



Summary of outcomes from the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan

More than 7,000 delegates participated in the 10th Meeting of the Parties, with representatives from the media, indigenous and local communities as well as business and industry. Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), both national and international, were moderately represented, although Australia had only 3 representatives.

The fact that 193 countries adopted a meaningful “package” of **Strategic Plan, Strategy of Financial Resource Mobilisation, and the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Protocol**, is a real success- given the Copenhagen failure - and considering how close the COP 10 meeting came to failure again. The Nagoya deal is therefore a very important signal for the UN system in general, and for efforts to protect and restore biodiversity through international agreements in particular.

The new strategic plan is a good framework that many suggest strikes a balance between ambition and realism. Given the risk of the plan being severely weakened, or not being adopted at all, this is a real achievement. The **20 sub-targets (“Aichi targets”)** adopted in Nagoya include for example, 2020 targets to incorporate biodiversity values into national accounting, prevent the extinction of known threatened species, and to increase the land and marine protected areas to 17% and 10% respectively. And whilst the targets (and mission) should have been much more ambitious, it will go a long way towards addressing biodiversity loss if they are actually met.

The global failure to reach the 2010 CBD target to date has been largely attributed to lack of resourcing. And although quantitative targets for financing were not agreed and only a handful of developed countries pledged additional funding for biodiversity, a process was agreed that is expected to lead to the development of such targets in 2012. Thus, the resource mobilisation strategy contains an important set of new indicators for biodiversity funding, and we now have a clear process that should lead to concrete commitments in 2012. Given the situation most governments are in financially, this is considered a good step forward.

Whilst the CBD’s programme of work on protected areas was strengthened, it was disappointing that Governments failed to send a strong message on the need for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to take full account of biodiversity in climate change mitigation and adaptation by working with the CBD to develop a joint work programme.

However, the real test of success will depend on the extent to which Parties implement the decisions on-the-ground back in their respective countries.

Promises from past global conferences have been broken, and biodiversity decline continues. We need to continue to remind our governments of their responsibility to provide the commitment and investments needed to support the conservation of biodiversity and support their efforts to realise them.

More information: <http://www.cbd.int/cop10/>

A more detailed report is available on request s.vine@birdsaustralia.com.au