



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE “GREEN WAVE” LAUNCHED AT THE UN BONN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT

**Bonn - 22 May 2008**— A global initiative under the motto “One school, one tree, one gift for Nature” aimed at empowering youth to take charge of their future was launched today in Bonn at the 9<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, on the occasion of the International Day on Biological Diversity.

School children from 15 countries around the world acted to celebrate biodiversity by planting a tree and sharing their experience with others around the world on the website of the “Green Wave,” a new joint initiative between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of Germany.

The “Green Wave” was launched by the Minister of Environment of Germany, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Lady Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Diekmann, and the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Dr. Beate Jessel, in the Hofgarten park in Bonn.

“In keeping with the motto, today we begin with one school, one child, one tree—a gift for nature,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif. “This wave of schools, youth organizations and gardens, 40 in total from around the world, representing five continents, will grow as we move towards the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.” This initiative is part of the Youth Biodiversity Educational Portal (<http://www.cbd.int/youth/>) launched by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to promoting educational programmes that empower the children of today to play their role as the citizens of tomorrow.

The Green Wave is a tree planting celebration for children and youth around the world. Each year, the Green Wave will contribute to worldwide celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD). This year, students participated from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States of America.

On 22 May each year, students around the world will count down to 10 a.m. local time, when they will water their tree in their respective schoolyards, thereby creating a figurative “green wave” starting in the far east and travelling west around the world.

Throughout the day, students can upload photos and text summaries on the Green Wave website to share their tree-planting story with other children and youth from around the world. The interactive map will be launched at 20:10 local time, thereby creating a second “green wave”.

The Green Wave is a multi-year campaign to raise awareness about biodiversity in general, and the 2010 biodiversity target in particular, that contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) programme of work on communication, education and public awareness.



ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE  
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The Green Wave builds on the 20 +10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity project initiated and carried out in 2007 in schools in ten countries around the world as a contribution to the UNEP Plant for the Planet Billion Tree Campaign and celebration of IBD 2007.

The Website of the Green Wave can be found at: <http://greenwave.cbd.int/>

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

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity is the international framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits. With 190 Parties, the CBD has near-universal participation among countries who have committed to preserving life on Earth. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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