

New Delhi ASEAN-India Ministerial Statement on Biodiversity

We, the Ministers responsible for environment and their representatives from ASEAN and India, having met in New Delhi on 7th September 2012 and discussed areas of common interest with a focus on biodiversity and:

Reaffirming that States have sovereign rights over their own biological resources;

Reaffirming that though conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of mankind, it needs to be based on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, national circumstances and respective capacities;

Committing to meet the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in a balanced manner;

Recognising the need to achieve implementation of other biodiversity related conventions;

Acknowledging that biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning, contributes to local livelihoods and economic development, and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including poverty eradication;

Noting with concern the conclusions of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 3), which confirm that the 2010 Biodiversity Target has not been met in full;

Expressing deep concern that the consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption affect the poor the most, and also disproportionately, and that biodiversity loss poses a significant barrier to the achievement of the MDGs, especially to ensure environmental sustainability;

Recognising that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries;

Recognising the significant contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems to livelihoods, poverty reduction and food security, and aware of the trans-boundary nature of a number of marine resources that support ecosystem services;

Recognising the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (SP) and the Aichi Targets in promoting effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach with adequate resources;

Recognising also that the SP represents a useful and flexible framework that is

relevant to all biodiversity related conventions;

Recognising the importance of and committing to making the best use of opportunities arising from the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNDB);

Reaffirming the importance of raising public awareness, education and participation on biodiversity related issues; and,

Welcoming the 'Dehradun Recommendations' of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development held in Dehradun, India in December 2011;

Have agreed as follows:

1. To enhance awareness among all stakeholders especially policy-makers and private sector, on the values of and threats to biodiversity;
2. To strive towards mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into development processes, and encourage involvement of all stakeholders in this exercise;
3. To work together towards conservation and management of flagship species that would contribute to conservation of the entire ecosystem;
4. To strive towards enhancing priority in terms of resource allocation and mobilization for biodiversity management in respective national developmental planning processes;
5. To call upon the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (CBD CoP-11) to CBD to agree on interim measures on financial resource mobilization to infuse confidence in the Parties and generate momentum for the implementation of the Aichi Targets;
6. To call upon the CBD CoP-11 to discuss issues relating to biodiversity and livelihoods regularly and recommend concrete actions, considering the critical linkages of biodiversity with livelihoods and poverty alleviation;
7. To work together for enhancing the capacity for conservation, management (especially, monitoring, surveillance and control) and sustainable utilization of coastal and marine biodiversity;
8. To continue dialogue on imminent and emerging issues related to biodiversity including marine and coastal biodiversity through consultations and other means as may be appropriate;
9. To strive for mutual support and cooperation across borders for conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity, as well as to

address activities that threaten marine biodiversity rich areas;

10. To create networks for sharing best practices in conservation and resource enhancement in marine and its related ecosystems;
11. To take preparatory national work as a sound and informed basis for ratifying the Nagoya Protocol;
12. To call upon CBD CoP-11 to enhance capacity of the Parties to the CBD in ensuring preparedness for implementing the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol;
13. To support the recommendations of the ASEAN – India Capacity Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge held in New Delhi on 4-5 Sept 2012 and to implement a programme of mutual cooperation and support on issues relating to access and benefit sharing, urban biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Targets among India and ASEAN member states under the ASEAN-India Green Fund;
14. To support the recommendations of the ASEAN-India Expert meeting on climate change held on 27-29 June 2012 in Bangalore, India and to implement a work programme on climate change among India and ASEAN member states under the ASEAN-India Green Fund; and
15. To call upon CBD CoP-11 to facilitate and encourage private sector to contribute to the implementation of the CBD and its Strategic Plan, while emphasizing that developed country Parties bear primary responsibility for providing adequate resources for the implementation of CBD and Strategic Plan.

The Meeting welcomed the proposal for ASEAN-India Ministers and senior officials responsible for environment to meet and exchange views on issues of common interest at appropriate ASEAN Environment Ministers meetings.

The ASEAN member states express their appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' meeting.

New Delhi, 7th September 2012