



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/OMG/NP/CG/63635

30 April 2008

NOTIFICATION

Launching of the *Green Wave* - a global tree-planting campaign for children and youth

Dear Madam/Sir,

As evidenced by the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign, and similar national, international and global campaigns, the planting of trees can have a real impact on raising awareness about environmental issues in encouraging citizen engagement in environmental issues, and helping people understand the work and the role of international organizations and multilateral environmental agreements - in addition to the environmental, economic and social benefits provided by trees.

Given the far-reaching impacts of tree-planting campaigns, I am very pleased to inform you of the launch of a CBD educational campaign, the *Green Wave*, aimed at children and youth. The *Green Wave* is a multi-year tree planting initiative leading up to the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010, that enables children and youth to make a difference – one school, one tree, one step at a time. It brings together students and teachers from around the world to raise awareness about biodiversity and the 2010 biodiversity target.

The *Green Wave* has been initiated by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) working with the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) of the Republic of Palau. The campaign has received support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and will be coordinated through the CBD Secretariat. The *Green Wave* will support the CBD programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness. I invite you to visit the website of the *Green Wave* at greenwave.cbd.int.

In participating schools, students plant a locally important tree species in or near their schoolyard. On 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), students around the world will count down to 10:00 local time, when they will *water* their tree in their respective schoolyards, thereby creating a figurative “green wave” starting in the far east and travelling west around the world. Throughout the day, students will upload photos and text summaries to the website to share their tree-planting story with other children and youth from around the world. An interactive map depicting all the *Green Wave* trees will go live at 20:10 local time, thereby

To: All CBD Focal Points



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COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



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creating a second “green wave”. Trees planted will contribute to the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign.

Within the CBD, the *Green Wave* will raise the profile of the upcoming ninth Convention of the Parties in Bonn, build momentum for the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, contribute to annual worldwide celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, and support the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

The initiative will be officially launched in Bonn on 22 May 2008 by the Federal Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, who together with the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel, the Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn, Mrs Bärbel Dieckmann, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, will plant a first, symbolic tree.

I would like to encourage Parties to share this announcement with their Ministries of Education to encourage the participation of schools and to kindly keep the Secretariat informed of *Green Wave* initiatives in each country so that we may publicize the initiatives of teachers, non-governmental organizations, CBD partners and Parties on the CBD website and learn from these experiences for future development.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary