

COMMUNIQUÉ

China expedites finalization of its new biodiversity strategy and action plan

Montreal, 26 August 2010 – China, which in 1994 became the first country to prepare a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), is now among a select group of countries that have initiated a new strategy and action plan in advance of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit.

Sponsored by the EU-China Biodiversity Programme, an international forum on the new biodiversity strategy was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on 25-26 August with the participation of more than 300 experts, including international non-governmental organizations and other Chinese partners. The meeting was opened by Vice-Minister Li Ganjie of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, who reiterated the importance China attaches to international cooperation.

“This international forum, with the participation of our distinguished foreign guests, is a demonstration of China’s commitment to promote international cooperation to address the biodiversity challenges at the national and international level,” said Vice-Minister Li.

The new biodiversity strategy and action plan for the period 2010-2030, now submitted for State Council approval, comprises eight strategic tasks, 29 actions and 11 safeguarding measures. It aims to increase by 2020 the area of biodiversity conservation in China from 15 to 18 per cent of the area of the country. The strategy was prepared with the full participation of all stakeholders, including representatives of civil society. Sichuan Province is the first Chinese province to prepare a subnational biodiversity strategy and action plan.

“In spirit, in letter, and in content, the approach of China’s new twenty-year biodiversity strategy is remarkable and an example to be emulated by others,” said Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

During his visit to Chengdu, Mr. Djoghlaflaf had a bilateral meeting with Vice Minister Li, and also met with the Vice Governor of Sichuan Province on the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from 18 to 29 October this year.
