

# Media Update

19 July 2019

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## UNODC

MEDIA ADVISORY

### Inauguration of Air Cargo Control Unit, AllAP, Lahore

***At Air Cargo Control Unit, Air Cargo AFU Building Complex Lahore,  
10:30 AM on 22 July 2019***

UNODC's Global Container Control Program (CCP) will be inaugurating the Air Cargo Control Unit at Allama Iqbal Airport Lahore on 22 July 2019 at 10:30 AM. This Program was launched in 2005 with pilot projects in Ecuador, Pakistan, and Senegal. Karachi was among the first ports to establish a (maritime) Container Control Unit.

The Global Container Control Program (CCP) is a joint initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), which helps states to set in place an effective inter-agency law enforcement structure, to minimise the exploitation of containers for illicit drug trafficking and smuggling of various illicit goods such as chemical precursors, arms and ammunition, endangered species, and items relating to intellectual property rights.

Diplomatic Community, Senior Government Officials, Chief of Container Control Unit UNODC Vienna and officials from Law Enforcement Agencies will grace the event.

**You are cordially invited for media coverage at the inauguration of Air Cargo Control Unit @ Air Cargo AFU Building Complex Lahore, 10:30 AM on 22 July 2019**

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**FAO**

## PRESS RELEASE

**Biodiversity ‘hot spots’ in Asia-Pacific are under threat, endangering critical safeguards for food security and livelihoods**

Bangkok, 17 July 2019: The Asia-Pacific region has some of the world’s richest concentrations of earth’s biological diversity, but human activities, including the expansion of agriculture, are threatening the survival of many species and their ecosystem services, a conference on regional biodiversity mainstreaming heard today.

Asia and the Pacific is home to nearly half (17 out of 36) of the world’s biodiversity hotspots but the region’s continued rapid economic development risks further erosion of that rich biological heritage. The expansion of agricultural activities is a major driver, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has pledged to ensure that agriculture and food systems will develop in ways that reduce the risks to biodiversity.

The **[State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture](#)** report, published in February (2019) by FAO, presented mounting and worrying evidence that the biodiversity that acts as a foundation for our food systems is disappearing – putting the future of our food, livelihoods, health and environment under severe threat. For that reason, the agriculture sectors have a clear interest in conserving biodiversity because they rely on it for present and future production.



“Agriculture and food systems in Asia and the Pacific must do their part to help conserve and make sustainable the use of natural resources to ensure food security and nutrition for present and future generations,” said Kundhavi Kadiresan, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. “Biodiversity is critical for safeguarding this region’s food security, underpinning healthy and nutritious diets, improving rural livelihoods, and enhancing the resilience of people and communities,” she explained in remarks to a regional consultative meeting on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors.

## Asia-Pacific – a world apart in biodiversity

The Asia-Pacific region has undergone the world’s most extensive land-use transformation to agriculture and pastureland since the 1960s. More than half of the world’s remaining mangrove areas are found here – teeming with biodiversity – but increasingly threatened due to pressures of economic and agricultural development.

Likewise, freshwater ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific region support more than 28 percent of aquatic and semi-aquatic species, but nearly 37 percent of these species are threatened by overfishing, pollution, infrastructure development and invasive alien species.

The population of large wild mammals and birds has declined across the region. Habitat degradation and fragmentation, especially in forests and grasslands is largely to blame.

Among the different ecosystem types, forests, alpine ecosystems, inland freshwater and wetlands, coastal systems are the most threatened. Half of the planet’s largest islands are found in this region, as is the most diverse coral reef system in the world, yet this marine-rich biodiversity is extremely vulnerable to human activities.

## Mainstreaming efforts to protect biodiversity in all sectors of agriculture

At this regional consultation, convened by FAO and the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD), government officials from countries across the region have joined with international agencies, the private sector, NGOs and academia to consider some three-dozen best practices currently underway across the region. These include many indigenous people’s agricultural practices passed down through generations.

“This (Asia-Pacific) region is critical as it contains more biodiversity hotspots than any other,” said David Cooper, CBD’s Deputy Executive Secretary. “It hosts more than half the world’s farmers and fisherfolk and some of the world’s fastest growing economies. It’s no exaggeration to say what happens here will determine the future of life on earth.”

As the lead agency for sustainable food and agriculture systems, FAO is well positioned to contribute, facilitate, and accelerate the awareness and capacity building for sustainable food and agriculture production. FAO has been supportive of biodiversity-related international conventions, and continues to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other UN agencies to support member countries achieve the SDGs.

<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/news/detail-events/en/c/1201908/>

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