



COMMUNIQUÉ

Expanding scientific expertise for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the margins of the seventh meeting of Working Group on Article 8(j) and the fifteenth meeting of SBSTTA

Montreal, 8 November 2011– The opening reception of the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), witnessed the continuing growth of the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP) to the Convention, as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the CBD and two internationally-renowned institutions: The Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität of Bonn and the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute of Colombia.

The two institutions become the nineteenth and twentieth members to join the Consortium. Because achieving the 2020 target, and monitoring progress towards it, requires improved coordination, synergy and partnership among various actors and programmes, the purpose of the MoU is to leverage the expertise and experience of these institutions in order to implement education and training activities to support developing countries that are building scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity.

The Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität of Bonn are among the most beautiful and prestigious botanic gardens in Germany. Around 50,000 of the 300,000 known plant species currently cultivated in botanic gardens throughout the world are in Germany, and some 11,000 plant species are cultivated in the 13 hectares of the Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität in Bonn. Research and teaching are the main tasks of the gardens, and most importantly they aim to disseminate their information to the general public.

Maximilian Weigend, Director of the Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität of Bonn, stated: “The Botanical Gardens of the University of Bonn are proud to join the consortium in order to further the aims of the CBD and to contribute to the preservation of and knowledge about biodiversity at the local, regional and international level.”

The Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute was created as one of the entities for the scientific and technical support of the Ministry of Environment of Colombia. The Institute’s mission is the promotion, coordination and realization of research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Colombia.

Deputy Director, Mr. Jerónimo Rodríguez, said: “The Alexander von Humboldt Institute, as a public Colombian entity responsible for promoting, coordinating and carrying out scientific research for the knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of the country’s continental biodiversity, is highly committed to becoming a member of the CSP and we hope to leverage all of our human and technical abilities in the development of educational and training activities relevant to the implementation of the Convention and its protocols.”



As part of their commitment to the MoU, the Consortium of Scientific Partners carried out a training seminar on 5 November 2011 for delegates participating in both the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the fifteenth meeting of SBSTTA. The seminar, hosted by Espace pour la vie of Montreal, was attended by some 50 delegates from around the world and consisted of an all-day workshop on strengthening the role of science in revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The seminar, facilitated by several members of the Consortium, including the Smithsonian Institute, The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, The Natural History Museum of France, Espace pour la vie of Montreal, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh and the Humboldt Institute of Colombia, included interactive activities, presentations by CSP members, a guided tour of the Insectarium of Montreal and new Biodiversity Centre, as well as group workshops for the exchange of ideas and discussions.

The Consortium of Scientific Partners, born in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2006, now has 20 members:

- Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (France)
- The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Germany)
- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (United States of America)
- The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (United Kingdom)
- The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) (Mexico)
- The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium)
- Espace pour la vie (formerly known as Muséums nature de Montréal) (Canada)
- The Higashiyama Botanical Gardens (Japan)
- The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (Saudi Arabia)
- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- The National Institute of Biological Resources (Republic of Korea)
- The Missouri Botanical Gardens (United States of America)
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (United Kingdom)
- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)
- The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom)
- The South African National Biodiversity Institute (South Africa)
- Museum fuer Naturkunde-Leibniz for Research on Evolution and Biodiversity of Berlin
- Association Agropolis International (France)
- The Botanic Gardens of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität Bonn (Germany)
- Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute (Colombia)

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