



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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12 February 2008

NOTIFICATION

Launching of the web page for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2008: Biodiversity and Agriculture

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you will recall the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) in 2008 is 'Biodiversity and Agriculture'. The Secretariat is pleased to announce the launching of the webpage for IBD, which includes an introduction to the theme and electronic versions of this year's poster and logotypes, in a format suitable for printing. It can be viewed at the following address: <http://www.cbd.int/ibd/2008/>.

Celebration of the IBD in 2008 seeks to highlight the importance of sustainable agriculture not only to preserve biodiversity, but also to ensure that we will be able to feed the world, maintain agricultural livelihoods, and enhance human well being into the 21st century and beyond. At the same time, it seeks to highlight the importance of maintaining the world's biological diversity, upon which agriculture and future production is so dependant.

The poster and logos for the IBD 2008 have been designed from a traditional Gabba embroidered tapestry from Pakistan. The magnificent embroidery was donated to the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture in 2006 by Pakistan's Minister for Environment. Measuring some two metres across and two metres high, the intricately stitched and brightly coloured tapestry depicts scenes of everyday life and the rich heritage of biodiversity and agriculture in a farming landscape of Pakistan. Extracts from the tapestry are reproduced in a set of five logos that depict different aspects of a traditional mixed farming system – from the plough to the cooking pot.

As last year, printed copies of these materials will be distributed by the Secretariat to focal points and partners. However, given the costs and associated GHG emissions associated with shipments, we urge partners to use the electronic versions to reproduce the materials and make them available as appropriate. The Secretariat will soon make available to all Parties a variety of other materials to help celebrate the day, including a booklet on the theme, its Press Release, and messages marking the occasion from the United Nations Secretary-General and other dignitaries.

To: All CBD Focal Points and partner organizations



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In closing, I would like to request Parties, that have already initiated national plans for activities to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, to kindly keep the Secretariat informed of such plans, as well as other noteworthy activities organized by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other organizations, in order to include these events on the special pages of the CBD web site devoted to the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2008.

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

Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary