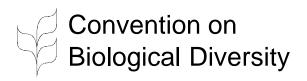
Secretariat



Ref: SCBD/I&O/MCS/34100 24 February 2003

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Subject: International Day for Biological Diversity 2003 - Change of Theme

This is to announce that the next International Day for Biological Diversity will be celebrated on 22 May 2003 and that the theme has been recently changed to *Biodiversity and poverty alleviation - challenges for sustainable development.*

We realize that many of you have probably started organizing events using the previously announced theme and apologize for the inconvenience caused.

Nevertheless, the Secretariat feels that we should be keeping the spirit of WSSD alive. Therefore, this day should be used to remind the international community of the importance of striving towards the goals agreed upon at the Summit.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points

