



Convention on
Biological Diversity

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



STATEMENT BY

MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON UPDATING
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

23 MAY, DAKAR, SENEGAL



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, recently stated that our environmental responsibility could not stop at national borders and that no initiative was too great in order to find durable solutions to biodiversity-related problems. I wholeheartedly agree.

This statement is valid not only for Senegal, but for the entirety of West Africa. This region is home to some of the planet's greatest biodiversity hotspots. Hence, here more than anywhere biodiversity needs to be mainstreamed into the development process across all sectors of government and society, as well as into the day-to-day decisions of individuals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank General Secretary for the Environment, Protection of Nature & Artificial Lakes, Mr. Saliou Rama Ka, and Charge' d Affairs of the Japanese Embassy in Senegal, Mr. Masato Futaishi, for attending today's workshop. As today is also the beginning of the Sub-Regional Workshop for West Africa on Capacity Building for Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, I am also very grateful to the Regional Program for Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM), the PoWPA Friends Consortium, and the European Union for their organizational and financial support.

Indeed, protecting biodiversity means protecting the essence of peoples and cultures the world over. Biodiversity is life and biodiversity is our life. This was the slogan of last year's 2010 International Year of Biodiversity which culminated with the historic Nagoya Biodiversity Summit.

As you know, thanks to the leadership of Japan last October 18,500 participants representing our 193 Parties and their partners adopted the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact, which comprises a global and comprehensive biodiversity strategy for 2011-2020, known as the Aichi Targets; the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the three objectives of the Convention.

In order to engage the people of the world, the Nagoya meeting recommended that the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. Coinciding with the timeframe for achieving the Aichi Targets, the Decade is starting with regional launches, including here in Africa on 22 July in Addis Ababa together with the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification. The global launch of the Decade will be held in Japan this December.

To build on the great success of Nagoya, the International Decade on Biodiversity is beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. This workshop is a critical part of that process. Many countries in this region have already gained substantial experience in developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). We now need to draw on this communal expertise, for time is of the essence.

To provide effective guidance on national implementation, new NBSAPs must be formulated as soon as possible. Any delay in developing these NBSAPs will augur poorly for the achievement of the Aichi Targets. To enable the Secretariat of the CBD and its partners to assist eligible countries in translating the Aichi Targets into NBSAPs before COP11 in India, Japan has established a Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is now fully operational. Moreover, funds for national biodiversity planning have been made available through GEF-5.

In addition to revising NBSAPs, the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol is an urgent topic. The Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility are working to ensure that the first meeting of the governing body of this historic instrument will take place in India in October 2012 back-to-back with COP11. To this end 50 ratifications are required before 19 July 2012. The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol is also open for signature, and will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. Finally, to reach consensus on funding targets at COP11, progress must be made on such foundational issues as what constitutes biodiversity-related funding and the levels needed, particularly in relation to the Aichi Targets and the implementation of NBSAPs.

In terms of the workshop focusing on *governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing* of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA), the main objective to keep in mind is to build capacity to (i) create a national action plan for implementation of the PoWPA, (ii) access funding based on these action plans, and (iii) strengthen implementation of the PoWPA on the themes of governance, climate change (including integrating protected areas into the wider land and seascape), sustainable financing, and valuation of the costs and benefits of protected areas, with a focus on marine protected areas where applicable.

The Conference of the Parties, in paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision X/31, encourages donors and Parties to hold sub-regional and national donor roundtable meetings to support mobilization of funding based on national priorities, as expressed in NBSAPs and action plans for implementing the PoWPA, in collaboration with the LifeWeb Initiative. In this respect, on 27 May 2011, immediately following the NBSAP and PoWPA workshops, seven West African governments (Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone), in collaboration with the Regional Program for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM) and in partnership with the CBD LifeWeb Initiative, are organizing a one-day financing roundtable to mobilize and help coordinate funding for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) in West Africa. I am very hopeful that this meeting will be fruitful.

The task we set ourselves in Nagoya was ambitious. It will require leadership and creative thinking from the Parties, national focal points, the GEF and the Convention Secretariat to ensure the timely delivery of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at national and regional levels. This workshop is therefore of the utmost importance, and I would like to sincerely thank the government of Senegal for hosting and supporting it.

Given the tremendous levels of biodiversity of this region and number of people who live here, your deliberations this week can serve as a model for other regions in Africa and beyond. I have no doubt that countries of Western Africa will live up to this challenge and set a path for a sustainable future for both this region and the rest of the world. I urge all participants to remember what is at stake in this process: nothing less than the future of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.