

COMMUNIQUÉ

The human dimension of the impact of climate change on biodiversity in Europe

Montreal, 24 March 2010--The European Environment Agency (EEA) today launched a special issue of *Signals* in support for the International Year of Biodiversity.

Signals 2010 has an umbrella theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change and tells six stories about people and the environment they live in. These “eyewitnesses” invite readers on a journey to familiar and distant places looking again at the foundations of life on Earth—water, soil, air and biodiversity—as you go. Although their observations are personal and local, their plight is common and global.

This issue of *Signals* is in support of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, especially on 22 May – the International Day for Biological Diversity.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, congratulated the EEA for its initiative, stating that: “The issues of climate change and biodiversity are two sides of the same coin. Telling the stories of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the human communities of our planet is an important part of our work for this International Year of Biodiversity.”

He added that: “It is for this reason that we are glad to see this high-quality publication issued and made available around the planet. We are glad to have the EEA as one of our partners for the IYB.”

Prof. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of EEA, said: “We rely on the richness of life on this planet for our food, shelter and such basic needs as clean air. We are a part of this diversity and cannot live without it. In *Signals* ordinary people observe how changes to their environment affect not only animal and plant life, but also their livelihood and lifestyle.”

Signals is available in all 26 EEA languages here: www.eea.europa.eu/signals. Paper copies of *Signals* can be ordered from the EEA: www.eea.europa.eu
