



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PRESS RELEASE

For use of media only
Not an official document.

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE *Essential communication tool will better support phase of enhanced implementation of the Convention*

Montreal, 22 May 2007

The Secretariat is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at www.cbd.int on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity. In response to the requests of user groups from around the world, the new website features a graphic redesign and a revised navigation structure, designed to facilitate access to information.

“The website is an essential information exchange tool of the Convention and the clearing-house mechanism as well as a vibrant tool in promoting public awareness and engaging a wider audience in implementing the objectives of the Convention,” said Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary to the Convention. “The Secretariat is committed to continuous improvement of the website and this launch is the first milestone in the web-enhancement process.”

The site redesign is the result of a project process that has taken into account feedback from users around the world, advances in web technology, and the outreach strategy of the secretariat.

“The Secretariat is committed to provide the Parties and other biodiversity stakeholders with a high-quality state-of-the-art information tool that will effectively assist them in finding the information they need,” said Ahmed Djoghla.

The website will undergo continuous improvement in the months to come, including its translation into other United Nations languages and further review of the content to make the site more accessible and standard-compliant.

The domain name of the Secretariat has also changed. The new domain name: www.cbd.int, expresses the character of the Convention as an international agreement. The Secretariat will continue to own and administer the previous domain name. Parties and organizations that have links to the old www.biodiv.org website are encouraged to contact the Secretariat, which will provide guidance and support for the transition.

Information for journalists

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.

For more information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: marie.khan@biodiv.org