



Media Release

Key to Nagoya Biodiversity Summit Success Lies with the European Union

BirdLife urges Ministers to move on money and benefit sharing

Nagoya/Brussels, 25 October 2010 – At half-time of the World Biodiversity Conference in Nagoya (Japan) (CBD COP10), BirdLife International [1] sees a serious risk that make-or-break issues, such as a binding treaty against bio-piracy and sufficient financial support for developing countries for nature conservation might not be agreed by the Heads of State and Environment Ministers, who have started to arrive in Nagoya today. [2]

A major key for success lies with the European Union and its 27 governments, who so far, show little movement to accommodate concerns of the poor nations. After having failed the 2010 target of reducing biodiversity loss, world leaders now are poised to adopt an ambitious new and workable strategy for 2020 during this meeting in Nagoya, like for a 20% protected areas coverage of each country. The EU has been driving this process over the last year with clear support from BirdLife International and other NGOs.

However, understandably, poor countries will only sign up to this if clear commitments for financial support are made by rich nations, notably by the Member States of the EU. In Nagoya, however, these governments are so far reluctant to put any fresh money on the table. "If they don't move on the money, they risk losing the whole Nagoya package, which we need so urgently to save our planet from destruction" said Konstantin Kreiser, BirdLife expert following financial negotiations in Nagoya.

Last week BirdLife and Conservation International presented an estimate which showed that developing countries need at least an additional 15 billion US\$/year for expansion and better management of protected areas.

At the same time, economists provided evidence about the economic benefits of protected areas alone - which would be 500 times higher than the investment needed now. "Public budget cuts are no excuse – there is hardly another area where the investment of public money makes so much sense, and meets so many strategic

interests of our European countries, than biodiversity.” says Kreiser. “Top-economists have calculated that not stepping up efforts on biodiversity will cost us 7% of global GDP by 2050 – not even mentioning resource conflicts, refugees and political instabilities that will occur when our ecosystems have reached the tipping points of collapse.”

The EU also must end its blockade of a binding treaty against bio-piracy. This so called Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) would finally allow developing nations to benefit from industry-profits made with microbes, animals and plants, which are found in their own countries. So far, the pharmaceutical sector in particular, is exploiting these resources without their consent and participation. A strong ABS protocol could end this bio-piracy and give strong incentives to the developing world to protect their natural habitats. Unfortunately, under strong pressure from industry lobbies European politicians try to create loopholes that poor nations will never accept. “A fair deal on ABS is the pre-requisite for progress in any other topic at this conference” concludes Kreiser.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Contact in Nagoya:

Konstantin Kreiser, Biodiversity Expert of NABU/BirdLife Germany;

E-mail: Konstantin.Kreiser@nabu.de

Tel +81-90-5580-6159

Herlinde Herpoel, Head of European Communication and Marketing of BirdLife Europe

E-mail: Herlinde.herpoel@birdlife.org

Tel +81-80-6557-9212

Notes for the editor

[1] BirdLife International is a global Partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries and territories. BirdLife is the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the problems affecting them, and is working on a wide range of environmental issues. BirdLife has 42 Partners in Europe, and is represented in all 27 Member States.

For more information about the work of the BirdLife European Division:

<http://europe.birdlife.org>

[2] The BirdLife **5 Asks for the CBD COP 10** Conference in Nagoya:

1. In Nagoya the governments of the world must adopt a comprehensive and ambitious new strategy for saving the world’s biodiversity and ecosystems. By 2020 biodiversity loss must be stopped and most of the species and habitats must be on the road to recovery.

2. At the conference governments, especially those of the rich, industrialised countries must make significant additional commitments for financing the protection of biodiversity.

3. The Parties of the CBD should adopt binding targets for the establishment of a global network of protected areas, especially at sea. By 2020 20% of the globe should be effectively protected. This protection must target the world's key biodiversity areas and not just be a percentage exercise

4. At COP-10 governments must conclude and adopt a legally binding Protocol on international Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) – to ensure that profits made from genetic resources are shared in a fair way with the countries and communities owning those resources, and thus giving incentives for their conservation.

5. In Nagoya, biodiversity and climate policy must move closer together: COP-10 should adopt initiate a Joint Work Programme of the three Rio-Conventions on biodiversity (CBD), climate (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD) and send strong messages on biodiversity safeguards

in REDD+ (the mechanism to avoid emissions from deforestation and forest degradation being proposed under the climate negotiations) and bioenergy production.

More at http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU_policy/Biodiversity/nagoya-birdlife-key-messages.html