

# **Building on the outcomes of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit**

*Ahmed Djoghlaif*

*Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

## **Abstract**

During the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3) confirmed that humans continue to drive species extinct at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate. Based on 120 national reports from Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the scientific literature, the report warns that massive further loss of biodiversity is projected to occur before the end of this century and that ecosystems are approaching tipping points beyond which irreversible degradation will take place. GBO-3 also warns that the poorest amongst will bear the immediate brunt of biodiversity loss, as they depend more than others on biological resources for their day-to-day survival and livelihood.

Fortunately this warning did not go unheeded by the international community. At the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit last October, some 18,000 participants representing our 193 Parties and their partners adopted the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention, or the “Aichi Targets”. Target 14 relates directly to poverty reduction and local livelihoods, stating that “by 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.” More generally, the targets aim to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity, as well as to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors of government and society.

Importantly, all stakeholders were involved in adopting the Aichi Targets, including the development community. Representatives of 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies agreed to translate the targets into their respective development cooperation priorities. Moreover, a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was adopted by the G77 and China. In addition, Parties adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, which will be a central tool for alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Protocol is the first international economic instrument that is explicitly driven by consideration of fairness and equitability, setting the stage for a new international economic order in the twenty-first century.

The overall challenge the international community now faces is to make sure the Aichi Targets will produce concrete action over the years to come. To this end, they will be the overarching framework on biodiversity for the entire United Nations system. Moreover, Parties agreed to turn the Aichi Targets into national biodiversity strategies and action plans within two years. 2011-2020 is the UN Decade on Biodiversity, and it is now or never: failing to achieve the Aichi Targets will spell sure disaster for the billions of people worldwide who depend directly on biodiversity to meet their most basic needs.