



**STATEMENT BY  
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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE CAPACITY –BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE EAST AND SOUTH EAST ASIA  
ON ACHIEVING AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS 11 AND 12**

**YANJI, JILIN PROVINCE, CHINA  
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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all to this Capacity-building Workshop for the East and South East Asia on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12, which is the first workshop in a series being organized by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with partners.

It is heartwarming to see here participants from all over the East and South East Asia countries, IUCN, as well as a number of PoWPA Friends and other agencies. This September gathering validates the importance, which your countries and the organizations you represent accord to protected areas and to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12. I thank the Government of China, Jilin Province and Yanji City for hosting and for actively supporting this workshop.

When I assumed my stewardship of the CBD Secretariat, I announced that my mantra would be “implementation, implementation, implementation.” Over the past years my colleagues in the Secretariat and our partners are striving to translate this mantra into supporting reality on the ground. You have already witness this interaction, with the constant communications initiated in preparation for this workshop. As such, the CBD Secretariat stands ready to extent whatever support we can for implementation.

This beautiful city of Yanji is a wonderful setting and I am confident it will provide the necessary impetus for our deliberations. East and South East Asia support the conservation of highly diverse ecosystems, ranging from montane cloud forests to dry scrublands, and harbors four out of the five megadiverse countries of the mainland Asia, a number of highly threatened species such as endangered Asian Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), Giant Panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) and notable and charismatic species, including different subspecies of Tiger to give some examples. However, with strong and increasing pressure by deforestation and encroachment, the creation of protected areas and their effective management have become ever more crucial.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya in 2010 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in which twenty headline Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2015 or 2020 are organized under five strategic goals. Under target 11 of the Strategic Plan, Parties agreed that: “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”. Under target 12, the Parties agreed that:” By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”

In 2012, at its eleventh meeting, in decision XI/24, the CBD COP invited Parties to undertake major efforts to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. The fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has reported varying levels of progress for elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the quantitative elements (to protect 17 per cent of terrestrial and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas) of the target are on track to be achieved at the global level by 2020, for both terrestrial and marine areas within national jurisdiction, with only an additional area of 1.6 per cent needed in each case. However, the other elements relating to ecological representation, coverage of areas important for biodiversity, management effectiveness, governance, and integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascapes, still need more attention in order to be achieved. The situation of target 12 presents a grim picture, as indications for the element prevention of extinction of known threatened species show no significant

progress and the element conservation status of those species most in decline are moving away from the target.

This series of workshops are being organized against the above background. The workshops are intended to facilitate mutual learning and peer to peer exchange and arriving on practical and focused roadmaps for implementation in the next five years collectively by all to facilitate achieving the different elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and the different aspects of target 12 by 2020.

According to the World Database on Protected Areas, for 2014, in Eastern Asia an average of 16.9 per cent of the terrestrial area of countries are protected, and an average of 3.6 per cent of territorial marine waters are protected. However, in South East Asia the corresponding terrestrial and marine protected area coverage figures are 14 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively. So there is some more work to be done to protect biodiversity. In addition, we cannot rely upon simply declaring protected areas, as we remember the critically important qualitative aspects of target 11 – ecological representativeness, effective and equitable management, including areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We must also remember that species, habitats and ecoregions do not stay within national borders. We have the excellent example of tigers in this region. Because of strong collaboration between the tiger range countries, donors and technical partners through the Global Tiger Initiative, the extinction of tigers can be avoided. Most countries in the world that share international borders collaborate through transboundary protected areas including in East Asia and Southeast Asia. However, we know that efforts to strengthen existing transboundary protected areas and connectivity corridors must be increased and that new ones must be developed to fully achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12.

The establishment of comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively managed, well connected and financially secure protected area networks is a critical strategy not only for biodiversity conservation, but for securing ecosystem goods and services, enabling climate change adaptation and mitigation, helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be adopted at the United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda next week as protected areas are also a key investment in environmental sustainability.

Recognizing these critical roles of protected areas, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in February 2004 committed to a comprehensive and specific set of actions known as the Programme of Work on Protected Areas or PoWPA. By emphasizing the equitable sharing of costs and benefits, recognizing various governance types, and by giving prominence to ecological representation, management effectiveness, integration into wider land and seascapes and multiple benefits, PoWPA is the most comprehensive global plan of action for effective implementation of protected areas. CBD Parties hailed PoWPA as the most implemented of CBD programmes and a successful initiative. In its decade of existence POWPA not only contributed to about 3% global increase in both terrestrial and marine protected areas, but catalyzed multiple actions inter *alia* development of 108 National Protected Area Action Plans; launching of bold regional initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, etc., leveraging funding to the tune of US \$288 million through the LifeWeb Initiative and over US \$1.5 billion through the Global Environment Facility, and the development of an array of relevant tools and documents and e-learning modules.

As Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 incorporates the tenets of the PoWPA, further effective implementation of protected areas holds the key for achieving not only target 11 but also in the achievement of multiple Aichi Targets especially 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18. In addition, target 11 provides a practical means to facilitate achievement of relevant proposed targets of the Sustainable Development Goal including, Goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15. As countries chart their own courses towards achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 through their revised NBSAPs, they will be looking for the most efficient and innovative solutions to meet both their social development needs and

biodiversity conservation goals. This workshop aims to provide the necessary capacity to help countries develop realistic actions and chart roadmaps for their implementation. The workshop brings together government, NGO and intergovernmental experts to share information, tools and wisdom to develop a shared vision for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 in East and Southeast Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is one thing to commit, but quite different to achieve. When we commit we have to achieve and deliver. It is time to take real actions towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As a Chinese proverb goes, a long march starts with the first step. Time is running fast and we cannot spare any second or any minute, otherwise our goals and targets will slip away. Our march began in Kuala Lumpur in 2014 when the PoWPA was adopted and then in Nagoya in 2010 when the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 was agreed. We have taken many steps in the past six years, but as the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook has demonstrated, there are many more steps to go. The world community will gather again in Mexico next year for COP 13 to reflect on what we have achieved for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementation of the Strategic Plan over the past six years. Rest assured that all you do will count, no matter whether your actions are big or small. Only collectively can we achieve our global goals and targets.

Let me take this moment to thank the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of China for hosting this meeting and for providing logistical support to ensure you could all attend. I also want to extend my wholehearted appreciation to our regional and global partners who are represented here as key partners who significantly contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and who further reiterate their support by being with us here today. Thank you for participating and sharing your expertise with us. For gains to be made toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets it will require strategic partnerships between Parties, the Convention and our regional and global partners. We will work together in this spirit of collaboration and collectively strive with focused dedication to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 12 and all related targets.

I once again welcome you all and look forward to open discussions and concrete and practical outcomes.

Thank you.