



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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6 February 2008

NOTIFICATION International Year of Biodiversity

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw your attention to the resolution 61/203 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and proclaiming 2010 as the International year of Biodiversity. The General Assembly invited “relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make preparations to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity”.

In its decision 63/414 adopted on 19 December 2008, the General Assembly encouraged *United Nations departments, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions to fully support and participate, as appropriate, in the activities being envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, under the auspices of the secretariat of the Convention.*

In addition, the General Assembly decided to convene at its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with participation of heads of State, Governments and delegations, to discuss the Convention on Biological Diversity and the steps to be taken beyond 2010.

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

I will kindly invite you to keep the Secretariat informed of any activity that your organization intends to undertake to celebrate this important event which will also coincide with the convening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya, Japan on 18-29 October 2010.

Mr. David Ainsworth is the designated focal point at the Secretariat. He can be contacted at david.ainsworth@cbd.int.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlafl
Executive Secretary

To: International Organizations and stakeholders



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