



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Regional workshop for Central Asia on updating NBSAPs

*Istanbul, Turkey, 17 October 2011* – Biodiversity experts and officials from across the Central Asia region are meeting for the next four days to work towards implementing the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact at the Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The workshop, being held in Istanbul from 17 to 20 October 2011, is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Water Works of the Republic of Turkey, with the financial support of the Government of Japan.

Five countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan, are participating in the workshop. Government representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkmenistan were unable to attend the workshop. Representatives from indigenous and local communities, the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization, WWF International, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature, Zoinet, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are also in attendance.

In an opening statement delivered by Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka, Global Coordinator, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary, thanked Turkey for co-organizing and hosting the workshop. Opening remarks were also made by Mr. Kenji Ashida, Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Istanbul, who highlighted the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Director General of Nature Conservation and National Parks for the Ministry of Forestry and Water Works of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Yaşar Dostbil, recognized that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is the major responsibility of all to the future generations. He highlighted the fact that it is vital to keep national biodiversity strategies and action plans updated and alive.

The workshop in Istanbul is one of the latest in a series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It follows workshops for Southern Africa (held in Botswana), Europe (Germany), North Africa and the Middle East (Lebanon), East, South and South-East Asia (China), West Africa (Senegal), Central Africa (Congo), East Africa (Rwanda), South America (Ecuador), and the Pacific (Fiji). The workshop for countries of the Caribbean is currently taking place in Grenada. The next capacity-building workshop, for Central America, will be held in Costa Rica from 28 November to 2 December 2011.

For additional information, please see: [www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml)

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