

## MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### AUGUST 2009

#### CONSULTATIONS WITH CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY



Ahmed Djoghlaif  
CBD Executive Secretary

On 18 August, a meeting to discuss plans for the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), was held at the Secretariat office in Montreal. A presentation was made on IYB, including: key messages, promotional materials including the logo, *The Green Wave* initiative, and key events and important dates during the 2010, including the United Nations General Assembly and the Biodiversity meetings in Nagoya in October 2010. The meeting,

with the participation of senior staff from the Canadian and Quebec Governments, the City of Montreal, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and relevant organizations in Montreal, identified ways and means on how the Canadian authorities can help raise awareness and galvanize political will for 2010 and beyond.



Participants at the consultations with the Canadian authorities.

#### ENHANCED CBD-ICAO COOPERATION

On 19 August, the CBD Executive Secretary paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Raymond Benjamin, the new Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization. A briefing was made on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. An agreement was also reached to enhance the role of ICAO as the lead agency for the CBD Secretariat.



Raymond Benjamin,  
new ICAO Secretary  
General (Photo:  
Aviation Business  
Journal).

#### IRAQ ACCEDES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the accession of the Government of Iraq to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 28 July, to become the **192nd Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 26 October 2009**. With its numerous efforts to secure the accession to the Convention by the few countries that are not yet parties, the Secretariat hopes that by COP-10 in Nagoya, the Convention will become universal by welcoming the three remaining Governments that have yet to ratify the Convention.

To view the **CBD Press Release** issued on Iraq's accession, please go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-08-13-iraq-en.pdf>.



#### ETHIOPIA DONATES TO THE CBD MUSEUM OF NATURE AND CULTURE



The Secretariat is pleased to receive a beautiful artwork from Mr. Tewelde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General of Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia, for inclusion to its Museum of Nature and Culture. The artwork is a drawing on parchment of an endemic animal species, the Gelada Baboon, and an endemic plant species, *Lobelia rhynchopetalum*, both from the Semien Mountains National Park, a world heritage site in northern Ethiopia. Established with a view to provide an opportunity for Parties to share their cultural heritage and unique biological diversity in an artistic and symbolic way and to publicly showcase them, since its inception in 2006, the Museum has been honoured by the donations of artworks from various Heads of State and Governments, comprised of paintings, sculptures, wood crafts, ceramics and tapestries. For more information on the Museum and view pictures of donated items, please go to: <http://www.cbd.int/museum/>

## LAUNCH OF MEXICO'S FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT



On 25 August, at the kind invitation from the Government of Mexico, the CBD Executive Secretary, attended the **launch of the Fourth National Report of Mexico**, with the participation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, senior Mexican authorities and other relevant partners. During their meeting, Mr. Djoghlaif had an opportunity to discuss with the Minister about preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity, in conjunction with the Latin American and the Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development as well as UNFCCC 16 which will take place in Mexico. While in Mexico, meetings were held with: the Minister of Environment of Mexico City and the General Director of Zoos and Wildlife in Mexico, the Executive Secretary, National Coordinator and staff of CONABIO, and President of CONANP.



Top left (L-R): Fernando Tudela Abad (Vice Minister, SEMARNAT), Jose Sarukhan (National Coordinator, CONABIO), Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada (Minister, SEMARNAT), Ahmed Djoghlaif (CBD Executive Secretary), Ana Luisa Guzman (Executive Secretary, CONABIO) and Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (CONABIO).

Left (L-R): Ahmed Djoghlaif (CBD Executive Secretary), Martha Delgado (Mexico City Environment Minister) and José Bernal Stoopén (General Director, Zoos and Wildlife, Mexico).

## SAINT-LAURENT ADOPTS AN URBAN FORESTRY PLAN

On 31 August, a special launch of **Saint-Laurent's Urban Forestry Plan** was held at the Saint-Laurent Borough Council room, with the participation of more than 50 guests, including Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary. During the event, Alan DeSousa, Mayor of Saint-Laurent, announced the creation of the program <<*Une naissance, un arbre*>> (**One Birth, One Tree**), within the framework of the Urban Forestry Plan. The tree-planting program would see a tree being planted to mark the birth of a new baby to a Saint-Laurent family. This initiative makes Saint-Laurent the first Montreal borough to put biodiversity at the heart of its greening strategy. With the United Nations designating 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity, Mr. Djoghlaif welcomed Mayor's announcement and praised Saint-Laurent's initiative to embark on ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He hopes that other Montreal boroughs and municipalities throughout Quebec will follow suit.



Above: Special launch event of Saint-Laurent's Urban Forestry Plan.

Right: Mayor de Sousa with a citizen from Saint-Laurent with her 8-month old baby.



## VISITORS THIS MONTH



Presentation by Airbus staff. From L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, Rainer Ohler and Andrea Debanne.

On 11 August, the CBD Executive Secretary, welcomed the visit of senior staff from **Airbus SAS**, **Rainer Ohler, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications**, and **Andrea Debanne, Vice President Communication Strategy and Strategic Programmes**. A staff meeting was held which provided an opportunity for Mr. Ohler and Ms. Debanne to make a presentation on Airbus and the environment, in particular on what the industry is doing to address its emissions and also an update on Airbus commitment to biodiversity. The staff meeting was followed by meetings with other divisions.

**Thora Martina Herrmann**, Chair holder of the Canada Research Chair in Ethnoecology and Biodiversity Conservation, also visited the Secretariat on 11 August and met with the CBD Executive Secretary.

On 17 August, the **former ICAO Secretary General, Taïeb Chérif**, visited the Secretariat and met with the CBD Executive Secretary.

Senior staff from the **Consulate General of Japan in Montreal** paid a courtesy visit to the Secretariat, comprised of: **Takashi Futagi**, outgoing Deputy Consul-General, **Takanari Kakuda**, the New Deputy Consul-General and **Hiroki Sugiyama**, the new CBD focal point in Montreal, who replaced Mr.

Watanabe. Mr. Futagi noted the existing good relations between CBD and the Consulate Office of Japan, and wished the CBD success with the Nagoya meetings in 2010.

Also on 11 August, a delegation from the **International Economic Forum of the Americas** was received by the CBD Executive. The team comprised of: **Gil Rémillard, Founding Chairman**, **Guy-Joffroy Lord, Program Director**, and **Valérie Bélair-Gagnon, Program Manager**.

A briefing was made on the International Year of Biodiversity and how the Forum can contribute in celebrating the IYB in 2010.



International Economic Forum of the Americas. From L-R: Valérie Bélair-Gagnon, Guy-Joffroy Lord, Ahmed Djoghlaif (ES-CBD) & Gil Rémillard.



From L-R: Sarat Babu Gidra (CBD Programme Officer), Dr. Sharma (ICIMOD), and Ahmed Djoghlaif (ES-CBD).

**Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Programme Manager, Ecosystem Services, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** in Nepal visited the Secretariat on 27 August to discuss

the collaboration and furthering the implementation of the Mountain Biological Diversity Programme of Work.

## OTHER MEETINGS

- Take part in the “UNEP Ask today’s Expert” on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, 5 August 2009
- Meeting via teleconference with Veerle Vandeweerd, UNDP, 10 August 2009
- Attend the 11th UN-Water meeting back-to-back with World Water Week, 14-16 August and 16-22 August 2009 (respectively), Stockholm, Sweden
- Meeting via teleconference with Rolf Hogan, WWF, 17 August 2009
- Participate in the TUNZA International Conference on the Environment for Children and Youth, 17-23 August 2009, Daejeon, South Korea
- Attend a workshop with Ramsar and STRP members, in the margins of the World Water Week, 18-19 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden
- Meeting via teleconference with Yamna Djellouli, 19 August 2009
- Meeting via teleconference with Walter Erdelen, UNESCO, 19 August 2009
- Meeting via teleconference with Rebecca Grynspan, UNDP, 19 August 2009
- Meeting via teleconference with Global Agenda Councils, 20 August 2009
- Meeting via teleconference with UNEP DELC & DCPI on IYB, 27 August 2009
- Participate in the ASEAN regional capacity building workshop on ABS, 27-29 August 2009, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Meeting via teleconference with Arab Hoballah, UNEP/DTIE, 28 August 2009, Montreal
- UNEP Information Officers meeting and training, 31 August-1 September 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY - 2010 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), has issued **Notification No. 2009-105** dated 27 August 2009, which was sent to all CBD National Focal Points and relevant organizations, to inform that the **Implementation Strategy** for the IYB is now available on the Secretariat website at:

<http://www.cbd.int/iyb/iyb-2010-strategy-final-en.pdf>

Parties and international stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local level are kindly encouraged to use the Implementation Strategy as they begin to plan for the International Year.



To find out more about The Green Wave initiative, please go to:

<http://greenwave.cbd.int/>

## NEW PUBLICATION



Biodiversity for Development

Issue No. 5

<http://www.cbd.int/development/newsletters/newsletter-bd-05-en.pdf>



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 Saint-Jacques Street West

Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9 Canada

Tel.: 514-2882220

Fax: 514-2886588

Email: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

URL: <http://www.cbd.int>



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