



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

GREENFACTS LAUNCHES BIODIVERSITY DIGEST

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As a contribution to the International Day for Biological Diversity, an online summary of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-2) has been launched today in collaboration with GreenFacts. GBO-2, published last year by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, takes stock of the Earth's biodiversity, analyses the factors leading to biodiversity loss, and advocates key interventions that would reduce pressure on the natural environment.

GreenFacts is an independent non-profit organization with a multi-stakeholder governance and a non-advocacy policy, known for bringing complex scientific reports on health and the environment to the reach of non-experts by publishing clear and faithful summaries these reports. The latest addition to GreenFacts Digests, the summary of GBO-2, was prepared with financial support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and in partnership with Countdown 2010.

As with the biodiversity summary of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment published last year, GreenFacts has now distilled the content of GBO-2 in three levels of detail ranging from a dozen key questions and short answers on the main issues, through more elaborate explanations to the relevant sections of the original document.

Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said: "Informing the public in simple terms of the scientific underpinning of the loss of biodiversity is key for engaging all stakeholders for protecting life on Earth." He added that: "GreenFacts is to be applauded for its contribution to raising public awareness on this very important issue of conservation and preservation of biodiversity."

In elaborating on current trends in biodiversity, future scenarios and necessary conservation action, the GreenFacts Digest of Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 communicates the latest scientific consensus findings on our living environment both on land and in water. The Digest reminds us that biodiversity plays an important role in the way ecosystems function and in the many services they provide. Services include nutrients and water cycling, soil formation and retention, resistance against invasive species, pollination of plants, regulation of climate, as well as pest and pollution control by ecosystems. Land-use change, climate change, invasive species, overexploitation, and pollution are identified as the main factors leading to biodiversity loss.

Based on GBO-2, GreenFacts highlights that, while protected areas are an essential conservation tool to slow down the loss of biodiversity, they are by no means sufficient and must be complemented by economic incentives to conserve biodiversity and to use ecosystem services sustainably. Moreover, biodiversity must be integrated into the agriculture, fishery, and forestry sectors.

For more information on the celebrations please visit:

www.greenfacts.org/en/global-biodiversity-outlook/ and www.cbd.int/gbo2



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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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 in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States 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 out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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