for living in harmony with nature

The Nagoya biodiversity summit, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October attracted 18,650 accredited participants representing the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and their partners. One hundred and thirty ministers as well as the Heads of State and Government attended the Ministerial Segment of the Nagoya Summit. The representatives of 650 municipalities including 200 mayors, 122 legislators from 60 countries, 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, gathered for the same cause.

The summit, one of the most successful meetings in the history of the Convention, adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization following seven years of intense negotiations; the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which includes a mission and strategic goals. This package of measure agreed to by governments will ensure that the ecosystems of the planet will continue to sustain human well-being into the future.

Delegates at the opening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in Nagoya

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf speaks at the opening of COP 10

Secretariat staff at the COP 10 opening ceremony

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020

Strategic Plan sets out ambitious and precise targets

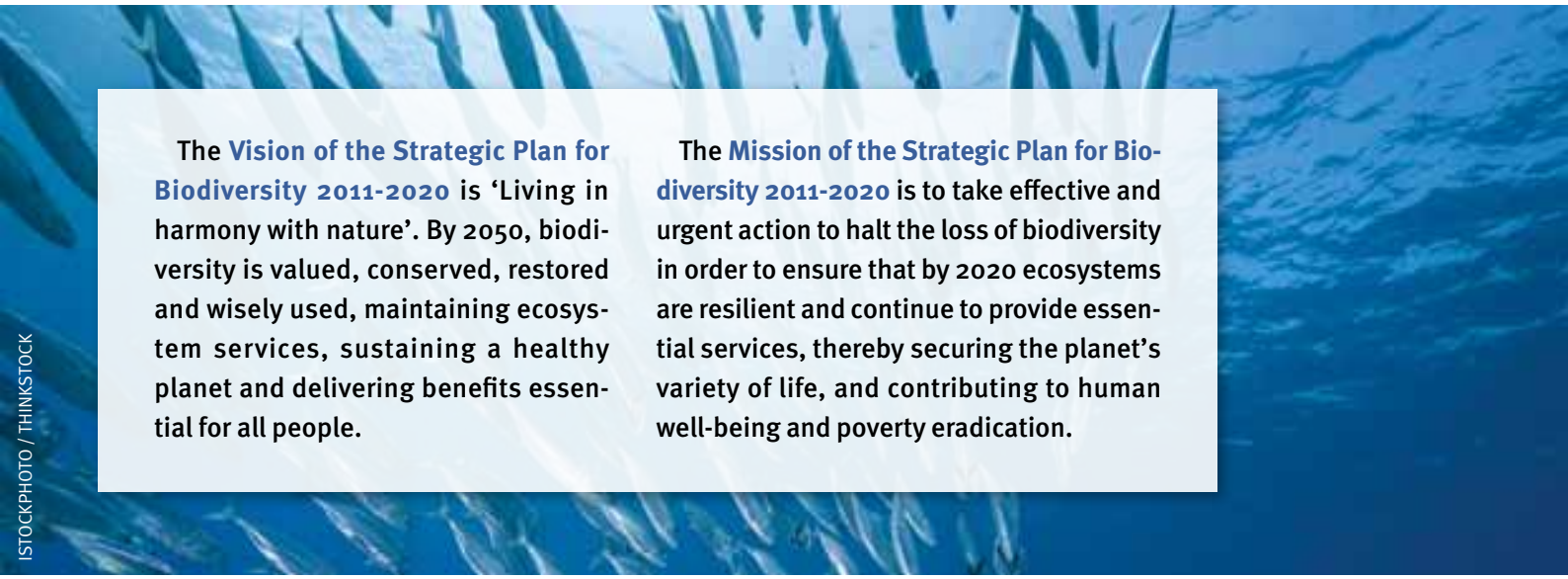
If Kyoto entered history as the city where the climate accord was born then Nagoya will be remembered as the city where the global biodiversity accord was born. As adopted by Parties, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 of the CBD is an ambitious target with a powerful package of measures in place to halt the destruction of biodiversity by 2020. The Plan draws from the wealth of experience gained in implementing the Convention, which includes information from national reports, the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-3), and scientific literature.

The overarching purpose of the plan is to inspire broad-based action by all countries and stakeholders in support of biodiversity with a view of promoting coherent and effective implementation of the objectives of the Convention. The 2010 Biodiversity Target inspired action at many levels. However, these actions were not sufficient to address the pressures on biodiversity or to fully integrate biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies, programmes and actions. The end result was that the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss were not significantly reduced.

The new Strategic Plan promotes the effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach comprising a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and targets that will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders. The Plan also provides for a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and for enhancing coherence in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the programmes of work and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as well as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

FACT

The Southern Africa tourism industry, based to a large extent on wildlife viewing, was estimated to be worth US$ 3.6 billion in 2000. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)



The Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is 'Living in harmony with nature'. By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

The Mission of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication.

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Actor Harrison Ford, in his role as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Conservation International, came to Nagoya to help promote COP 10. Mr. Ford is flanked by (left) Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International, and CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf

The Naturathlon is an annual sporting event that encourages people to conserve nature. At the COP 10 Naturathlon 2010 – The Course of the World", scores of delegates and Japanese citizens alike ran the 10km course with one common goal – the importance of biodiversity

The Biodiversity Governors' Summit, an international symposium, was held on 19 October in which governors and vice governors from Aichi, Ishikawa, Hyogo, Shiga and Shizuoka as well as academics and experts, presented their approaches and actions for the conservation of Satoyama and Satoumi and its contribution to the revitalization of local communities

Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment for Japan, and CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf, pose with stamps issued by Japan Post to commemorate COP 10

What is the plan?

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 comprises several elements – a Vision for 2050, a Mission for 2020, five Strategic Goals and 20 targets. Collectively these are known as the Aichi Biodiversity Target. The Plan also contains provisions for implementation support mechanisms as well as for the monitoring, review and evaluation of the Plan.

The Aichi Biodiversity Target is the component of the Strategic Plan against which its progress will be assessed. The targets are divided amongst five strategic goals and each target addresses a different theme. Some of the targets define a desirable state while others refer to concrete actions or processes that need to be undertaken. The Targets represent a set of global aspirations against which countries and other stakeholders can set their own targets given their own unique circumstances. Many of the targets are reinforcing in that actions taken towards one can help to achieve progress towards others. Generally the Targets are meant to inspire change, to provide a focus for concerted action, to report progress in implementing the Convention, to generate accountability, and to communicate the status and trends of biodiversity to policy makers and the public.

The Aichi Biodiversity Target

The Aichi Target comprises five strategic goals and 20 headline targets to be achieved:

Strategic Goal A: **Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society**

Achievement of this goal will require policy coherence and the integration of biodiversity into all national development policies and strategies and economic sectors and at all levels of government. Greater emphasis needs to be put on, among other things, communication, public education, and public awareness, the broader use of planning tools such as strategic environmental

assessment as well as engaging stakeholders all sectors of government, society and the economy.

Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Increasing public understanding, awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of biodiversity are necessary to underpin the ability and willingness of individuals to make such changes and to create the 'political will' for governments to act.

Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Including the values of biodiversity in national accounts, planning processes and poverty reduction strategies places biodiversity into the same decision framework as other goods and services and would help give it greater visibility amongst policy-makers while contributing to the "mainstreaming" of biodiversity.

Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

The creation or further development of positive incentives for biodiversity could also help in the implementation of the Strategic Plan by providing financial or other incentives to encourage actions to support its implementation.

Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Bringing the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits is an integral part of the Plan.

Strategic Goal B: **Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

Ultimately it will only be possible to reduce or halt the loss of biodiversity if the drivers and pressures on biodiversity are

The city of Nagoya celebrated the 400th anniversary of its founding during the time that the city played host to COP 10

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf connects with the younger generation at COP 10

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, second from right, appointed conservationist and acclaimed actor Edward Norton, second from left, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity in July.

Japanese singer MISIA was the Honorary Ambassador for COP 10

themselves reduced or eliminated. With rising human population and income, the demand for biological resources is increasing, and without action this will translate into increased pressures on biodiversity.

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

The emphasis of this target is on preventing loss of high-biodiversity value habitats, such as primary forests and many wetlands.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

The "illustrated apple" is an ancient tradition that reached its peak in France in the 19th century. A method scarcely used in the rest of the world it was reinvented in Japan in 1970. These apples are a result of cooperation between the Fruit Gardens of Laquenexy in France and the Sato Fukuroten company of Hirosaki, Japan

Better management of harvested stocks and aquatic plants is needed to reduce pressure on marine ecosystems and to ensure the sustainable use of existing stocks.

Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Sustainable management can deliver benefits to production systems in terms of services such as soil fertility, erosion control, enhanced pollination and reduced pest outbreaks, as well as contributing to the well-being and sustainable livelihoods of local communities.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Better control of sources of pollution, including efficiency in fertilizer use and the better management of animal wastes, coupled with the use of wetlands as natural filtration plants, can bring nutrient levels below levels that are critical for ecosystem functioning, while also allowing for increased fertilizer use in areas where it is needed to meet soil fertility and food security needs.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species can be addressed through improved border controls and quarantine, including through better coordination with national and regional bodies responsible for

Delegates engaged in discussion during the plenary session on 29 October

Governor Masanori Tanimoto of Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan addresses the Governor's Summit on 19 October

Ministers and delegates gather to debate during the final plenary of COP 10

plant and animal health, as well as through early warning mechanisms, rapid response measures and management plans.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

It is important to urgently reduce other anthropogenic pressures, such as land-based pollution/sedimentation, unsustainable fishing and physical pressures, on these vulnerable ecosystems so as to increase their resilience to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification.

Strategic Goal C: **To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

Whilst longer term actions to reduce the underlying causes of biodiversity loss are taking effect, immediate actions to prevent the worst impacts of biodiversity loss will be required. Actions focusing specifically on species, ecosystems and genetic diversity, such as protected areas, species recovery programmes, landuse planning approaches, the restoration of degraded ecosystems and other targeted conservation interventions, can help conserve biodiversity and critical ecosystems.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

Increased attention needs to be paid to the representivity and management effectiveness of protected areas. Particular emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems such as tropical coral reefs, sea-grass beds, deep-water cold coral reefs, seamounts, tropical forests, peat lands, freshwater ecosystems and coastal wetlands.

FACT

The world's fisheries employ approximately 200 million people, provide about 16% of the protein consumed worldwide and have a value estimated at US$ 82 billion. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

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Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Current extinction rates are some 100 to 1000 times the background rate as a result of human action. Imminent extinctions of known threatened species can, in many cases, be prevented by protecting sites where such threatened species are located, by combating particular threats, and through *ex situ* conservation.

Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of their wild relatives is in decline as is the genetic diversity of other socio-economically and culturally valuable species. As such the genetic diversity which remains needs to be maintained and strategies need to be developed and implemented to minimize the current erosion of genetic diversity.

FACT

Amphibians have deteriorated in status fastest, and are in absolute terms at greatest risk of extinction, in South and Central America and the Caribbean. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

Strategic Goal D: **Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Efforts should focus on maintaining and, wherever possible, restoring terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems to ensure the provision of valuable ecosystem services, contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Priority should be given to safeguarding or restoring such ecosystems, and to ensuring that people, especially women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable, have adequate and secure access to these services.

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

TOM BRAKEFIELD / THINKSTOCK

Financing implementation of the Strategic Plan

Several major announcements were made during COP 10 concerning the financing of the implementation of the CBD. Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan announced USD2 billion in financing, and Ryu Matsumoto, Japan's Minister of the Environment announced the establishment of a Japan Biodiversity Fund. Additional financial resources were announced by France, the European Union and Norway. Some USD110 million were mobilized in support of projects under the CBD LifeWeb Initiative aimed at enhancing the protected-area agenda. Financial support for the Strategic Plan will be provided under the framework of the resource mobilization strategy. Parties will work to define in time for COP 11 in 2012, the targets and mechanisms through which financial resources can be identified, unleashed and channeled.

Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan, as seen here on the video screen, announced a USD2 billion fund

ISTOCKPHOTO / THINKSTOCK

Conservation is preferable, but restored landscapes and seascapes can improve resilience and can contribute to climate change adaptation and generate additional benefits for people, in particular indigenous and local communities and the rural poor.

Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Ensuring that the Protocol is fully enforced and operational will help to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

Strategic Goal E: **Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building**

National strategies need to integrate new national targets consistent with this Strategic Plan and must be implemented through action plans involving all parts of government, society and the economy. This will require improvements in knowledge as well as in its dissemination. In addition substantial increases in capacity in all countries, especially developing countries, will be needed. In order to ensure the requisite level of ownership and buy-in it will be essential to involve all segments of society in the development of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Progress towards this strategic goal will facilitate the achievement of all other strategic goals and targets contained in this Strategic Plan.

Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

It is essential for Parties to develop, adopt and commence implementing an updated NBSAP in line with the goals and targets set out in the Strategic Plan.

Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

FACT

The net loss of forests has slowed substantially, from approximately 83,000 square kilometres per year in the 1990s to just over 50,000 square kilometers per year from 2000-2010. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be respected, protected, maintained and promoted, and used in local ecosystem management, drawing upon experiences of customary use, with the approval of relevant communities.

Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Further efforts are needed to improve biodiversity-related knowledge and reduce uncertainties. For knowledge that is already available, access should be improved.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

The capacity for implementing the Convention, in terms of trained staff and financial resources is limited in most countries, and especially in developing countries. The capacity that currently exists needs to be safeguarded and further developed to enable countries to meet the challenges of implementing the Strategic Plan.

The action taken over the next decade to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2010, and the direction charted under the Convention, will determine whether the relatively stable environmental conditions on which human civilization has depended for the past 10,000 years will continue beyond this century. If we fail to use the opportunities provided by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the UN Decade on Biodiversity, many ecosystems on the planet could move into new, unprecedented states in which the capacity to provide for the needs of present and future generations is highly uncertain.

FACT

The ecological footprint of humanity exceeds the biological capacity of the Earth by a wider margin than at the time the 2010 target was agreed. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

ANUP SHAH / DIGITAL VISION / THINKSTOCK

ISTOCKPHOTO / THINKSTOCK

Second Global Private Donor Forum

The second edition of the Global Private Donor Forum, held on 26 October at the margins of COP 10, gathered prominent figures from diverse sectors, including business, private foundations and the international political platform and highlighted the message of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The meeting, which is an exchange between private, public and international stakeholders that began in 2009 in Berlin with the First Global Donor Forum, was graced by the presence of actor Harrison Ford, and featured the participation of Douglas Tompkins, President of the Foundation for Deep Ecology and Chair of the First Global Private Donor Forum, and Takuya Okada, Chairman of AEON Environmental Foundation. The forum called for participants to move forward towards private financial commitment for biodiversity conservation.

Mr. Tompkins said, "The private sector, especially the mega-rich who have ostensibly become mega-rich through some form of natural resources exploitation, need to pay their rent for living on the planet. What better way that privately supported conservation? Plus, they get to decide in what areas and how they will support biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, there will be no rich people either on a dead planet".

In an effort to demonstrate commitment and outreach towards global conservation of biodiversity, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of the participants of the forum, between AEON Environmental Foundation and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

"Today, the preservation of global warming and conservation of biodiversity are recognized as two challenging issues at the global level... the AEON Environmental Foundation intends to make further contributions to save our beautiful and irreplaceable planet for future generations" reinforced Mr. Okada.

The meeting was followed by a reception that included the CBD award presentation to Airbus for the company's use of its global reach to help educate young people worldwide about the importance of biodiversity, and the presentation of the video Discovery Project Earth by James Gibbons, President of Discovery Channel Japan.

Douglas Tompkins, President of the Foundation for Deep Ecology and Chair of the First Global Private Donor Forum

Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, Vice President, Foundation for Deep Ecology

Takuya Okada, Chairman of AEON Environmental Foundation

The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative

Developing a globally applicable strategy for the sustainable use of the earth's resources

The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, launched at a side event during COP 10, aims to develop a globally applicable strategy for the sustainable use of the sources of life on earth. It is expected that the partnership will go a long way towards helping implementation of the 2011-2020 biodiversity strategy.

Set up by Japan's Ministry of the Environment and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), the initiative helps promote traditional Japanese land conservation around the world. While it is widely recognized that conservation of unspoilt wildernesses is vital to preserve ecosystems, the fight to preserve and promote biodiversity in human-influenced habitats is equally urgent.

In 2008, the satoyama concept was put forth by G8 environment ministers in Kobe, Japan, as a model of how humans should live and interact with nature. It then gained impetus at COP 9 in Bonn, and subsequently at several international satoyama forums.

The partnership provides an international platform for all organizations engaged in integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes, including forests and agricultural lands. These landscapes, and the sustainable practices and knowledge they represent, face increasing threats in many parts of the world due to

LifeWeb Initiative: Over US$110 million for protected areas

A total of more than US $110 million for funding of protected areas was announced at a high-profile dinner hosted by the CBD LifeWeb Initiative during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on 24 October, in Nagoya, Japan. At the event, attended by more than 180 people, including 24 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, public and private donor partners announced their financing commitments and technical support for protected area projects, relevant to Expressions of Interest profiled on CBD LifeWeb's clearing-house. Financing matches announced will benefit Colombia, Costa Rica, as well as countries in the Eastern Caribbean, Mozambique, South Africa, and others.

Launched in 2008, LifeWeb provides a user-friendly clearing-house for countries to profile their protected area needs and invite international support; facilitates funding matches; coordinates counterpart financing among donors; and recognizes donor support and innovation for natural solutions.

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ISTOCKPHOTO / THINKSTOCK

urbanization, industrialization, and changing patterns of rural populations. Apart from improving the sustainability of protected area systems, measures are also required to promote and strengthen the conservation of globally significant biodiversity on landscapes outside of protected areas.

The partnership is open to all types of organizations, including governmental organizations, NGOs/ CSOs, indigenous and local community organizations, academic, educational and/or research institutes, industry or private sector organization, and UN/ other international organizations.

It will also collaborate with other initiatives that deal with socio-ecological production landscapes, with the aim of ensuring synergy and complementarities among activities of organizations; as well as maximising resources and strengthening each other's work. These collaborative activities include knowledge facilitation, for example collecting, analyzing and distilling lessons from case studies and disseminate these via an online database.

By rebuilding harmonious relationships between humans and nature, it is expected that the Satoyama Initiative will contribute to slowing the escalating loss of biodiversity worldwide, with the dual impacts of retaining and enhancing the biodiversity found in human-influenced natural environments and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

"By rebuilding harmonious relationships between humans and nature, it is expected that the Satoyama Initiative will contribute to slowing the escalating loss of biodiversity worldwide."

In the process, the initiative may also help improve human well-being, for example, enhancing stable food production and income generation by applying pluralistic land uses and betterment of living conditions by promoting environmentally friendly biomass resources. Furthermore, the initiative can also allow for the enjoyment of the benefits of sustainable use of genetic resources through appraisal of traditional knowledge and culture.

Promotional material, including pins, provided by the Japanese Ministry of Environment proved popular with participants at COP 10

During both COP 10 and MOP 5 media had access to a large media communications centre

Promotional material at COP 10

German Chancellor Angela Merkel awarded special biodiversity prize

German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the special MIDORI Prize for biodiversity in recognition for her special contribution to saving biodiversity during the International Year of Biodiversity. The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was announced at an awards ceremony held 27 October hosted by the Japanese Minister of Environment in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation and sustainable use at local and global levels, and who have developmentally influenced various biodiversity-related efforts, as well as raising awareness about biodiversity. Established as an international award for biodiversity following the implementation of the "Japan Awards for Biodiversity 2009", the award is co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and Japan's Ministry of the Environment.

Chancellor Merkel was commended for showing strong leadership on global environment issues such as biodiversity and climate change and, among other things, for placing biodiversity as a top agenda item at the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in 2007. Ursula Heinen-Esser, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Government of Germany, accepted the award on behalf of Chancellor Merkel.

The Special Prize was established at the suggestion of the judges at the Judging Committee Meeting, in commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity. Chancellor Merkel received a wooden plaque and a prize of USD 500,000.

The AEON Environmental Foundation established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity and announced the three recipients at a press conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21 September 2010:

- Jean Lemire (Canada, biologist, explorer and film maker)
- Gretchen C. Daily (United States of America, Professor, Stanford University)
- Emil Salim (Indonesia, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President of Indonesia, former Minister of State for Population and the Environment).

Based on the establishment of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the CBD reached agreement on 26 October that they would cooperate domestically and internationally on the conservation of biodiversity. This cooperation includes the implementation of programmes related to biodiversity, such as educating youth, public relations activities and the planting of trees, as well as promotion of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.

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122 parliamentarians of the world adopted the Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity

Nagoya Congress Center

Vice Minister Kazuhiko Takemoto of Japan visited the CBD Secretariat in June

Group of 77 and China Adopt Draft Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development

At the First Forum on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, which convened on 17 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, the 131 Parties of the Group of 77 and China unanimously adopted the draft "Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development."

The Multi-Year Plan of Action provides a set of measures and mechanisms to support the goal of conservation of biodiversity taking into account progress made in achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is hoped that the Plan will become a valuable tool for facilitating South-South cooperation, determine national strategies, share information and technology on issues related to biodiversity, its preservation and its relation to sustainable development.

This First South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development is the outcome of a joint initiative by the Group of 77 and China and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat to support the implementation of the Convention through the modality of South-South cooperation as a complement to the traditional North-South cooperation in the field of biodiversity and sustainable development. The plan also supports the Convention's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the Millennium Development goals.

The idea for a plan of action dates back to November 2006. A brainstorming session on South-South cooperation on biodiversity was held, in partnership with the CBD Executive Secretariat, to launch a framework for the development of a plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development. The follow-up process resulted in the elaboration of a draft Multi-Year Plan of Action and its review and consideration during the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 held in New York on 28 September 2010.

According to Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi, permanent representative of the republic of Yemen to the United Nations, and Chairman of the Group of 77, "The Multi-Year Plan of Action would contribute to bringing the South one step closer to forming the partnerships much needed to accomplish the goals set by our countries under the Convention."

The Forum was attended by 40 participants from many countries including Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, China, Grenada, Libya, Malawi, Mexico, South Africa, Singapore, St Lucia, and Yemen.

On 17 October the G-77 and China organized, with the Secretariat of the CBD, a Forum on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, at the margins of COP 10

Cities and Local Authorities

Adoption of Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity highlights busy year

Following the groundbreaking decision on cities and local authorities adopted at COP 9 in Bonn, Germany, the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity and the CBD Secretariat were busy encouraging local action for biodiversity in the buildup towards COP 10 and beyond.

In January, the City of Curitiba and the CBD Secretariat organized the Second Curitiba Meeting on Cities and Biodiversity in Curitiba, Brazil. Ninety-one participants, including representatives of 13 cities from 11 countries, produced the *Towards Aichi/Nagoya: Second Curitiba Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity*, a declaration that proposed taking the draft plan of action produced in the meeting to COP 10.

The City Biodiversity Summit, held parallel to COP 10 from 24-26 October, was an unqualified success. Some 679 participants, including more than 240 mayors, governors, senior local government officials and heads of international organizations, shared best practices and lessons learned from their actions for local biodiversity.

The city summit results, adopted as the *Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity*, were announced by Mayor Takashi Kawamura of Nagoya City and Governor Kanda of Aichi Prefecture at the high-level segment of COP 10 on 28 October, to the head of States and governments. On 29 October the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity* was formally endorsed and adopted by all 193 Parties to the CBD.

The Plan of Action provides non-prescriptive guidelines to assist national governments in aiding local governments to implement the objectives of the CBD.

Participants at the City Biodiversity Summit

Third Linnaeus Lecture

The third Linnaeus Lecture took place on 22 October in the margins of the Nagoya biodiversity summit. Initiated by the CBD Secretariat in 2007 to mark the tri-centennial of Carl Linnaeus' birth, the Swedish scientist widely credited as being the father of modern taxonomy, the event featured the official lecture by Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a speech by Peter Egardt, the Governor of Uppsala, Sweden.

Koh noted the three most important environmental challenges of our time as being climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification. He voiced his support for Japan's proposal to designate a UN Decade of biodiversity and suggested that the UN General Assembly undertake a mid-term review in 2015 of progress towards achieving a 2020 biodiversity target.

Egardt recalled that following the global celebrations of the 300th anniversary of Linnaeus' birth in 2007, the Swedish National Heritage Board decided to nominate "The Rise of Systematic Biology," a compilation of 13 sites in eight countries that represent the foundation of the science of systematic biology as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He also hoped that the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative, which seeks to identify all of Sweden's multi-cellular species, would inspire other countries to survey their own national species.

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf is flanked by (left) Peter Egardt, Governor of Uppsala, Sweden and (right) Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the third Linnaeus Lecture

DESIGN PICS / MICHAEL INTERISANO / VALUELINE / THINKSTOCK

The implications for local governments of the endorsement of the Plan of Action are that:

- National governments now have an obligation to consider and involve other levels of government in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
- National governments have agreed to work with their sub-national and local governments to align local and national objectives pertaining to the management of ecosystems and biodiversity, and explore ways they can support biodiversity implementation at the local level.

The Plan calls for capacity building and dissemination of best practices and for an "assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity" to be produced by 2012, and aims at providing national governments with opportunities to work together with sub-national governments, cities, and other local authorities on the development of biodiversity strategies and action plans.

"The City Biodiversity Summit was an unqualified success. Some 679 participants, including more than 240 mayors, governors, senior local government officials and heads of international organizations, shared best practices and lessons learned from their actions for local biodiversity."

The roadmap for the implementation of the Plan, to be discussed at the Montpellier meeting in 17-19 January 2011, will include a cooperation framework, fund-raising strategies and a new platform for sub-national governments to participate in the implementation of the Plan.

Gender and Biodiversity

Outcomes from COP 10 in Nagoya include a new protocol on ABS that recognizes "the vital role that women play in access and benefit sharing and affirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy making and implementation for biodiversity conservation."

At COP 10, the COP through its decision X/19, emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in all programmes of work under the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020; Requested the Executive Secretary in cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to enhance efforts to fully implement the Plan of Action in order to mainstream gender considerations in all aspects of the work under the Convention and formulate clear indicators to monitor progress; Invited Parties to consider gender as a core cross-cutting issue in the implementation of biodiversity-related activities; and, urged Parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, taking into account the guidance provided in the CBD Technical Series No. 49.

SEIYA KAWAMOTO / LIFESIZE / THINKSTOCK

FACT

Significant progress has been made in the *ex situ* conservation of crops, that is the collection of seeds from different genetic varieties for cataloguing and storage for possible future use. For some 200 to 300 crops, it is estimated that over 70% of genetic diversity is already conserved in gene banks, meeting the target set under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

In the past year, thanks to the generous financial contribution from the Government of Finland in funding the position of a Gender Programme Officer, the Convention has been able to implement the following:

- In collaboration with IUCN, the development of CBD Technical Series No: 49 *Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans* (NBSAPs) (publication and printing costs were covered by HIVOS).
- Orientation training session held for delegates on guidelines at the margins of WGRI 3(funding for training provided by HIVOS)
- Held two high-level dialogues at the UN Secretariat on gender mainstreaming issues; at the margins of the Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC in July and at the margins of the MDG Summit in September (highlights and photos available at www.cbd.int/gender .The Secretariat has also taken the lead in working towards a coordinated framework for gender mainstreaming in other Rio Conventions and their financial mechanism, the GEF.
- At a COP 10 side event on Gender Mainstreaming in the three Rio Conventions: Promoting Synergies for Sustainable Development, the three Conventions and the GEF discussed gender mainstreaming in their respective institutions, including an analysis of gaps and challenges for better coordination.

Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion

Launched during the International Year of Biodiversity and convened for the first time in Nagoya, Japan, at COP 10, the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion featured 56 sessions involving more than 200 presenters and panel members.

A platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realized through implementation of the three Rio Conventions, the Ecosystems Pavilion provides a place for negotiators and other key decision makers, scientists, and practitioners to discuss the links between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management and to identify key areas for greater cooperation in the context of the Rio Conventions, particularly at the national and sub-national levels. But, as Seychelles Ambassador to the UN and US, Ronny Jumeau, observed, the Pavilion also allows for relevant parties, such as indigenous people, NGOs and IGOs who are often disengaged from the negotiating roundtable to have a platform where they can convey their needs.

This new collaborative outreach activity includes the Rio Convention secretariats, together with the Global Environment Facility and 15 other important partners – including Parties, UN, NGOs, the Global Island Partnership, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEEB), IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Conservation International, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the CBD's LifeWeb Initiative.

The sessions at the Pavilion, which included ministers, scientists, policy makers and civil society representatives, had between 50 to 100 people in attendance per session, with an overall attendance estimated between 2500 to 3500 people and were organised by thematic days.

During the course of the conference in Nagoya, the Pavilion highlighted several specific themes and crosscutting issues relevant to the Rio Conventions and their common objective to support sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Key themes included ecosystem based approaches to climate change; forest biodiversity and adaptation and mitigation; the role of oceans; indigenous peoples and communities, water, the role of protected areas, and financing.

DIGITAL VISION / THINKSTOCK

Forest Biodiversity: Moving ahead with REDD-plus

2010 was a critical year for the world's forests. Key findings from the *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010* show that while deforestation has slowed somewhat in recent years as compared to the 1990s, it is still alarmingly high. Continued deforestation has resulted in carbon emissions, shortages in water and food supply, and in an unprecedented loss of forest biodiversity.

The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, adopted at COP 10, addresses some of the challenges associated with continued deforestation. It contains several targets directly relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. These targets include, *inter alia*, a target to at least halve, and where feasible bring close to zero, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, and to significantly reduce degradation and fragmentation (Target 5). Other targets are to manage areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry sustainably (Target 7); conserve at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas (Target 11); and enhance the resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification (Target 15).

COP 10 also adopted a series of decisions with regards to forests. Most notably, perhaps, it invited Parties and other Governments to enhance the benefits for, and avoid negative impacts on biodiversity from

Knowledge-sharing at the CEPA Fair

The Nagoya biodiversity summit provided the perfect backdrop to host the second Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair. Coinciding with the International Year of Biodiversity, the CEPA Fair provided an excellent opportunity for Governments and partner organizations to share with the world their activities and celebrations in support of the Year.

Thirty-six events, with most if not all featuring a high attendance record, were held in the margins of COP 10. Themes showcased included:

- **CEPA and the CBD strategic plan**
- **Biodiversity monitoring and citizen science**
- **Media relations and biodiversity**
- **Building capacity for CEPA at national and regional levels**
- **Mainstreaming biodiversity into education for sustainable development**
- **Natural history museums, zoos, botanical gardens and CEPA**
- **Information technology and CEPA (including social networking)**
- **Indigenous and local communities and communicating traditional knowledge**
- **Communicating the economic value of biodiversity**

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TOM BRAKEFIELD /THINKSTOCK

REDD-plus (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries). In this context, COP requested the Executive Secretary to provide advice, including on the application of relevant biodiversity safeguards for REDD-plus; to identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the Convention; and to assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity.

Attending to these requests, the Secretariat will build on the results of its work done in 2010, among other things, on outcomes of a global expert workshop on biodiversity benefits of REDD-plus (Nairobi, September 2010), and criteria and indicator guidelines for forest degradation, developed in cooperation with partners in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

Recognized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan as an Eco-First company, and based on the airline's commitment to the Eco-First Pledge and to the established Biodiversity Policy of the JAL Group, Japan Airlines sought to raise the awareness of the importance of protecting the diversity of life on Earth and to draw attention to COP 10

During his visit to the CBD Secretariat, the Governor of Ishikawa, Masinori Tanimoto, presented the Secretariat with a donation to its Museum of Nature and Culture. The Japanese doll, in a hand-crafted wooden display case, represents the commitment of the Prefecture to the Convention and to the International Year of Biodiversity

The afternoon panel of the High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on biodiversity in September was co-chaired by Erik Solheim, Norway's Minister for the Environment and International Development, and María Fernanda Espinosa, Ecuador's Minister for Heritage

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Inland Waters Biodiversity

The year marked the in-depth review of the programme of work, considered initially at SBSTTA-14. COP 10 subsequently recognised water as the primary global natural resource challenge and a key natural resource link between the various Millennium Development Goals. COP 10 also noted that water is the key mechanism through which the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, and people, are felt and therefore the key link between biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Water provisioning, regulation and purification are critically important services provided by ecosystems, underpinned by biodiversity, and essential to sustainable development. These are essential for the continued functioning of terrestrial, inland and coastal ecosystems and the existence of biodiversity within these.

Notably, it is not just inland water ecosystems (wetlands) that play a role, but the water cycle is also sustained by terrestrial ecosystems; for example forests play a key role in water supply. SBSTTA determined that these linkages provided a clear scientific and technical basis to strengthen attention to water across all relevant interests and programmes of work of the Convention. COP 10 responded by incorporating water more explicitly in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) noting in particular the paramount importance of water with regards to target 14.

The COP 10 decision on inland waters was also significant by recognising the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in providing services that reduce risks and vulnerability to the impact of some natural disasters, in particular water-related impacts such as flooding and drought. This more explicit recognition of the role of biodiversity in water provisioning, regulation and purification, and hence sustaining water resources, provides a key opportunity to make the convention more directly relevant to a broader range of stakeholders including political, public, economic, development and urban interests. Better management of ecosystems has a lot to offer in terms of increased water security for both ecosystems and people. The emphasis of the COP 10 decision therefore centres on how biodiversity can contribute to achieving sustainable development in this primary natural resources challenge area.

FACT

Species which have been assessed for extinction risk are on average moving closer to extinction. Amphibians face the greatest risk and coral species are deteriorating most rapidly in status. Nearly a quarter of plant species are estimated to be threatened with extinction. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing

After nearly two decades of debate, governments from around the world agreed to a new treaty on managing the planet's wealth of genetic resources–from animals to plants to fungi–more fairly and systematically. The decision came on 29 October, the last day of the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan.

The new pact, The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, is a protocol to the Convention. It sets up an International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources, and lays down the basic ground rules on how nations cooperate in obtaining genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol outlines how benefits–for example, from when a plant's genetics are turned into a commercial product, such as medicine–will be shared with countries and communities who conserved and managed that resource, in some cases for millennia.

It also lays out rules on how substances and compounds derived from genetic resources will be dealt with, as well as on the issue of pathogens, including how developed countries could obtain a flu virus in emergency situations to develop a vaccine to counter a possible epidemic.

The Nagoya Protocol, which has as its objective the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of

FACT

The five principal pressures directly driving biodiversity loss (habitat change, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change) are either constant or increasing in intensity. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

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biodiversity and implementing the three objectives of the CBD, enters into force once 50 countries ratify it.

The Protocol significantly advances the Convention's third objective by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Specific obligations to support compliance with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements of the Party providing genetic resources and contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms are a significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol. These compliance provisions as well as provisions establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources will contribute to ensuring the sharing of benefits when genetic resources leave a Party providing genetic resources.

In addition, the Protocol's provisions on access to traditional knowledge held by indigenous and local communities when it is associated with genetic resources will strengthen the ability of these communities to benefit from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices.

Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment, Japan, and CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf celebrate the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol provides the means to translate the Convention's objective into reality. It will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It will facilitate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, on the one hand, and support the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with the provider country and indigenous and local communities, on the other.

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What the Nagoya Protocol does

Specifically, the Nagoya Protocol will create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources by:

- Establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources
- Helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the contracting Party providing the genetic resources

By helping to ensure benefit-sharing, the Protocol creates incentives to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources, and therefore enhances the contribution of biodiversity to development and human well-being.

What it covers

The Nagoya Protocol applies to genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, and to the benefits arising from their use. The Protocol also covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources covered by the CBD and the benefits arising from its use.

Core obligations

The Nagoya Protocol sets out core obligations for its contracting Parties to take measures in relation to access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and compliance.

Domestic-level access measures are to:

- Create legal certainty, clarity and transparency
- Provide fair and non-arbitrary rules and procedures
- Establish clear rules and procedures for prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms
- Provide for issuance of a permit or equivalent when access is granted

- Create conditions to promote and encourage research contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use
- Pay due regard to cases of present or imminent emergencies that threaten human, animal or plant health
- Consider the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for food security.

Benefit-sharing obligations

Domestic-level benefit-sharing measures will provide for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, as well as subsequent applications and commercialization, with the contracting Party providing genetic resources. Utilization includes research and development on the genetic or biochemical composition of genetic resources. Sharing is subject to mutually agreed terms. Benefits may be monetary or non-monetary such as royalties and the sharing of research results.

Compliance obligations

Specific obligations to support compliance with the domestic legislation or regulatory requirements of the contracting Party providing genetic resources, and contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms, are a significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol. Contracting Parties are to:

- Take measures providing that genetic resources utilized within their jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent, and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by another contracting Party
- Cooperate in cases of alleged violation of another contracting Party's requirements
- Encourage contractual provisions on dispute resolution in mutually agreed terms
- Ensure an opportunity is available to seek recourse under their legal systems when disputes arise from mutually agreed terms

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- Take measures regarding access to justice
- Take measures to monitor the utilization of genetic resources including by designating effective checkpoints at any stage of the value-chain: research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization.

Addressing traditional knowledge

The Nagoya Protocol addresses traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources with provisions on access, benefit sharing and compliance. It also addresses genetic resources where indigenous and local communities have the established right to grant access to them. Contracting Parties are to take measures to ensure these communities' prior informed consent, and fair and

FACT

Species of birds and mammals used for food and medicines are on average facing a greater extinction risk than species as a whole, through a combination of over-exploitation, habitat loss and other factors. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

BANANASTOCK / THINKSTOCK

equitable benefit-sharing, keeping in mind community laws and procedures as well as customary use and exchange.

Tools and mechanisms to assist implementation

The Nagoya Protocol's success will require effective implementation at the domestic level. A range of tools and mechanisms provided by the Protocol will assist Parties. These include:

- Establishing national focal points (NFPs) and competent national authorities (CNAs) to serve as contact points for information, grant access or cooperate on issues of compliance
- An Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House to share information, such as domestic regulatory ABS requirements or information on NFPs and CNAs
- Capacity-building to support key aspects of implementation. Based on a country's self-assessment of national needs and priorities, this can include capacity to:
  - Develop domestic ABS legislation to implement the Protocol
  - Negotiate mutually agreed terms
  - Develop in-country research capability and institutions
  - Awareness-raising
  - Technology Transfer
  - Targeted financial support for capacity-building and development initiatives through the Protocol's financial mechanism, the Global Environment Facility.

ABS Protocol: The Road to Nagoya and beyond

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization builds on the Convention on Biological Diversity and supports the further implementation of one of its three objectives: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Heads of State at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg first recognised the need for an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and called for negotiations to be carried out within the framework of the Convention. The Convention's Conference of the Parties responded at its seventh meeting, in 2004, by mandating its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in order to effectively implement Articles 15 (Access to Genetic Resources) and 8(j) (Traditional Knowledge) of the Convention and its three objectives.

After six years of negotiations, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted the Nagoya Protocol on 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

The Conference of the Parties and the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly called upon the Convention's 193 Parties to sign the Nagoya Protocol at the earliest opportunity, and to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or instruments of accession, as appropriate, as soon as possible.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking place in India from 8 to 19 October 2012, is the target for convening the Nagoya Protocol's first meeting of the Parties. To achieve this, the Nagoya Protocol must enter into force no later than 8 October 2012, with the fiftieth instrument of ratification deposited no later than 10 July 2012. The Nagoya Protocol's early entry into force is strategically important for the Convention's successful implementation.

RYAN MCVAY - THINKSTOCK

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Adoption of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress crowns eventful year

Three historic events took place during the year 2010 – the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5) with the adoption of a new UN Protocol in Nagoya, Japan, from 11-15 October, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol and the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The Secretariat also organized meetings, workshops and other activities to support the implementation of the Protocol in cooperation with Parties and other stakeholders.

A number of outreach activities highlighting the contribution of the Cartagena Protocol to the protection of biodiversity from the potential adverse effects of living modified organisms (LMOs) were carried out as part of the worldwide IYB celebrations. In addition, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol was marked in a message by the Executive Secretary that highlighted the achievements of the Protocol over the past ten years.

Among the achievements under the Protocol are the decisions of the first five meetings of the governing body of the Protocol (COP-MOP), including this year's COP-MOP.

Held 11 to 15 October with more than 1600 participants, the COP-MOP 5 made a remarkable achievement by adopting a new UN protocol – the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress – that includes provisions on supplementary compensation measures and complementary capacity-building measures

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as well as articles on financial security and civil liability. The new Protocol is open for signature from 7 March 2011 to 6 March 2012. Additional achievements include the 17 decisions taken at COP-MOP 5 that contribute to the implementation of the Protocol. These include:

- Decisions on further guidance on risk assessment and risk management, a mechanisms for identifying LMOs or specific traits that may have or are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account human health, the development of an interactive learning tool based on a training manual and regional or subregional training courses to gain experience when preparing and evaluating risk assessment reports and to further test the first version of a new publication, *Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms*, that was welcomed during the meeting.

"COP-MOP 5 made a remarkable achievement by adopting a new UN protocol – the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress – that includes provisions on supplementary compensation measures and complementary capacity-building measures as well as articles on financial security and civil liability."

- A decision regarding a mechanisms for identifying LMOs or specific traits that may have or are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account human health, the development of an interactive learning tool based on a training manual and regional or subregional training courses to gain experience when preparing and evaluating risk assessment reports and to further test the first version of the *Guidance*

Opening ceremonies of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Japanese schoolchildren participated at the opening of MOP 5

Delegates at the 13 October plenary session

on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms that was welcomed during the meeting.

- The adoption of the Strategic Plan of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011 – 2020), including five focal areas with respective expected impacts, operational objectives, outcomes and indicators, and the associated multi-year programme of work of the COP-MOP.
- The adoption of a comprehensive programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, including four programme elements on capacity-building, public awareness and education, public access to information and public participation as well as a decision regarding an online forum and other means to facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the programme of work.

Liability and Redress

After more than six years of negotiations, Parties finalized deliberations on liability and redress under the Protocol. The progress was based on recommendations stemming from the last three liability and redress meetings organized by the Secretariat held prior to COP-MOP 5.

The second meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held 8-12 February, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, negotiated the draft text for a supplementary protocol on liability and redress to the Biosafety Protocol from the first meeting of the Group. The third meeting

Performers at the MOP 5 reception hosted by the Government of Japan

Secretariat staff flank COP/MOP President Hidenori Murakami

Masaaki Kanda, Governor of Aichi Prefecture and the President of MOP 5, said biodiversity conservation should be embraced and owned by people around the world

Michihiko Kano, Japan's Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and MOP 5 President, welcomes delegates to a reception hosted by the Government of Japan in the Nagoya Kanko Hotel

of the Group, held 15-19 June, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, further negotiated the draft supplementary protocol. The fourth meeting, held 6-11 October in Nagoya, Japan, finalized the text for the supplementary protocol.

The Group agreed to name the Protocol after the cities of Nagoya where it was adopted, and Kuala Lumpur, the city where the first mandate to negotiate international rules and procedures on liability and redress was adopted by the decision of the first meeting of COP-MOP and where two of the meetings of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs were held. Accordingly, the Group submitted to COP-MOP 5 the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, together with a draft decision for consideration and adoption.

Public Awareness and Outreach

During 2010, the Secretariat undertook several activities to support public awareness, education and participation in line with the outreach strategies (2008-2012) for the Protocol and to increase public awareness of the Biosafety Protocol during the International Year of Biodiversity.

In May an exhibition in collaboration with the Redpath Museum at McGill University in Montréal, Canada, was organized as part of Montréal Museums Day. The event, attended by more than 4300 visitors, aimed to, among other things, raise awareness of the Protocol and to increase the participation of academia in biodiversity and biosafety activities.

The re-designed website of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (http://bch.cbd.int/protocol) was launched on 28 June. The new website features an improved layout, with more user-friendly features, such as simple navigation menus, interactive search tools and hyperlinks. It also includes fact sheets and resources for media.

A joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety workshop on public awareness, access to information and participation regarding living modified organisms/genetically modified organisms (LMOs/GMOs) was held in Nagoya, Japan, from 8-9 October, prior to COP-MOP 5. Over 50 participants attended the workshop, including governments, organizations, business and academia. The workshop enabled participants to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned in promoting public awareness, access to information and participation. It also developed recommendations on the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs and facilitated the implementation of the Aarhus Convention's Almaty Amendment on GMOs.

In October, a fair on national experiences with the implementation of the Protocol took place during COP-MOP 5. More than 30 participants attended a series of presentations held on capacity-building during a lunch event.

Risk Assessment

During the year, a series of discussion groups were organized under the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, through the Biosafety Clearing-House, to assist the Ad Hoc

FACT

It is estimated that the real income of poor people in India rises from US$ 60 to $95 when the value of ecosystem services such as water availability, soil fertility and wild foods is taken into account – and that it would cost US$ 120 per capita to replace lost livelihood if these services were denied. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

Media coverage, especially in Japan, was generally positive throughout both COP and MOP

Delegates at the closing plenary of MOP 5

Plenary session at MOP 5

Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (AHTEG) in the development of further guidance on risk assessment and risk management of LMOs.

In February, the second series of four regional real-time online conferences on risk assessment and risk management for Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America took place. The four real-time online conferences were attended by a total of 64 participants. The conferences aimed at gathering feedback from the participants on draft guidance documents prepared by the AHTEG, as well as on the identification of possible modalities for cooperation in identifying living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, while also taking into account risks to human health.

SYDNEY JAMES / DIGITAL VISION / THINKSTOCK

A Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Capacity-building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 5 to 7 July, saw 12 participants and one organization prepare a set of recommendations for COP-MOP 5 regarding priorities for capacity-building for the effective implementation of risk assessment and risk management at the national/regional levels, and further training on risk assessment in the Pacific sub-region.

The Secretariat organized an Asian Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms. Held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 July, the main outcome was that participants welcomed the roadmap as a useful tool and also recommended a set of recommendations for COP-MOP 5, including further capacity-building on risk assessment and guidance on risk assessment, such as the publication and distribution of the AHTEG's *Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms*. The recommendations were considered by COP-MOP 5.

Capacity-Building

In February the Secretariat organized three capacity-building meetings and other events. The sixth coordination meeting for Governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities was held 1-3 February in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Thirty-five participants made recommendations to COP-MOP 5 regarding socio-economic considerations, the draft programme of work on public awareness and the draft strategic plan for

the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020). The seventh meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety, held 4-5 February, also in Siem Reap, Cambodia, made further recommendations on the draft strategic plan and the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation to COP-MOP 5. The third international meeting of Academic Institutions and Organizations Involved in Biosafety Education and Training was held 15-17 February 2010 in Tsukuba, Japan, to share information and experiences about biosafety programmes and make recommendations to further improve biosafety education and training programmes to COP-MOP 5.

Biosafety Clearing-House

Throughout the year further improvements were made to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and a training workshop was held in Nagoya, Japan.

An online BCH study of BCH users and potential users was launched between 21 December 2009 and 15 February 2010 to, among other things, assess what information users and potential users of the BCH would find useful. The pages of the new version of the BCH Management Centre were translated into the six official UN languages. An offline version of the common formats in the six UN languages was made available. LMO Quick-links on the BCH was launched containing small image files, which can be easily copied and pasted, that identify an LMO through its unique identifier, trade name and a link to the BCH where information on the LMO was made available in September.

In October, a workshop for National Focal Points for the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-NFPs) was held immediately before COP-MOP 5 on 8-9 October. More than 25 participants were trained in the general navigation of the BCH and management of national records.

Compliance

In 2010, the seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety took place in Montreal from 8 to 10 September. The Committee made a set of recommendations to COP-MOP 5 regarding, among other things, how to improve the supportive role of the Committee.

Status of Ratification or Accession to the Protocol: As of 13 December 2010, with the recent ratifications of Somalia and Guinea-Bissau, the number of Parties to the Protocol has increased to 160. The list of Parties is available at: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/.

FACT

Natural habitats in most parts of the world continue to decline in extent and integrity, although there has been significant progress in slowing the rate of loss for tropical forests and mangroves, in some regions. Freshwater wetlands, sea ice habitats, salt marshes, coral reefs, seagrass beds and shellfish reefs are all showing serious declines. (Global Biodiversity Outlook 3)

JOHN FOXX / THINKSTOCK

Somalia 160th Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Somalia deposited its instrument of accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 26 July 2010 and became the 160th Party to Protocol on 24 October 2010. Dr. Abdullahi Mohamed Issa, the Minister of Environment of Somalia said, "This is a historic occasion not only for Somalia but for the whole world. It is a demonstration of my Government's wish to engage in the process of multilateral cooperation on the environment and for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as means towards promoting not only socio-economic development, but also international peace and security. We are pleased to join hands with other nations to work towards achieving this noble goal."

ANUP SHAH / PHOTODISC / THINKSTOCK

All good things need to continue

The official closing of the International Year of Biodiversity was held in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, on 18 and 19 December 2010. Opening remarks were made by Japan's Environment Minister Ryu Matsumoto, followed by welcoming remarks from Ishikawa Governor Masanori Tanimoto. Statements were also made by the UN Secretary-General (presented by Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary); representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme and from the IUCN-Regional Office in Asia; and by MISIA, COP 10 Honorary Ambassador. The results of the Nagoya biodiversity summit were presented, as was a report on the International Year of Biodiversity.

A ceremony bridging the International Year of Biodiversity to the International Year of Forests was also organized, and a commemorative symposium and other events were held to promote a future rich in biodiversity.

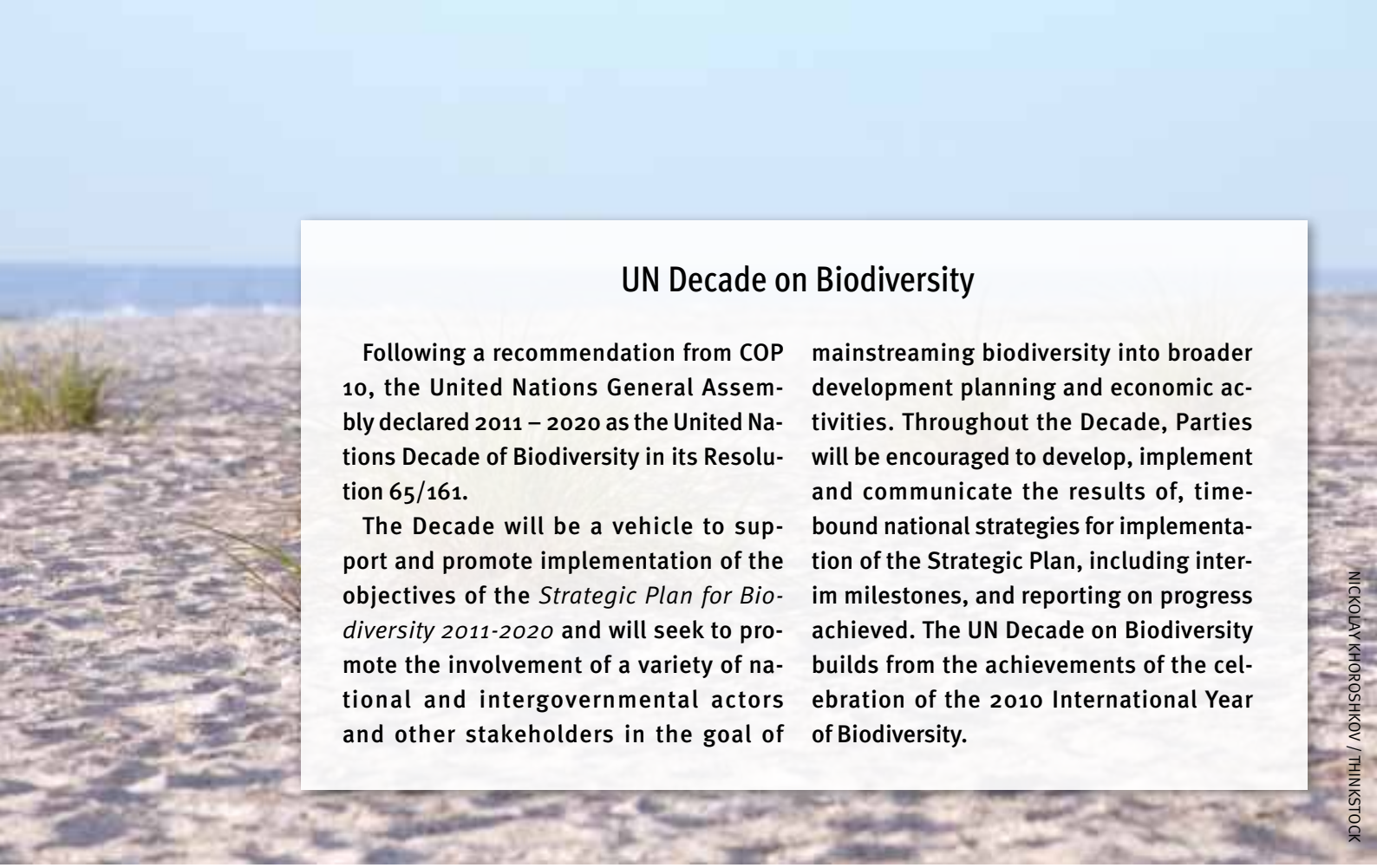
All relevant UN agencies contributed to the celebration of the year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization organized a high-level event as well as a scientific conference and assisted in preparing an international exhibit financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In February, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the International Year in North America in New York at the American Museum of Natural History. More than 74 field offices of UNDP contributed to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.

In his message to the official closing, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted, "Under the slogan 'One UN for Biodiversity', the

Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay speaks at the Canadian closing of the IYB

Four artists from Quebec, Canada, created a fresco celebrating the IYB and presented it to the Secretariat

Closing ceremony of IYB in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan



NICKOLAY KHOROSHKOV / THINKSTOCK

UN Decade on Biodiversity

Following a recommendation from COP 10, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 – 2020 as the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity in its Resolution 65/161.

The Decade will be a vehicle to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and will seek to promote the involvement of a variety of national and intergovernmental actors and other stakeholders in the goal of mainstreaming biodiversity into broader development planning and economic activities. Throughout the Decade, Parties will be encouraged to develop, implement and communicate the results of, time-bound national strategies for implementation of the Strategic Plan, including interim milestones, and reporting on progress achieved. The UN Decade on Biodiversity builds from the achievements of the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

"Under the slogan 'One UN for Biodiversity', the United Nations system worked to show how biodiversity is central to poverty alleviation, development and human security. Decision makers seem to have heard the message."

—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

United Nations system worked to show how biodiversity is central to poverty alleviation, development and human security. Decision makers seem to have heard the message."

Earlier in Montreal, home of the Secretariat, a Canadian reception to mark the closing of the International Year of Biodiversity was held on 6 December. The event gathered the participation of representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Ottawa and Montreal, relevant partners, as well as senior staff from the City of Montreal. Statements were also made by: the Consul General of Japan in Montreal (representative of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties); the Director General of the Quebec Region at Environment Canada; Director of International Organization, Ministry of International Relations, Province of Quebec; Senior Vice President for The Americas region, Japan Airlines; Senior staff from AIRBUS; Director of the Environment, General Council of Moselle; Mayor of the City of Montreal and the CBD Executive Secretary. A special video on the closure of the International Year of Biodiversity was shown, highlighting the efforts made by the global community to celebrate this important Year.

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