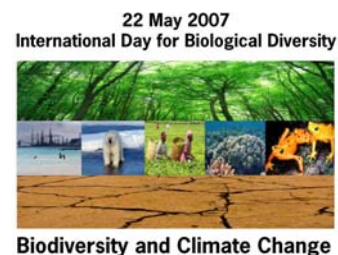




Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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ENHANCING PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARTIES IN BONN

Montreal – 30 April 2007

At the invitation of the Government of Germany, Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif paid a visit to Berlin and Bonn for the preparation of fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-4) and the ninth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) to be held in May 2008. During his visit from 25 to 27 April, the Executive Secretary met with Mr. Gabriel Sigmar, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU); the Parliamentary Secretary of State, the Deputy President of the Parliamentary Group of the Socialist Party, the Director of the Berlin Zoo, the President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation; the Deputy Director General of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Director General of BMU; and the German national focal point for the Convention.

The Executive Secretary held meetings with the CBD campaign office team for COP-9 and visited the site of the meetings and that of the high-level segment. Mr. Djoghlaif also met with representatives of German NGOs and was interviewed on Deutsche Welle radio.

Mr. Djoghlaif paid a courtesy visit to Bonn Mayor, Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann to discuss the follow-up to the Curitiba Cities Initiative, and discussed the preparation of the pre-municipal conference in Bonn on biodiversity.

At the end of his visit the Executive Secretary said: "I am extremely delighted with what I have heard and seen during my visit in terms of the commitment and dedication of the people, the local authorities and the government of Germany to the success of the biodiversity meetings in Bonn next year. I am convinced that the Bonn meetings will be a landmark event in the life of the Convention and will be guided by concrete actions and tangible results. COP 9 will therefore be a defining moment for the community of nations and people in meeting the unprecedented biodiversity challenges."

