

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
JANUARY 2011

**First meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity
Montpellier, France**



Jean-Pierre Thébault, France's
Ambassador for the Environment

Pursuant to COP Decision X/22, adopted at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit last October 2010, the City of Montpellier, with the support of the French Government, hosted the first meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity on 17-19 January 2011. The meeting was attended by 38 participants representing more than

2,100 cities and regions (through networks including ICLEI's Local Action on Biodiversity programme and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, the EU's Committee of the Regions and the associations of Mayors of Large Cities and of Regions of France), as well as the Governments of France, Brazil, Sweden, Portugal, Singapore and South Africa, international agencies such as UN-HABITAT and IUCN, leading research institutions such as the Stockholm Resilience Center and cities such as Mexico, Montreal, Bonn and Curitiba. Opening addresses were made by Hélène Mandroux, Mayor of the City of Montpellier, Jean-Pierre Thébault, France's Ambassador for the Environment, and Ahmed Djoghlafl, CBD Executive Secretary,



Hélène Mandroux, Mayor, City of
Montpellier

followed by a keynote presentation by Jacques Weber of CIRAD on the need to bring nature back into our cities. Participants were advised on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Plan of action on Cities, as well as on the preparations towards the second summit on local authorities and biodiversity to be held in conjunction with the high level segment of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in India in October 2012, which shall also provide an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (based on the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook). At the closing of the event, Mayor Mandroux accepted an invitation to become a member of the CBD's Advisory Committee on Cities and Biodiversity, along with the Mayors of Montreal, Curitiba, Bonn and Nagoya. Participants were also engaged in Montpellier's The Green Wave ceremony by planting trees in a newly designed development site. The meeting's remarkable results will significantly increase chances that the Convention's 193 Parties achieve, in ten years, the 20 ambitious Aichi targets defined last October to stop the unacceptable loss of the planet's living wealth, its biodiversity.

Meetings in Chennai and New Delhi, India

In preparation for the COP-MOP 6 and COP 11 meetings, the CBD Executive Secretary travelled to New Delhi to meet with officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Bilateral meetings were held with H.E. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and Forests, as well as with other senior officials from the Ministry. While in India, the CBD Executive Secretary also attended the 98th Indian Science Congress in Chennai, and was invited to take part in one of the plenary sessions of the meeting.



Participants of the Montpellier meeting



ES-CBD with Minister Ramesh



ES-CBD with officials from MoEF, India



ES-CBD (center) at the Indian Science Congress (Photo courtesy: ISC-India)

UNEP-GEF Workshop: Regional Advisors Training on Renewed Operations and Content of the Biosafety Clearing House Montreal, Canada

From 31 January to 4 February 2011, the Secretariat hosted a UNEP-GEF Workshop entitled 'Regional Advisors Training on Renewed Operations and Content of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)'. The training, organized within the framework of the recently approved UNEP - GEF global "Project for Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House" (also known as BCH-II), was attended by 32 BCH Regional Advisors who, through this project, will be delivering training on the BCH to 50 participating countries.

The main training components involved a thorough revision of all of the features currently available through the BCH as well as an in-depth analysis of the project details. The training also incorporated group work, role playing, and feedback on making BCH improvements. The anticipated result of the training, and also of the BCH-II capacity building project, is that BCH Regional Advisors will be able to further assist countries in the design, development and expansion of national BCH activities, in particular, information registration and national data processing in the BCH, among others.



Participants of the UNEP-GEF workshop.

Apero allant-vert: La biodiversité c'est la vie Quebec City, Canada

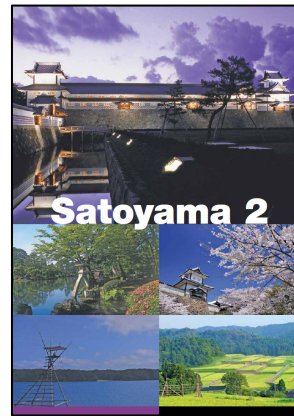


On the 12 January, at the Musée de la civilisation in Quebec City, a presentation was delivered on the new strategic plan for biodiversity and its relevance for government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The presentation further focused on the opportunities arising through the preparations for the Earth Summit 2012 (Rio+20) including calls for stakeholders to contribute case studies, including on the implementation of synergies between the three Rio Conventions. Following the presentation a question and answer period discussed further the role of the private sector in the development of targets for the new strategic plan, especially with regards to sustainable production. A video of the event is available at: <http://vimeo.com/18749177>.



Video screenshot of CBD's Jaime Webbe delivering a presentation (VIMEO)

NEW PUBLICATIONS



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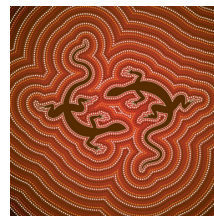


International Day for Biological Diversity 2011 Booklet



REDD-plus and Biodiversity e-Newsletter
January 2011, Volume 13

International Trade in Indigenous Cultural Heritage Lucerne, Switzerland



At the kind invitation from the University of Lucerne and the Government of Switzerland, the CBD Programme Officer for Article 8j attended the Exploratory Workshop on International Trade in Indigenous Cultural Heritage, held in Lucerne, Switzerland on 17-19 January 2011. The meeting provided an opportunity for indigenous and non-indigenous experts from fields to freely and fully examine the topic of Indigenous cultural heritage in trade, human rights and intellectual property from various jurisdictions. The CBD Programme Officer, a keynote speaker in one of the 10 panels, delivered a presentation on indigenous rights in international negotiations and effective participation. The workshop organizers are planning a publication on the outcomes of the meeting.



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