



28 October 2010

Dear Leonardo:

On behalf of UNDP and our partners, I extend my sincere appreciation and personal thanks to you for making the *High Level Event on Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change – Scaling Up Local Solutions to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* of 20 September 2010 at the American Museum of Natural History – the significant success that it was. I have been travelling consistently since our event last month and to avoid any further delay I am taking time now while in Nagoya, Japan for the Biodiversity Convention's Conference of the Parties meeting to express our gratitude to you for your participation in the Policy Forum.

As you well know, the growing and progressively interconnected global threats of ecosystem decline and climate change will profoundly test the ability of communities across the globe to maintain viable livelihood options and to escape poverty -- undermining and possibly even reversing recent progress toward the MDGs. That is why, on the eve of the UN MDG Review Summit, we endeavored through this event to mobilize political will to promote the kind of policies and increased investments required to scale up local best practice in biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and adaptation to climate change as a means of accelerating and sustaining MDG progress.

Through the discussion in the Policy Forum that featured you, representing community leaders around the world, and other distinguished leaders, the key challenges and innovative ways forward were clearly and persuasively laid out. More than 500 participants - including heads of state and government, many ministers and distinguished leaders from civil society, business, academia, foundations and the media from around the world – participated with us that evening and heard your messages. And many millions more read about the event in the media over the days that followed.

By participating in an event that communicated these inter-linkages and gave voice and respect to the communities that you represent -- ones who are applying innovative solutions to these global threats, you have made a real difference. I also wish to congratulate you for being a winner of *2010 Equator Prize*.

The entire event is well captured -- through photos and video footage (including a one-minute 'highlights video') as well as through substantive background documents -- on our [website](#), so I invite you to visit the site at your convenience.

Once again, please accept our deepest thanks for your invaluable contributions, and we look forward to continuing and enhancing our partnership in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olav Kjørven', is positioned above the typed name.

Olav Kjørven  
UN Assistant Secretary-General  
UNDP Assistant Administrator