

International Biodiversity Day 22nd May 2005

Quote from Jim Knight MP (Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. UK)

The importance of biodiversity for its own sake, for the ecosystem services it provides and for its contribution to human livelihoods is too vital to ignore. It is no coincidence that the regions facing the greatest challenges in meeting the 2015 Millennium Development Goals are also regions facing large problems of ecosystem degradation. I believe that the real gains for reducing biodiversity loss and creating sustainable livelihoods will come through mainstreaming – that means taking account of biodiversity in all our decision making: by governments, by business and, of course, through the development aid process.

International biodiversity day and the launch of the MA biodiversity synthesis report provide a real opportunity for us to continue to raise the profile of biodiversity issues amongst key decision makers around the world. We must step up our efforts to explain and promote the importance of biodiversity and the services which it supports if we are to change the attitudes and practices which result in its loss. These messages are too important to ignore.