

# Informationsdienst der Bundesstadt Bonn

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

As Mayor of the City of Bonn, I cordially welcome you to the UN city on the Rhine!

In hosting the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the city of Bonn is yet again serving as the forum for discussion of a central issue pertaining to sustainability. Biological diversity is one of the key bases for the survival of the human race. Convening from 12 to 30 May, COP 9 will focus on protecting species and habitats, as well as on reaching agreements for more global fairness in access to biological resources and in distribution of the benefits from utilisation of such resources.

In keeping with Bonn's best traditions, we want to help provide an adequate framework, and suitable publicity and attention, for this conference, and for its issues and concerns. In doing so, we plan to draw on our experience in serving as the headquarters for a total of 17 UN organisations, almost all of which – like the Convention on Biological Diversity itself – trace their origins to the Rio Earth Summit. In addition, we plan to build on our success in hosting past conferences of parties to UN conventions and large environmental conferences, such as Renewables 2004.

With this CD, we make the connection between global biodiversity issues and living local biodiversity. Bonn's vital biodiversity is visible in many different ways – in the 51 percent of its area set aside for nature or landscape conservation and via the commitment of its citizens, throughout all levels of municipal involvement.

Our role as COP 9 host has inspired us to take a fresh look at biodiversity and at our own contribution to it – both in our own interest and in a wider perspective, in exchanges with other municipalities throughout the world. In a broad range of initiatives and events, we have highlighted this issue, related it to everyday life and introduced it to suitable platforms. Relevant efforts have included planting campaigns in kindergartens, a major children's art project and the preparation of a municipal biodiversity report. An international mayors' conference will bring all of our efforts at the municipal level to the global debate.

In short, biodiversity will remain a key issue both for Bonn and for the many cities world-wide that want to join with the CBD parties in successfully implementing the decisions and agreements reached in Bonn!

I am delighted that biodiversity is coming to the attention of the press and an international public, and I personally wish you a richly inspiring and stimulating stay in our city!

Bärbel Dieckmann  
Mayor of the City of Bonn



Impressum:

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