



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

PRESS RELEASE

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“You can count on Brazil to protect the biodiversity of our planet”

MONTREAL – 17 February 2006.

Speaking today in New York, where he was meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, hailed the decision of the President of Brazil, H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, to place 6.4 million hectares of the Amazon rain forest, an area more than twice the size of Belgium, under direct environmental protection as a major initiative for the protection of the biodiversity of our planet. Dr Djoghlafl welcomed the decree signed by the President of Brazil to create two new national parks in the Amazon rain forest and to introduce sustainable logging procedures in four national forests.

He said that, “As announced by H.E. Marina Silva, the Minister of the Environment of Brazil, this is a very important decision and is cause for celebration.” He added that, “It is a major contribution to the achievement of the commitment taken by 110 Heads of State in Johannesburg at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce, by 2010 the rate of loss of biological diversity for the protection life on Earth.”

He said that “I am sure this decision, taken by one of the most important megadiverse countries in the world, will inspire and guide the other 187 Parties to the Convention, when they meet in Curitiba, Brazil, in less than four weeks time, at what promises to be the most important biodiversity meeting in recent years.”

Dr. Djoghlafl added that, “In announcing the decision to host this major international biodiversity conference, H.E. Marina Silva stated that the world can count on Brazil to protect the biodiversity of our Planet. This decision of the President of Brazil is a clear demonstration of this commitment.”

The Brazilian city of Curitiba, known as the “ecological capital of Brazil” will host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the last two weeks of March. The expansion of networks of protected terrestrial and marine areas around the globe will be extensively discussed.

More than 100 environment ministers from around the world are also expected to participate in the Curitiba meeting, where they will discuss biodiversity in relation to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Information for Journalists:

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly-subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 187 state parties and the European Community who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place from 20 to 31 March 2006, in Curitiba, Brazil.

Information: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=COP-08>

Press Accreditation forms are available at:

<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/acreditations.asp>

For more information, please contact David Ainsworth +1 514 287 7025; mobile +1 514 833 0196; email david.ainsworth@biodiv.org