



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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15 January 2009

NOTIFICATION 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the United Nations General Assembly resolution **A/RES/61/203** in which the Assembly encourages Parties to the Convention, other Member States, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make preparations to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.

Further to the above, the UNGA invites all Member States to create national committees, with the participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities, to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). I invite all Parties to keep the Secretariat informed of the status and activities of such committees by communicating with Mr. David Ainsworth, the designated focal point at the Secretariat, at david.ainsworth@cbd.int.

I am also pleased to announce that the Secretary-General of the United Nations will appoint, before 2010, an honorary ambassador for the 2010 IYB, who would have a mandate to call for practical actions and solutions towards meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The UNGA has also decided to convene at its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State, Government and delegation, to discuss the CBD and the steps to be taken beyond 2010.

The Secretariat will be making resource material for the IYB available to Parties beginning in the second quarter of 2009.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To : CBD National Focal Points



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