

Dr Tewolde B. G. Egziabher

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Tewolde B. G. Egziabher is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia. He is the spokesperson of the African Group in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and a member of the Compliance Committee of that Protocol. He is also a member of the Interim Panel of Eminent Experts to establish the Global Crop Diversity Trust under the FAO, a member of the Panel of Eminent Experts on Ethics in Food and Agriculture of the FAO and the Chair of the African Group in the Contact Group to develop the Standard Material Transfer Agreement of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In 1995, together with his wife, he started the Institute for Sustainable Development, which worked on a project with some farming communities to reverse land degradation, revegetate the land and raise agricultural production. The success of that project was such that it is now adopted as a country-wide programme.

Dr. Tewolde developed the Conservation Strategy of Ethiopia, which has become the basis for environmental protection in Ethiopia. While he was doing this, he represented Ethiopia in negotiating Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. He was the chief negotiator of the African Group in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. He was also the chief negotiator of the developing countries in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Dr. Tewolde is a plant ecologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Wales. His academic career has included university teaching, research and academic administration. He was Editor of "SINET: an Ethiopian Journal of Science", Leader of the Ethiopian Flora Project and Dean of the Faculty of Science in Addis Ababa University, and President of the Asmara University. He has many publications and is a member of the Biological Society of Ethiopia and the British Ecological Society, among others. He has won several awards, including the Right Livelihood Award of 2000 and an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Addis Ababa University in 2004.