

developing countries by 2015 and at least maintaining that level until 2020.

Other key decisions covered: (1) Agreement to a preliminary list of indicators for measuring progress towards achievement of the Aichi Targets. Further work will be undertaken on developing and applying the indicators. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (<http://www.bipindicators.net>) will provide assistance to parties with the application of indicators at the national level. (2) The Nagoya Protocol, which has been ratified or acceded by only eight countries whereas 50 are required for it to enter into force. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol will reconvene for a third meeting to progress the development of the working arrangements for the new Protocol (<http://www.cbd.int/abs>). (3) Continuation of the process of assembling information on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, collected through regional workshops. (4) Continued engagement with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular on biodiversity safeguards for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. (5) Continued progress to develop guidance on linkages between biodiversity and poverty, through an expert group based on the Dehradun Recommendations on biodiversity for poverty eradication and development.

The meeting was attended by c. 6,000 representatives of governments, UN agencies, international organizations, indigenous and local communities, research and business. Hundreds of side meetings demonstrated the breadth of projects and initiatives happening on the ground for conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity. Whether the meeting outcomes translate into improvements for ecosystems, species and genetic biodiversity, or human well-being, will become more apparent over the next few years as the Convention continues to evaluate progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The next COP will be in the Republic of Korea in 2014.

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Third Guangxi International Orchid Symposia

In May 2012 the 3rd Guangxi Orchid Symposium took place in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi, China, and in the Yachang National Orchid Nature Preserve in Leye County. There were 12 international and more than 80 Chinese participants, including the Vice Governor of Guangxi, Dr Chen Zhangliang, who is in charge of, among other things, biodiversity conservation in the province. Dr Mike Maunder of Florida International University spoke at the opening ceremony and gave a keynote presentation on IUCN's new reintroduction guidelines. In another keynote presentation Dr Richard Primack of Boston University gave an overview of global plant conservation. Dr Keping Ma, Professor at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, introduced the newly launched Chinese biodiversity informatics platform. Other researchers presented studies on populations, pollination and conservation of Chinese wild orchids.

As well as providing a platform for the exchange of the latest research findings in orchid biology and conservation, the Guangxi Orchid Symposia bring decision-makers, natural-area managers, scientists and other stakeholders together. The symposium series has yielded several significant benefits. The 1st Symposium stimulated the promotion of the Yachang nature preserve to a national preserve of the State Forestry Administration of China, a category that includes national funding for protection. The 1st and the 2nd symposia also stimulated the establishment of the Yachang Orchid Research Center. The 3rd symposium promoted the idea of establishing a biodiversity centre in Guangxi and an international orchid research institute. Because Guangxi is one of the three provinces in China with the greatest biodiversity, these initiatives will have conservation significance at the provincial, national, and international levels.

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