

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

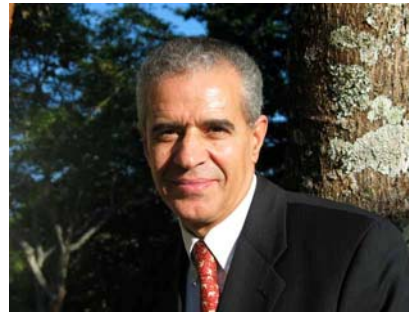
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May
2006**



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

**MESSAGE OF DR. AHMED DJOHLAF,
THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,
TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS OF OUR PLANET**



The people of the world will remain forever indebted to local, national and international non-governmental organizations for their unique contribution in placing environment issues, including biodiversity-related concerns, on the international agenda. Non-governmental organizations, including environmental not-for-profit organizations, played a leading role in the initial conception, negotiation and adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and continue to shape policy development. NGOs are also constant partners in the implementation of the Convention. From the smallest local groups organizing waterfront clean-ups to major environmental organizations overseeing networks of protected areas, NGOs have worked tirelessly to translate the ideas of the Convention into practice.

The essential role of the non-governmental community in promoting sustainable development, including its biodiversity dimension, was emphasized at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Indeed, chapter 27 of Agenda 21 recognizes that NGOs possess well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity, and that the community of NGOs offers a global network that should be tapped, enabled and strengthened in support of efforts to achieve environmentally sound and socially responsible sustainable development. The need to promote cooperation with the non-governmental sector for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components is enshrined in the preamble to the Convention on Biological Diversity—a message reiterated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity—the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources—are of the greatest interest to humankind, and affect all life on Earth. Your mission, as the representatives of the non-governmental community, is to protect these interests. It is with this mission in mind, and because the Convention on Biological Diversity is also your Convention, that I call on you to renew your commitments to Convention's objectives and to move forward with us into an era of enhanced implementation. The 2010 biodiversity target can provide the focus for our efforts, with the NGO community, through its



deep commitment and dynamism, setting an example for all stakeholders as we work to turn goals and targets into reality.

In this spirit, I invite all of you to bring your ideas and enthusiasm to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 21 to 31 March 2006, where options for further enhancing collaboration towards achieving the 2010 biodiversity target will be discussed. To this end, I have already designated a staff member within the Secretariat to act as your focal point, Ms. Marie-Annick Moreau, and also stand ready to develop the proposed Global Partnership for Biodiversity if adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

I look forward to meeting you in Curitiba, and to working closely with you in support of the Convention's objectives over the coming years.

Montreal, 22 February 2006