



## **Parties to the CBD CoP-10: urgent attention to ABS negotiations!**

The Convention on Biological Diversity has a comprehensive and balanced approach based on the three objectives: biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and the benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources. It is crucial to strengthen the convention that all three objectives make progress in their implementation. Attention to the CBD objectives, especially to the third objective has been uneven since Rio 1992. WWF is recognises the CBD to be the most important international biodiversity agreement.

WWF believes that benefits from biodiversity are to be shared equitably. A protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits deriving from their use (ABS) is long overdue. The protocol ought to respect the interests of the biodiversity-rich countries, securing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and setting a secure global regulatory framework for genetic resources associated business.

Besides providing clarity and certainty for business, an effective protocol should contribute significantly to poverty alleviation, sustainable development and nature conservation, as well as making the whole CBD more effective by acting as an incentive for countries and local people to value and protect their biodiversity. An ABS Protocol would benefit both the providers and the users of biodiversity and genetic resources, and supply additional funding for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well part of adequate conditions towards the sustainable development of societies.

In the International Year of Biodiversity, it is now time for the Parties to the CBD to demonstrate their commitment to making an ABS Protocol happen.

Attempts to agree on an ABS Protocol were not successful since the Earth Summit in Rio 1992. After attempts in CoP-8 in Curitiba, at CoP-9 in Bonn, Parties mandated that an ABS regime was to be finalized at CoP-10 in Nagoya. Now it is time to deliver.

Virtually all Parties and CBD authorities expressed, before and at the beginning of this CoP-10, that adequate funding, new ambitious and realistic targets up to 2020 and a meaningful ABS Protocol are crucial for the success of biodiversity protection over the next decade and to make CoP-10 in Nagoya a real success.

WWF appreciates that progress is being made by Parties at COP 10 to reach agreement. Governments have shown flexibility in Nagoya and as a result the CBD is closer to agreement than it has ever been.

However, we also recognize there are still many differences to be resolved and we urge all countries to show the final flexibility needed to ensure a meaningful result.



WWF wants to express strong concerns at the potential for the ABS negotiations to fail and call on CBD Parties, in particular those from developed countries, to show more effective commitment to achieving a successful result as they expressed in the lead up to COP 10.

We urge Parties to make the utmost effort to ensure a protocol is agreed in Nagoya.