

PRESS RELEASE

Executive Secretary hails record replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

Montreal, 21 May 2010. The new record level of replenishment for the Global Environment Facility in a time of economic and financial uncertainty represents a renewed confidence on the part of the international community in the capacity of the GEF to act as the financial mechanism for responsible development as well as its capability in performing its functions. It is a clear sign for this unique financial mechanism to address the challenges of the biodiversity crisis compounded by climate change.

The recent US\$ 4.25 billion replenishment of the Facility's trust fund, is the largest ever in the life of the GEF. This amount includes increased resources for biodiversity in the amount of US\$ 1.25 billion.

"The replenishment is a clear message that the GEF is ramping up its efforts to respond to the global biodiversity challenges identified in the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook," said Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

"These are the resources needed by the Parties to accomplish the post-2010 biodiversity mission and achieve the targets to be adopted by the Biodiversity Summit in New York this September and the Nagoya Summit on Biodiversity this October," he said. "I would like to pay tribute to the Chief Executive Officer of GEF and to the GEF Council for this achievement."

Notes to Editors:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a supplementary treaty to the Convention, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 156 countries and the European Union are party to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit www.cbd.int

For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 833 0196 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int. or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 2787 7760 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
