



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

For use of the media only;  
Not an official document.

**“Plitvice the birthplace and Croatia the founding member of the Museum on  
Nature and Culture of the Convention on Biological Diversity”**

MONTREAL – 22 February 2006.

“Plitvice Lakes National Park—a World Heritage site—will be remembered as the birthplace, and Croatia as the founding member, of the Museum of Culture and Nature of the Convention on Biological Diversity,” said Dr. Ahmed Djoghla, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, as he received the first donation to the Museum at the opening of the Fourth Intergovernmental “Biodiversity in Europe” Conference. This conference brings together some 42 European countries in one of the oldest protected areas in Croatia to prepare the European contribution to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Curitiba, the “ecological capital of Brazil”, in the last two weeks of March.

During a ceremony attended by H.E. Dr. Ivo Sanader, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Minister of Culture, Mr. Božo Biškupic, donated a painting by Tihomir Lončar, a famous Croatian artist. In making the donation, Mr. Biškupic stated that “as one of the most biodiversity-rich countries, we are very pleased to be the first country in the world to contribute to this innovative project and to offer a painting of nature by a famous Croatian artist, whose work is a contemplative prayer for salvation and the protection of nature.”

Dr. Djoghla announced that other countries intend to make similar contributions during the ministerial segment of the Curitiba conference, to be attended by than 100 environment ministers from around the world to discuss biodiversity in relation to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **Information for Journalists:**

Photos of Dr. Djoghlać accepting the donation from the Republic of Croatia while attending the Fourth Intergovernmental "Biodiversity in Europe" Conference may be viewed on the website of the CBD at:

<https://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/photos.shtml>

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly-subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 187 State parties and the European Community who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place from 20 to 31 March 2006, in Curitiba, Brazil.

Information: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=COP-08>

Press Accreditation forms are available at:

<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/acreditations.asp>

For more information, please contact David Ainsworth +1 514 287 7025; mobile +1 514 833 0196; email [david.ainsworth@biodiv.org](mailto:david.ainsworth@biodiv.org)