



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## COMMUNIQUÉ

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

### **CBD SECRETARIAT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON “BIODIVERSITY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION”**

**Montreal – 2 January 2008.** An Agreement in the amount of €1,000,000 to support the project “*Linking implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Poverty Alleviation*” was signed between the Executive Secretary of the Convention and HE Thomas Matussek, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in New York .

The main objective of this unique initiative is to foster the integration of biodiversity into the poverty-alleviation agenda, for example by promoting coordinated implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national strategies for poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Through a vibrant partnership with sister agencies, the initiative will facilitate support to eligible countries for the implementation of poverty-alleviation - related components of the relevant programmes of work of the Convention. The agreement aims also at enhancing the capacity of developing countries on issues related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said, “The signature today of this Agreement is a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to play a leading role in implementing the three objectives of the Convention and integrating them into the poverty alleviation agenda, thus making a distinct contribution to on-going efforts aimed at achieving the 2010 biodiversity target and the Millennium Development Goals.”

This agreement will complement the initiative on “Biodiversity for Development” recently established by the secondment by the Government of France of a senior staff member to the Secretariat for an initial period of two years.

Mr. Erich Stather, Secretary of State of Germany, stated “German development cooperation is strongly committed to the need to conserve and make sustainable use of biodiversity in order to alleviate poverty, which is why we, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, are providing this €1,000,000 to the SCBD. Although many efforts have been made to address this biodiversity-poverty linkage, there is still a lack of close coordination and enhanced communication among the different stakeholders. Therefore, additional contributions are urgently required to make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 target. This agreement with the SCBD clearly reflects our willingness to acknowledge the role of biodiversity in poverty reduction and support the SCBD in its endeavours.”



German Federal Environment Minister Gabriel Sigmar said, “The signature of this agreement coincides with the adoption of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2008–2017 the second United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty. It demonstrates the commitment of Germany as the host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in May 2008 to ensure the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.”

“These two important initiatives will make a major contribution in assisting Parties to operationalize, in a mutually supportive manner, the three interrelated objectives of the Convention and will help us make the case that biodiversity has an essential role to play in combating poverty and achieving sustainable development,” stated Dr. Djoghla .

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

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 in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States 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 utilization of genetic resources. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal. For additional information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: [marie.khan@cbd.int](mailto:marie.khan@cbd.int)