



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May
2006**



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

Ref./SCBD/I&O/DA/DN/fd/54943

26 May 2006

NOTIFICATION

Subject: The International Day for Biological Diversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

Since 2000, the International Day for Biological Diversity has been celebrated on 22 May around the world. While the themes of each annual observance change, the overriding message remains the same: Life on Earth must be preserved and protected.

This occasion is a time of great celebration, and also a time for us to renew our pledge to cherish, protect, conserve, and promote awareness on the diversity of life that sustains us. I am deeply honored by the active participation for this year's celebrations by Governments and civil society, the young and the old, all of whom have come together with one voice to pay homage to the magnificent diversity that makes our planet unique.

A special thank-you goes out to the countries that provided glorious portraits of dry and arid landscapes. The photos from Algeria, Canada, Libya, Panama and Saudi Arabia have captured our imagination.

The Secretariat would like to build on the success of this initiative. We invite you to help expand the collection of photographs of the biological treasures of our planet and contribute your photos of unique landscapes, ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. This mosaic of life on Earth will be posted on the web site of the CBD for all to enjoy, serving as our inspiration and as a reminder of our commitment to preserve all life on Earth.

Now that 22 May is past, we invite you to help us plan for the coming year by sharing information about the activities organized in your country to celebrate this year's Biodiversity Day, so that all may learn from one another's celebrations. A report on the celebration of this year's International Biodiversity Day is being prepared and, for the countries that have not done so, the Secretariat would appreciate receiving a report of the activities undertaken at your earliest convenience, but no later than 15 July 2006. A Secretariat Task Force has been established to prepare a four-year strategy for the celebration of each year's International Day, and any proposal you may have on the theme to be selected until 2010 will be highly appreciated. Please send your contributions to: secretariat@biodiv.org

We look forward to receiving your report on the celebration of International Biological Diversity Day in your country, and to receiving photographs that illustrate the wonderful diversity that is life on Earth.

To: CBD National Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

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

Web: [http:// www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)
Email: Secretariat@biodiv.org

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montréal, Québec H2Y 1N9
Canada

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary