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## Keynote Speech

### Building on the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity through Science

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The United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity in order to help raise awareness about the irreplaceable contributions that biodiversity makes to human wellbeing and to stimulate action for the future. There is much to be done: the recent third edition of the Convention on Biological Diversity's *Global Biodiversity Outlook* – a wide-ranging synthesis of the state of biodiversity today – shows that we continue to driving species extinct at an unprecedented rate. The report further warns that irreparable degradation may take place if ecosystems are pushed beyond certain tipping points, leading to the widespread and irreversible loss of biological goods and ecosystem services. That is why in October the international community gathered at the Convention's 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan, to adopt a new strategic plan for the 2011-2020 period. COP10 emphasized that there are several key areas where future scientific endeavor needs to be focused: developing and strengthening biodiversity indicators and monitoring programmes; advancing taxonomic knowledge; mitigating and adapting to climate change through biodiversity preservation and sustainable land management; and detailing the social and economics costs of biodiversity loss. Successfully implementing our new strategic plan will simply be impossible without advances on these fronts.



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##### Academic Degrees

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