



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



PRESS RELEASE

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Biodiversity added to the agenda of Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit

Bonn - 26 May 2008— G8 environment ministers at the Kobe meeting adopted, for the first time, a call for action for biodiversity making it a key item on the agenda of the upcoming Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Since the establishment of the G8 Summit in 1975 in Rambouillet, France, biodiversity has never been given such a prominent place on the agenda of the meeting of the 8 world leaders.

The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity includes a road map for achieving the Johannesburg Biodiversity Target, adopted in 2002 by the world leaders at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The target aims at substantially reducing the rate of the loss of biodiversity by 2010. To this end, the call for action also contains a set of agreed measures on the sustainable use of biodiversity, on enhancing the world's protected areas, as well as engaging the private sector and mobilizing the scientific community to achieve the strategic objectives of the Convention.

“The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity represents a major commitment on the part of the country offering to host the Biodiversity Summit in 2010 - Japan, and builds on the contribution of Germany as the host of both the Heiligendamm Summit and this week's Bonn Biodiversity Summit,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “It is also a strong political message addressed to the world leaders conferring later this week.”

The Bonn Biodiversity Summit will begin on Wednesday 28 May and will be opened by Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, and with the participation of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the President of the European Commission Mr. José Manuel Barroso, as well as the President of the United Nations General Assembly Mr. Srgjan Kerim. Over 191 heads of delegation, including more than 100 ministers, will be attending this, the last major meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity before 2010.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity is the international framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits. With 190 Parties, the CBD has near-universal participation among countries who have committed to preserving life on Earth. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal. For additional information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: marie.khan@cbd.int



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