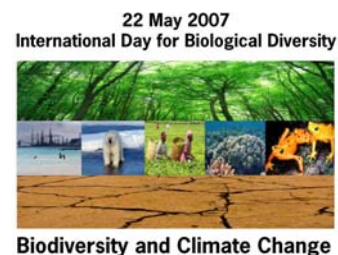




# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ENHANCED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION FOR LIFE ON EARTH**

*Montreal – 14 March 2007*

For the first time in the history of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the President of the Standing Committee and the Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat, commonly referred to as the Bern Convention, paid a visit to the Secretariat on 12-13 March. During this visit, the elements of an enhanced partnership between the secretariats of the two conventions were agreed upon.

A Memorandum of Cooperation, to be signed at the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, in Strasbourg on 26 November 2007, will centre on the promotion of joint activities on issues such as protected areas, invasive alien species, climate change, plant conservation, and important outreach activities such as public communication and public awareness. In this regard, it was agreed that the Secretariat of the Bern Convention will celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, on the theme of climate change, on 22 May.

“These two days of meetings have demonstrated the real importance of close collaboration between the main global biodiversity treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Europe’s regional biodiversity convention, the Bern Convention, to contribute to the reinforcement of international governance of biodiversity that we all need in order to achieve the 2010 target and beyond,” said Veronique Herrenschmidt, Chair of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. The 2010 biodiversity target aims to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.

It was agreed that the experience gained by the 45 Parties to the Bern Convention on issues related to biodiversity be shared with other regions of the world, in particular Africa. The two conventions agreed to work together to implement the strategic partnership, signed earlier this year between Portugal and selected African countries, to promote capacity-building through training and exchange of experiences and best practices.

“The discussions held here have highlighted the important role that the Bern Convention will continue to play in the regional implementation of the Convention,” said Carolina Lasén Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention.

Dr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity stated, “It is fitting that while the Secretariat is actively engaged in the preparation of the next meeting of its Conference of the Parties to be held in Bonn,

Germany, in May 2008, an agreement has been reached with one of the oldest biodiversity conventions in Europe for an enhanced era of cooperation for achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. I hope that this will be emulated by other regional biodiversity conventions.”

### **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat (Bern Convention).**

The Bern Convention is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation, which covers the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. Its aims are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote European co-operation in that field. Adopted and signed in Bern, Switzerland, in September 1979, it came into force on 1 June 1982. It counts among its Contracting Parties 40 member States of the Council of Europe, as well as Burkina Faso, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and the European Community. The Bern Convention co-ordinates the action of European States in adopting common standards and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of Europeans and the promotion of sustainable development. The Convention is a fundamental treaty at European level for biological diversity.

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### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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