



COMMUNIQUÉ

Joint GEF and CBD exploration for funding strategies to implement Nagoya biodiversity compact in West Africa

Montreal, 12 July 2011 –A Regional Workshop on Finance and Biodiversity, organized by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the GEF Country Support Programme, with the financial support of European Commission, was held in Dakar on 9 July 2011. At the meeting, national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) explored financial strategies to support the implementation of the Nagoya biodiversity compact in West Africa.

The regional workshop was aimed at facilitating the sharing of funding information and experiences on national implementation of the Nagoya biodiversity compact, exploring the scoping of biodiversity activities and associated financial needs, promoting consideration and implementation of the Convention's strategy for resource mobilization, including indicators, and building capacity to understand and apply market-based and governance-based innovative financial mechanisms.

Officials from the following nine countries participated in the meeting: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Senegal, Mali and Mauritania. All countries indicated that they are in the advanced stage of signing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization, and have taken initial steps with a view to revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in response to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Participants gained a clear picture and understanding of recent relevant funding initiatives and their relations to the GEF system of country allocations, including the Japan Fund managed by the Convention Secretariat, the GEF set-aside of US\$ 40 million for biodiversity enabling activities, the GEF indicative allocations to access and benefit sharing projects, and the new Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. They urged that implementing agencies responsible for the umbrella projects on biodiversity strategies and action plans enhance the effectiveness of their financial and technical support.

“Programmes for sustainable management of the Congo basin forests and biodiversity conservation in West Africa were instrumental in developing better-coordinated approaches and making the GEF an effective vehicle to drive country ownership. The countries of these two regions have seen a dramatic shift in recent years: in a region that once had little investment prior to the development of regional programmatic approaches in GEF-4: there are now nearly 30 projects worth more than \$87.5 million,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, GEF Chief Executive Officer.

The workshop presentation on the scope of biodiversity activities and finances proposed a classification of biodiversity activities and finances, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention and its protocols, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. While a number of funding needs estimates are available, substantial further work is needed to develop a robust figure of global funding needs for the period 2011-2020. Participants highlighted the importance of capacity-building to access international assistance, tailored support from international organizations,

including separate funding baskets for the least developed countries and the small island developing States, and funding synergies on global issues, particularly between the Rio conventions.

On the resource mobilization strategy, participants noted the availability of the indicative guidelines for developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, and called on the Convention Secretariat to provide tools or guidelines on the engagement of private sector resources as well as on economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Participants also discussed the process of appointing resource mobilization focal points, and called for training and capacity building to be provided to resource mobilization focal points. Participants strongly recommended that GEF national focal points should attend meetings under the Convention, in particular the Conference of the Parties, and that national focal points for the Convention should participate in meetings of the GEF governing bodies, such as the GEF Assembly.

“The Nagoya biodiversity summit has set higher bars for all programmes established under the Convention in the past two decades. The resultant biodiversity compact also seeks to address a number of new and emerging critical challenges, direct drivers and underlying causes of biodiversity loss. The financial implications of achieving the Aichi Targets need to be clearly examined and defined, and funding level and sources unambiguously identified,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The workshop heard presentations on market-based innovative financial mechanisms and governance-based innovative financial mechanisms. Participants further explored the replenishment of national/local environmental funds, and conversion of external debts for nature conservation.

Further information can be found at: www.cbd.int/financial
