



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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21 July 2008

NOTIFICATION

Theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2009 “Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species”

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to announce that the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) on 22 May 2009 will be:

“Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species”

Invasive alien species (IAS) are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threaten biological diversity. The theme in 2009 reflects the reality that invasive alien species have invaded and affected native biota in almost every ecosystem type on Earth.

Total annual costs of these invasions, including losses to crops, pastures and forests, as well as environmental damages and control costs, have been conservatively estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars and possibly more than one trillion. This does not include valuation of species extinctions, losses in biodiversity, ecosystem services and aesthetics.

Lectures, seminars, film presentations, cultural events, exhibitions and school outreach activities are just some suggestions that you may utilize to help draw attention to one of the most critical issues facing our planet today.

The Secretariat has established a Task Force of international and non-governmental organizations working on the issue of invasive alien species to assist you in the preparations of the IBD in 2009. Outreach and information materials created by members of the task force will be posted on a web portal in October 2008. Parties are invited to incorporate these into their national and local IBD celebrations.

The Secretariat requests that Parties inform us on activities planned for IBD which we will share with other Parties.

Finally, it is our pleasure to remind Parties that in 2010, the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity will be “Biodiversity for Development”. This theme reflects the overarching importance of biodiversity to human well-being, to poverty alleviation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It was selected to coincide with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, which focuses on the role of biodiversity in human development.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary

To : CBD National Focal Points



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