

**First Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity
Berlin, 3 June 2009**

Berlin Declaration on Private Donorship for Biodiversity

In his conclusion of the High Level segment of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), Minister Gabriel had presented the “Bonn Agenda on Global Biodiversity” describing a clear roadmap to COP 10 and specifying 6 main issues on which the German presidency would put a special focus on. One of the issues was the mobilisation of financial resources *“Appropriate financing of all three pillars of the CBD is vital. The German CBD-presidency will pay special attention to enhance cooperation between CBD, GEF and other funding institutions and mechanism. We will continue our efforts to establish new and innovative funding mechanism on all levels.”*

As a Follow-up, the German COP 9 Presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with inspiration by Kristine and Douglas Tompkins, held the **First Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity** in Berlin on 3 June 2009. The event was meant to provide leading figures from international politics, the United Nations Environment Programme, high-ranking representatives of associations and the business sector and selected private individuals a platform to discuss options and opportunities of private financial commitment for global biodiversity conservation. The Forum was opened by State Secretary Machnig. Private donors, representatives from international NGOs, private foundations, and international financial institutions were given the opportunity to present their respective projects and activities and to share their views on the topics on the agenda.

Generally the forum underlined that biological diversity constitutes the indispensable foundation of our lives and of economic and social development and stressed the fundamental importance of biodiversity for human livelihoods and the crucial role of biodiversity in poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Participants also noted with deep concern that human-induced extinction of biodiversity is still advancing at a dramatic pace. Having only a few months left to reach the target agreed by the heads of state and government in Johannesburg to significantly reduce the loss of biological diversity by 2010, all participants felt the urgent need to scale up efforts at all levels.

Participants generally agreed that one area where increased effort is necessary is the provision of additional financial resources for the effective and efficient implementation of the decisions of the CBD. Governments and international financial institutions should take the lead to provide these resources, on the other hand activities by NGOs, foundations and private persons could also provide additional financial support for global biodiversity protection. In this context participants appreciated the leadership GEF is taking in involving the private sector.

The LifeWeb Initiative was highlighted as one important tool to bring together different funding sources.

Participants of the Forum thanked the German presidency for the initiative to hold a global private donor forum to explore opportunities for further private engagement for global biodiversity protection and to discuss synergies between public and private funding. They applauded the speakers of the Forum on their activities and their outstanding engagement and they invited the Executive Secretary of the CBD to explore possibilities for regular private donors meetings and with this to start a tradition for an exchange of governments, stakeholders and private donors.

The Forum further encouraged the Executive Secretary of the CBD to make this summary available to the members of the COP bureau and all CBD National Focal Points and to initiate a permanent dialogue with private donors.