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PRESS RELEASE

From commitment to action: over US\$ 120 million announced for biodiversity and protected areas

Announcements at the CBD LifeWeb Initiative Dinner at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, Japan, 24 October 2010

Nagoya, Japan 24 October 2010. A total of over US\$ 120 million in funding for protected-area solutions was announced tonight at a high-profile dinner hosted under the LifeWeb Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This financing was facilitated by the LifeWeb Initiative, in order to sustain biodiversity, address climate change and secure livelihoods.

The event, which featured announcements by several public and private donors, celebrated partnerships to strengthen financing for protected areas around the world. New partnerships declared at the event include:

- *Costa Rica* – Over US\$ 50 million was confirmed from the Government of the United States through the Topical Forest Conservation Act, as well as the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Linden Trust, the Walton Family Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy, with further support in the final stage of agreement announced by the government of Germany.
- *Colombia* – almost US\$30 million combined from a set of cooperation partners; facilitated through a financing round-table process co-hosted by the Colombian Government and CBD LifeWeb. Partners included the Netherlands (US\$ 7 million), USAID (US\$ 20 million) for biodiversity and sustainable landscapes, and the European Commission announced that it is in final stages of negotiation for financial support.
- *Mozambique* – US\$ 5 million from the Government of France

Further commitments from donors included Germany (US\$ 22 million), Spain (US\$ 6 million) and Finland (US\$ 750,000).

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said during his opening address, “The CBD LifeWeb platform is a special tool of hope for the future of life, our life. It sends the fantastic message that we must translate commitment into action. It is also a message of hope for the way forward for the Aichi-Nagoya Strategic Plan that will be adopted at the end of the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, with the full and active participation of all stakeholders without exception.”

“The LifeWeb has been called the Baby of Bonn. I am very happy that this baby has grown considerably during the last two and a half years,” said Ms. Gertrude Sahler, Director General for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Environment of Germany. “In our view LifeWeb can further develop into an instrument for our common goal of realizing a global network of protected areas. I would like to invite everyone to join in the LifeWeb.”

“Japan, as President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be doing our utmost to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in the world through the *Satoyama* Initiative. LifeWeb is an instrument that can help us in this, and in so doing help us to achieve our global targets,” said Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, Director of the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Environment of Japan.

“For the United Nations Development Programme, protected areas are critical for development. They are important today to provide important ecosystem services. But in a future faced with climate change, they will become crucial for our survival. UNDP commits to scale up our efforts. We are proud partners in the LifeWeb initiative,” said Mr. Nik Sekhran, UNDP Senior Advisor on Biodiversity.

The number of CBD LifeWeb international cooperation partners now numbers 14, and includes the Governments of Germany, Belgium, Flanders, Spain, Finland, France, Canada, Italy, United States of America, the Netherlands and Japan, as well as the European Commission, the Bank of Georgia, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Linden Trust and the Walton Family Foundation.

This financial support builds on the over US\$ 100 million that has already been provided to partner countries since the LifeWeb Initiative was welcomed at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, just over two years ago, in Bonn, Germany.

The LifeWeb Initiative facilitates funding partnerships for protected area solutions to sustain biodiversity, address climate change, and secure livelihoods, through implementation of the Convention’s programme of work on protected areas through round-tables that bring together national Governments and donor partners.

Political and financial commitments made at the CBD LifeWeb dinner on 24 October will be conveyed in greater detail, in some cases by Heads of State or Government and Ministers, during featured regional evening-session events to be held from 25 to 28 October at the Rio Conventions’ Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion at the Nagoya Congress Centre. A media advisory from partners will follow for each of these evenings.

For additional information, please contact David Ainsworth, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Cell 0806 990 4168 or david.ainsworth@cbd.int

Notes for Journalists:

About the CBD LifeWeb Initiative

CBD LifeWeb was launched in May 2008 at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn, Germany. LifeWeb adds value to recipients and donors by providing a user-friendly clearing house for countries to profile their protected area financial priorities and invite international support; facilitates funding matches; helps coordinate counterpart financing among donors; and recognises donor support and innovation for natural solutions. More than 70 invitations for support have been submitted to CBD LifeWeb to date, totalling approximately US\$ 750 million in funding priorities defined by developing countries or countries with economies in transition, based on national planning. Each submission is designed to secure and strengthen the provision of ecosystem services for climate-change mitigation and adaptation, food and water security, human health, cultural and spiritual access, and/or income generation.

For further information, please visit www.cbd.int/lifeweb/ or contact +1.514.287.6675 or lifeweb@cbd.int
