



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

PRESS RELEASE

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**International community needs to communicate impacts of
biodiversity loss and build capacity to reach 2010
biodiversity target**
Executive Secretary, the Convention on Biological Diversity

Paris, France, 24 January 2005 – Through cooperation and effective communication, the international community can overcome the public's limited understanding of the overall status of biodiversity, take decisive actions and achieve tangible results to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits, said Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In his remarks to the plenary of the International Conference on Biodiversity: Science and Governance, taking place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, Mr. Zedan indicated that governments, industry and individuals demand the timely presentation of biodiversity knowledge in ways that are useful and meaningful to decision makers.

The Executive Secretary cited the example of early reports and assessments of the impact of the recent Asian tsunami which underlined the role played by healthy ecosystems, such as intact mangrove forests and coral reefs, in minimizing the damage. Achieving clarity of communication on the impacts of biodiversity loss on human well-being and poverty alleviation demands that the scientific community establish meaningful indicators that are widely understood and that can be regularly measured.

In this respect, explained the Executive Secretary, the Convention's elaboration of targets and indicators of the state of biodiversity in support of the 2010 biodiversity target represents an excellent focus for such efforts: "We look to you all to explore practical ways. . . to channel our assets to support a harmonized approach to meeting the 2010 target." The Executive Secretary underlined the importance of the Convention process as an impetus for action at the regional and national levels, and an effective forum for international consensus-building and the development of strong partnerships.

The full text of the remarks by Hamdallah Zedan is available on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity at: www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/speech.aspx

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