



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE
IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

NAIROBI, KENYA
FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2011

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to send you my warmest welcome to the workshop on biodiversity and finance. This is part of the large programme the Secretariat has been advancing this year. So far, over 70 regional and sub-regional workshops have been organized to spread the messages of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to all corners of the planet, build capacity and share experiences within regions and on the ground, and explore innovative responses to the global biodiversity challenges. More is in the design.

The unprecedented successful decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties must be matched by unprecedented effective follow-ups. The Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 can achieve impacts only if national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans can be established correspondingly. The Secretariat has worked with regional and national partners intensively to cultivate necessary technical expertise for updating biodiversity strategies and action plans through some 13 subregional workshops so far. The Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is expected to approve two enabling activity projects in two weeks for 58 countries, including Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

On 19 October 2011, Djibouti became the latest country to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, bringing the number of signatories to sixty-five. The Secretariat is undertaking a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities through a medium-sized project of US\$ 1 million from the GEF to support the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The GEF has established the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund with an initial financial contribution of US\$ 12.5 million from Japan. The Protocol will enter into force 90 days after deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

The extent to which the global biodiversity targets can be achieved will depend largely upon the availability of resources to be mobilized from both public and private sources through traditional and innovative mechanisms. The series of regional workshops on biodiversity and finance are meant to explore financial solutions to fulfilling biodiversity targets agreed globally by bringing together the national focal points of CBD and GEF as its financial mechanism, reflecting jointly on financial challenges of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, exchanging perspectives and experiences in financing biodiversity projects and programmes, enhancing capacities in developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, and investigating emerging ideas of new approaches to biodiversity financing.

East Africa has substantial comparative advantages in sustaining biodiversity for future development. Ecotourism contributes considerably to its national products and earnings of foreign currencies. The green products and ecosystem services it is providing remain to be treated fairly and equitably. Loss of biodiversity is not an option for development and viable livelihood now, nor in the future. Thus East Africa has rich experience to offer to the rest of the world.

I wish you a successful meeting and thank you for your kind attention.
