



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**BIODIVERSITY** - The loss in biodiversity throughout the world will become irreversible if not addressed within the next decade, according to officials speaking at the ongoing UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. Participants hope to spur action by the world's governments by pointing to economic data showing that the loss of species and ecosystems costs trillions of dollars annually to the global economy.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** are entitled to their own institutions and self-governing structures to enable them to manage their own affairs and ensure that the development process is aligned with their own cultural patterns, values and customs, a United Nations independent expert says in a report.

## ■AFRICA

**SOMALIA** - The situation for several thousand internally displaced persons in Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo has worsened in the two years since Islamist insurgents took control of the town, forcing aid agencies to withdraw, thus cutting aid deliveries.

**SUDAN** - The immunization of children largely cut off from international aid since February 2010 in the mountainous Jebel Marra region of Darfur is set to expand following an agreement with the Sudanese government over access.

## ■ASIA

**Asia Region** - Laws that criminalize HIV/AIDS exposure or commercial-sex work are adversely affecting prevention programs and the ability of HIV/AIDS sufferers to access treatment across Asia, health advocates warn. The laws also reinforce social stigma associated with the disease and contribute to abuses by security forces.

**AFGHANISTAN** - It is the season for harvesting pomegranates - a major fruit crop in Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan - but some farmers say fighting there has badly affected their farms and livelihoods.

**KYRGYZSTAN** - A group of lawyers are demanding that the Kyrgyz authorities guarantee security and due process in court cases linked to inter-ethnic clashes earlier this year, to prevent the chaos and violence that has disrupted some of the hearings so far.

**PHILIPPINES** authorities declared a state of calamity today as Typhoon Megi hit northern provinces, sending thousands fleeing their homes and endangering the rice crop. The storm hit at the peak of harvest season carrying winds of 117 miles per hour.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**MEXICO** - It is unlikely that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a series of anti-poverty targets adopted by the international community, will be met for Mexico's indigenous people, a new United Nations report says.

WFWO's Communications Team