



COMMUNIQUÉ

Australia becomes 76th signatory of the Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 23 January 2012– Australia became, on 20 January 2012, the seventy-sixth signatory of 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 (CBD).

The Nagoya Protocol, which was opened for signature in February 2011, will enter into force 90 days after deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “As we approach the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Australia’s signature is yet another sign of the growing international commitment to this unique legal instrument. During this historic year, I urge all signatories to expedite the ratification process so as to allow the Nagoya Protocol to enter into force in 2012, as a contribution to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, the Rio +20 meeting and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that will take place during a year that will see the twentieth anniversary of the Convention itself.”

The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use. Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided financial support for the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund was established by GEF with an initial financial contribution of US\$ 12.5 million from Japan. In addition, a medium-sized project of US\$ 1 million is providing support to the ratification and early entry into force of the Protocol through a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. The project is being executed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The list of signatories of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the Convention’s website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/
