



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Montreal –17 May 2007

This year, the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May will be celebrated on the theme “Biodiversity and Climate Change”. The theme is particularly appropriate, coming in the wake of the recently released Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The assessment makes it clear that climate change is real, that it is driven by human activity, and that, without action, its consequences on natural systems and on society will be severe.

Climate change is forecast to become one of the biggest threats to biodiversity. Tackling its causes is vital to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems and the services they provide to human societies. Protecting biodiversity and maintaining the resilience of ecosystems will at the same time help mitigate climate change, reduce its impacts and help us adapt.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a call for urgent and concerted action on climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is hosting a major event in Montreal on 22 May with dignitaries, including the Premier of Quebec, Canadian Federal Government Cabinet Ministers, and the Mayor of Montreal. International dignitaries include the executive heads of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and, through video messages, the Ministers of Environment of Brazil and Germany.

More partner organizations and countries than ever before are marking the day with special events, including the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters in Nairobi and its regional offices, and United Nations offices in New York and Tokyo.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a chance to show that we, as individuals and members of a larger community, care about the future well-being of our planet and in ensuring a better life for us all. Please join us in celebrating life on Earth.

For more information on the celebrations please visit:

<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007.shtml>

