



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

MESSAGE
FROM
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MR. AHMED DJOGLAF

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

16 September 2007

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

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On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would like to congratulate the Montreal Protocol on its tremendous achievements over the past twenty years.

This day is an opportunity not only to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the Ozone layer, but to also take stock of the distance the world has come in reducing the production and consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals – advancements that would have been impossible without leadership and dogged commitment to achieving real change.

Unfortunately, despite the substantial reductions in ozone-depleting substances achieved in the past 20 years, the chemicals previously emitted persist in the atmosphere and continue to degrade the ozone layer. While little can be done to change the past, the Montreal Protocol has proven that something can be done about the future. Ozone protection is a continuum that requires a sustained commitment from all stakeholders to ensure the continued successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol – truly “Success in Progress”. Indeed achievements made in protecting the ozone layer serve as a guiding example of what can be accomplished through sincere, concerted cooperation and determination to achieve change.

When the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was created in 1985, the link between chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) emissions and ozone depletion had not yet been proven. Despite this lack of certainty the world forged ahead and signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on September 16, 1987. At that time there were twenty-four signatories to the Protocol. Twenty years later, 191 countries have ratified the Protocol and achieved a global reduction in the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances of about 95 per cent. The world's commitment to protecting the ozone layer has weathered the storms and proven that patience and international collaboration are the keys to tackling global environmental problems. It can be done. The international community needs to tap this resolve and apply it to the many other issues threatening our world.



In curtailing the use of ozone-depleting substances the Montreal Protocol has not only protected the ozone layer and exemplified the effectiveness of international cooperation; it has also emphasised the interconnectedness of all life earth. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone is an opportune moment to highlight the fact that actions in one area have carry-on benefits in many other areas. While the Protocol has been working to reduce the use of ozone-depleting substances, greenhouse gas emissions have also been reduced by three per cent, contributing to the mitigation of climate change. It is the sum of these environmental improvements that bolster our efforts and advancements in the conservation of biological diversity.

Without an ozone layer, the rich variety of life on earth would cease to exist. Without a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will become more intense, severely impacting fragile ecosystems and potentially killing their unique life forms. The value of each individual environmental protocol is indisputable, as the synergistic effect of all environmental protocols is indispensable to life on earth.

Thus as the world celebrates the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity wishes to reiterate its full commitment to support the efforts of the international community aimed at ensuring the ozone layer protection as a contribution to the reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss around the world.