COMMUNIQUÉ

Assessment of funding needs for the implementation of the Convention gets under way

Montreal – 3 August 2011. The team of experts appointed to prepare an assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period July 2014 to June 2018 held its first meeting at the premises of the Convention Secretariat in Montreal on 25-26 July 2011. The study will help inform negotiations for the sixth replenishment of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and was called for by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in its decision X/26, on the financial mechanism.

The expert team's assessment report will be presented to the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-4) that will make recommendations for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). This will enable the Parties to make a decision on the assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, and communicate the results to the GEF accordingly.

The team comprises: Dr. Pedro Leitao, CEO of *Instituto Arapyanau*, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Professor Appukuttan Damodaran of the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India, Dr. Gilles Kleitz, Project Manager, Biodiversity-Natural Resources, at the *Agence Française de Développement* in Paris, France, and Mr. Guenter Mitlacher, WWF focal point to CBD and Chair of the GEF-NGO Network's Technical Sub-Committee on Convention Partnership. The team-members appointed by the CBD Executive Secretary and approved by the COP Bureau are well known experts representing constituencies highlighted in decision X/26.

"Decision X/26 advances a major element of the Memorandum of Understanding between CBD and GEF agreed at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Argentina," said Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the CBD. "I appreciate the commitment of the experts who kindly agreed to conduct this assessment, which will further strengthen the link between CBD and its financial mechanism, thus enhancing the effectiveness of COP decisions," added Dr. Djoghlaf.

The team worked in the meeting with staff of the Convention Secretariat and, through video conference, with Mr. Ramesh Ramankutty, Head of Operation and Business Strategy at the GEF Secretariat in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the first meeting was to set the basis of the study and review some of the major factors that will have a bearing on the assessment, such as the experiences of GEF with the past replenishments.

During the meeting, the Secretariat presented the objectives of the study and of relevant decisions and guidance of the COP in order to clarify the mandates of the assessment and the expert team, and identify the main elements and sources of information for the assessment and the process of gaining inputs, including from countries. The meeting reviewed the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other major outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the role of, and experiences with, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports on implementation of the Convention, and the development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies and their relationship to the overall strategy for resource mobilization.

Following the two-day discussion the team agreed to the methodology for the GEF-6 assessment to take into account the assessment of historical needs, the flow of funding for biodiversity from various sources, including GEF, and to also be informed by the Strategic Plan and information obtained directly from the Parties through questionnaires and consultations at workshops among others.

The first draft is expected to be ready for review by the experts in early December this year.