



Secretariat of the  
**Convention on Biological Diversity**



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY  
**22 May 2008**  
**BIODIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURE**

**MESSAGE**

**from**

**AHMED DJOGHLAF**  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**On the Occasion of the**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER**

**“Global Partnership for Global Benefits”**

*September 16, 2008*



ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE  
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



United Nations  
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220  
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, we congratulate the Montreal Protocol as a shining example of international environmental diplomacy and of the work of the United Nations – an example that the Convention on Biological Diversity draws on to achieve its goal of maintaining life on Earth.

This day offers an opportunity to take note of what can be achieved through international cooperation. Indeed, 21 years after its inception, the Montreal Protocol has achieved immense success in mitigating damage to the unique stratospheric layer that protects all life on Earth

In our view, this year's theme "Global partnership for global benefits" celebrates not only the multifaceted approach pursued by the Parties in the implementation of the Protocol, but also emphasises the need for cooperation between all stakeholders at all levels. Indeed, triumphs over one environmental challenge translates into real benefits in other areas. In fact, considering that a thinner ozone layer lets more ultraviolet-B radiation reach the Earth's surface where it damages living tissue, the CBD's efforts to conserve biological diversity would be curtailed if Ozone depletion were not controlled.

Additionally, in curtailing the use of ozone-depleting substances, the Montreal Protocol has not only protected the ozone layer and exemplified the effectiveness of international cooperation; it has also emphasised the interconnectedness of all life on Earth. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone is an opportune moment to highlight the fact that actions in one area have carry-on benefits in many other areas. While the Protocol has been working to reduce the use of ozone-depleting substances, greenhouse gas emissions have also been reduced by three per cent, contributing to the mitigation of climate change. It is the sum of these environmental improvements that strengthen our efforts and advancements in the conservation of biological diversity.

Even though the parties to a convention, or to a protocol, are countries, the success of its implementation depends upon all stakeholders – the business community, parliamentarians, youth, women, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, and the list goes on. As such, this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is valuable to raising awareness not only of the importance of protecting the Ozone layer, but also the urgency to preserve all life on Earth.

Without an ozone layer, the rich variety of life on Earth would cease to exist. Without a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will become more intense, severely impacting fragile ecosystems and potentially killing their unique life forms. Without the rich variety of life, so many bare necessities that we take for granted would become virtually inaccessible -- clean water and air, medicines, food, shelter, storm buffers, and so on. Thus, we see that the value of each individual environmental treaty is indisputable, as the synergistic effect of all environmental agreements is indispensable to life on Earth.

Thus as the world celebrates the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity wishes to reiterate its full commitment to support the efforts of the international community aimed at ensuring the ozone layer protection as a contribution to the reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss around the world.