Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

STATE OF PARANA DELIVERS ON ITS COMMITMENT TO OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CBD SECRETARIAT

Montreal, 1 August 2008.

Less than two months after signing, at COP 9 on May 27, 2008, in Bonn, Germany, a memorandum of cooperation to offset all carbon emissions arising out of the CBD Secretariat's operations between COP 9 and 10, including the travel of funded Party representatives to attend official CBD meetings (estimated at around 10,200 tons of carbon equivalent), the State Government of Parana in Brazil delivers on its commitments.

Between May and July 2008, agents of the State of Parana's Environment Office have supervised the planting of 57,000 tree saplings by land owners in several municipalities, and have already surpassed the proposed tree planting goals. All plantations are done in legal reserves on rural properties and farms, whose owners must sign legally binding commitments to permanent protection of the areas. Sites are geo-referenced and regularly visited by a team of technical assistants from the State Secretariat for Environment. The municipality of São Pedro do Ivaí - where most of the trees dedicated to the Secretariat are located - has received 500,000 saplings already, given to around 500 different landowners and is considered a national reference in reforestation.

The initiative is part of a larger award-wining project called Riparian Reforestation Programme, led by the Parana State government, which already planted more than 80 millions of seedlings all over the State. By the end of this year 100 million trees will have been planted along conservation corridors that connect parks in the municipalities of Diamante do Oeste, São José das Palmeiras, São Pedro do Ivaí, Jardim Alegre, Goioerê e Moreira Sales. By using endemic and locally occurring trees, in areas adjacent to natural gene banks, reforestation leads to the restoration of ecosystems associated with the original Atlantic Rain Forest, and protect river borders from erosion. The area is a buffer zone for the complex of protected areas around Foz de Iguacu National Park, and is part of one of the most biodiverse – and threatened – ecosystems in Brazil.

"We will exceed the goal defined with the Secretariat of the CBD and will plant around 150,000 trees in 120 hectares set aside exclusively for the Secretariat. This is a biodiversity-friendly way to offset carbon emissions – it is about ecosystem restoration", said Governor Roberto Requião. Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the CBD, added that "less than five weeks after signing the MOU, the governor of Parana has already inaugurated the planting of trees along the Barbacena River, corresponding to 5,000 tons of carbon equivalent". "This is yet another demonstration of leadership by Brazil and Governor Requião towards the implementation of the three objectives of the convention, and is our concrete contribution to the UN carbon-neutral initiative requested by our Secretary General", noted Dr. Djoghlaf. "We in the Secretariat are proud of this achievement, and the credit goes to the hosts of the Curitiba Biodiversity Summit in 2008".

Offsetting carbon emissions is part of the CBD Secretariat's wider strategy to green its operations, presented at COP 9, which also includes raising awareness with staff and partners, and reducing waste in all events and meetings. The protocol was signed by the Governor of the State of Paraná, Mr. Roberto Requião, and Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity SCBD/ONU, in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008. The signature

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