



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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GEF-CBD partnering to implement the Nagoya outcomes in Central America

Montreal, 10 May 2011 – Participants in the Central American Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes, held in Panama City on 4 May 2011, including national focal points for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), welcomed the informal setting to discuss critical, yet often controversial, financial issues in implementing the outcomes of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. The Workshop was organized in collaboration with the GEF Country Support Programme and held in conjunction with the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop in Central America.

“The fifth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund became effective in this past March, shortly after the adoption by the Parties to the Convention of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. With country-based resource allocations in place now, it is absolutely necessary for the focal points of GEF and CBD to work together at the national level, if globally agreed priorities want to see impacts on the ground,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of GEF.

Participants called for the rapid signature of the Nagoya Protocol, while recognizing that signature is only an expression of political willingness to further advance the Protocol and therefore does not require all necessary national measures to be in place. The right of indigenous peoples must be respected, and benefits need to trickle down to communities. Capacity-building and sharing of best practices and national frameworks on access and benefit-sharing are an important further step, including through relevant regional workshops.

Participants discussed the six targets newly adopted by European Union and noted the Aichi Targets as a flexible framework for setting national goals and targets. It was observed that the previous national biodiversity strategies and action plans had contributed to awareness-raising and involvement of relevant stakeholders, but that broader efforts, involving all relevant ministries, must be initiated to achieve the Aichi Targets. Regional cooperation should be initiated regarding fisheries, forestry and invasive alien species based on national planning and including the review and updating of the Meso-American biodiversity strategy. There are new opportunities for contribution of indigenous peoples in the new Strategic Plan, in particular under target 18, which was not the case in the previous Plan. The new Strategic Plan also provides for gender mainstreaming on biodiversity issues, including capacity-building for women, at the national level. In addition, participants observed the uncertainties on whether the revision and



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updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans can be completed in next one or two years, given the time needed to process projects on such strategies and plans to be financed by GEF under its current project cycle.

Participants stressed the need for a better understanding of funding issues under the Convention, through simple, clear and concise documentation, such as manuals on access to different funds that are already operational, simple briefs on new funds to be created, given that most focal points for the Convention have the necessary technical backgrounds but not the financial expertise. There is a need to promote debate on financing and clearly define scope of that debate, including issues related to the trend towards commercialization. Participants considered financing for indigenous peoples, such as access to the Global Environment Facility and other financial institutions, including documentation, and noted the need for concrete and specific facilitation mechanisms for indigenous peoples and local communities.

Participants shared their experiences on various innovative instruments, and highlighted the need to find common ground acceptable to all and the need to change mentality of multinational corporations. It was stressed that the well-being of local communities should be always maintained, including open access to local biodiversity, and the role of the green economy be examined, taking into account the damaging experience of the recent financial crisis. Valuation of biodiversity should be used as a tool to raise awareness and to talk to ministries of finance, but not as a tool to limit local access, as has been the case with the valuation of drinking water. Participants suggested sharing of available examples, and building capacity to negotiate and generate benefits for biodiversity in innovative financial mechanisms.

“It is important to translate words into deeds. The full implementation of the Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization, adopted in 2008 to support the achievement of the Convention’s three objectives, is essential to advancing the objectives of the Convention and its protocols, in particular the Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The regional workshops on biodiversity and finance provide opportunities for maximizing the effectiveness of utilizing financial resources available from the Global Environment Facility to address agreed global biodiversity priorities at the national and regional levels, to examine the progress made in implementing the Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization, share national and regional experiences and information, and explore further opportunities, including innovative financial mechanisms, in order to mobilize more, faster and better finance for biodiversity,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
