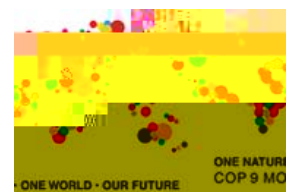




STATEMENT



**His Excellency,, Minister Environment Government of the Republic of Korea,
Mr Taehwan Kim, Governor, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province,
Mr Hongwoio Eum, Chairman, Korea National Park Service,
Mr Nik Lopoukhine, Chair IUCN-ECPA
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all, to this International Workshop on the Future of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. I congratulate the Government of Korea for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful volcanic Island with rich natural heritage, an ideal setting. I also thank IUCN-WCPA, the Governments Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain and UNEP for financial assistance for organising this workshop.

This workshop is to deliberate the future of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and I have no hesitation to say the future of life on this planet. Well managed protected areas harbouring participatory and equitable governance mechanisms yield significant benefits far beyond their boundaries, which can be translated into cumulative advantages across a national economy and contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover as the detrimental impact of climate change is wielding Damocles' Sword on our planet and threatening our existence, protected areas provide a convenient solution to an inconvenient truth. Better managed, better connected, better governed and better financed protected areas are recognized as the key to both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change. With the recent launch of the landmark report "TEEB for Policymakers" – which comprehensively draws the links between biodiversity, poverty and development – there should be no doubt that protected areas must continue to be a focal point of biodiversity preservation efforts in the years to come.

In February 2004, the CBD Parties made the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever made by the international community by adopting the PoWPA. The PoWPA enshrines development of participatory, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas, where necessary stretching across national boundaries. From designation to management, the PoWPA can be considered as a defining framework or "blueprint" for protected areas for the coming decades. It is a framework for cooperation between Governments, donors, NGOs and local communities, for without such collaboration, programmes cannot be successful and sustainable over the long-term. It is not an exaggeration to claim that the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) is the Convention's most successful initiative as since CBD came into force in 1993, the world's protected areas have increased by nearly 60% in absolute numbers and by about 60% in total area.

The PoWPA is now five and half years old. There are many signs of progress. Political will and commitments are clearly being catalyzed. Since the adoption of the programme of work, 27 countries have reported the establishment of about 5900 new protected areas, covering approximately 60 million ha of terrestrial and marine areas. As of 2008 there are more than 120,000 nationally designated protected areas worldwide, covering 21 million square kilometres of land and sea. The terrestrial protected areas listed in World Database on Protected Areas cover 12.2% of the planet's surface area. However, marine protected areas occupy only 5.9% of the world's territorial seas and only 0.5% of the extraterritorial seas. Considering the current annual growth rate of marine protected areas (4.6%) achieving the 10% target of the CBD strategic plan and the PoWPA marine target may well nigh be impossible within the next 20 years.

finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated. Strengthening implementation of PoWPA will require concerted efforts and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities and business and the private sector.

At COP9 in Bonn, the CBD COP decided to undertake the in-depth review of the PoWPA at its tenth meeting in Nagoya, Japan and invited IUCN to further contribute to the process of the PoWPA's in depth review. At the meeting in Bonn, the government of Germany launched the LifeWeb Initiative, which acts as a clearing-house to link donors and recipients in the designation and improvement of protected areas management globally. The main aim of the LifeWeb Initiative is to match voluntary commitments by States to designate new protected areas, and/or improve highly underfunded existing sites with the respective commitment of donors for dedicated financing and co-financing for these areas. I am pleased to say that the LifeWeb coordination office is now fully functional in the Secretariat.

Set in front of this impressive background, the organization of this workshop intends to recognize best practices and lessons learned, to identify current shortcomings or omissions, and suggest ways and means to strengthen implementation of the PoWPA. The CBD COP has always recognized IUCN-WCPA as the technical knowledge support network for the PoWPA and I wish to extend my wholehearted appreciation to IUCN-WCPA for its significant contribution to the implementation of the PoWPA through the PoWPA FRIENDS. The outcome of this workshop will be considered by the forthcoming CBD regional workshops, then by SBSTTA and finally by the COP 10 where it will be translated into a global policy decision. Hence you have a heavy responsibility.

With the International Year of Biodiversity and the Nagoya COP 10 rapidly approaching, I urge you all to continue with the good work you have done to date. Following the unveiling ceremony of the logo of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity at the EUROPARC Conference held in Stromstad, Sweden on 10 September 2009, with over 200 participants, I am pleased to unveil the logo of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and count on all partners to mark this important event.

As your deliberations are beheld by the watchful eyes of the “**Dol Hareubangs**” of Jeju island - gods bestowing both protection and fertility, I am confident that this workshop will come out with fertile solutions to safeguard the life on our planet by contributing to achieve ecologically representative, effectively managed, sustainably funded national and regional protected areas and enhanced implementation of PoWPA. The adoption of an updated Strategic Plan, including a revised biodiversity target, will be a key outcome of COP 10; I hope your discussion will also provide the necessary impetus and inputs for formulating the revised strategic plan and the new biodiversity target.

To quote Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General “The full repercussions of the economic crisis have yet to be felt, but already we know we must do our utmost to prevent the unfavorable economic climate from undermining our efforts to fight climate change and achieve the Millennium Development Goals”. Now is the time for long-term vision and action for accelerated implementation of the CBD PoWPA to address climate change and to achieve Millennium Development goals.

Thank you for your kind attention.