



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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5 June 2017

Excellency,

I am writing to express concerns about the two legal measures, MP 756 and 758, approved last week by the Brazilian Senate.

In recent years, Brazil has shown particularly impressive leadership in protecting biodiversity at home and globally. A number of innovative approaches have helped to conserve biodiversity and reduce deforestation while also making substantial contributions to the fight against climate change: the Programme *Corredores Ecológicos*; the programme to combat deforestation in the Amazon; the protected areas programme in the Amazon (ARPA); the establishment of indigenous reserves; the ecosystem restoration programme; and initiatives with the private sector to avoid deforestation. Many of these approaches have been applauded and recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity in the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

These efforts have also contributed greatly to the achievement of targets established under the Convention and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Brazil has also been a leader in the international negotiations in these processes, frequently setting the agenda. Further, the Convention benefitted from the wise leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Bráulio Dias.

I was very impressed by your joint presentations with His Excellency Mr. Blairo Maggi, Minister of Agriculture, at the recent UN Climate Conference in Marrakech and the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancun, in which a vision of a sustainable future for biodiversity and agriculture in Brazil was presented. This morning, I was pleased to learn about the additional measures announced by His Excellency Mr. Michel Temer, President of Brazil, at the celebration of the World Environment Day in Brasilia. I would like to congratulate you for the significant extension of the *Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros*.

However, I am very concerned that the two legal measures, MP 756 and 758, could have a strong negative impact on Brazil's rich biodiversity, establishing a worrying precedent for the future of Brazil's protected areas and possibly undermining Brazil's recent success in containing deforestation. I hope that President Temer, in considering these measures, will take into account the need to build upon the progress made so far to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other international obligations and commitments.

Thank you again for your important cooperation and for your support to the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

His Excellency
Mr. Sarney Filho
Minister
Ministry of the Environment
Brasília, Brazil

cc: Mr. José Pedro de Oliveira Costa, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests
Ms. Clarissa Nina, CBD Primary National Focal Point

