



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Montreal, 4 June 2007

As climate change is one of the burning issues on the global agenda, it is only fitting that the theme of this year's World Environment Day, "*Melting Ice – a Hot Topic?*", coincides with International Polar Year, and is reflective of the impacts of climate change on our planet. On 23 March this year, the World Meteorological Organization celebrated World Meteorological Day under the theme *Polar meteorology: understanding global impacts*, and on 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated under the theme *Biodiversity and Climate Change*. This highlights the importance of raising awareness of the negative impacts of climate change on all forms of life, and especially the fragile polar environments.

To mark World Environment Day, the United Nations Environment Programme publication *Global Outlook for Ice & Snow* was launched today in Tromsø, Norway. In addition, a range of events, reflecting the threats of climate change to people and wildlife across the world, were staged in Norway's most northerly city, as well as the capital Oslo and other Norwegian cities.

On Tuesday, 5 June, the Secretariat will launch the publication to mark World Environment Day here in Canada. The publication highlighting the changes in the volumes and extents of ice and snow, which both have global and local impacts on climate, ecosystems and human well-being, will be presented by Secretariat staff in three major Canadian cities: Montreal, Ottawa, and Vancouver.

