



PRESS RELEASE

20 July 2010

STAGE SET FOR HISTORIC BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT IN JAPAN

GENEVA - A meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montréal, Canada, concluded on Sunday with important progress towards achieving an international agreement on access and sharing of benefits derived from the use of the planet's rich biodiversity. At the same time, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report for business was released, drawing attention to the vast economic benefits of biodiversity, as well as the need for companies to take the lead in conservation and sustainable use.

The "TEEB for Business" report, released on July 13, highlighted the growing scrutiny of business and its impacts on nature. Companies that have pro-active policies related to biodiversity will increasingly become winners. UEBT has contributed to the development of the "TEEB for Business" report, and its research on consumer awareness of biodiversity is repeatedly referred to when emphasizing the case for greater business involvement in biodiversity. The TEEB study, expected to be as influential as the Stern report for climate change, is building momentum towards the Biodiversity Summit which will take place in Nagoya in October.

The adoption of a protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) in Nagoya is more and more likely after progress made in Montréal, and will also be significant. ABS is one of the pillars of the CBD, but has largely not yet been put into practice. New rules would clarify the scope and requirements of ABS, as well as ensure transboundary compliance. Again, private sector engagement is seen to be crucial for effective implementation. The rules will also have implications for companies working in the cosmetics and food sector, two sectors that rely on biodiversity for innovation, as they will have to deal with the new regulations in their practices.

The Biodiversity Summit, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD will be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010. This meeting will take place during the International Year for Biodiversity (IYB). It will consider the new Strategic Plan of the CBD, setting new targets for halting biodiversity loss, as well as adopt the protocol on ABS. UEBT will be actively participating in discussions and events in Nagoya.

For more information visit <http://www.ethicalbiotrade.org>

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The Union for Ethical BioTrade is a non-profit association that promotes the 'Sourcing with Respect' of ingredients that come from native biodiversity. Members commit to gradually ensuring that their sourcing practices promote the conservation of biodiversity, respect traditional knowledge, and assure the equitable sharing of benefits all along the supply chain.

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Note to editors:

For the CBD press release on the Montréal negotiations please visit
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-07-16-abs-en.pdf>

For the website of the CBD on the international regime please visit
<http://www.cbd.int/abs/ir/>

For the TEEB website and the summary of the TEEB for business report please visit:
<http://www.teebweb.org/>

For the United Nations Environment Programme press release on the TEEB please visit:
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=630&ArticleID=6643&I=en>.