

## **Invitation to attend a public lecturer on the World biodiversity day at Uganda Museum**

According to Wilson's book titled "Bio-Diversity" (1986), the word "Biodiversity" refers to a contraction of "Biological Diversity" which generally means life, the world and the variation of life for the entire globe. In simple terms, it refers to the "HUGE" variety of animals and plants on our planet, together with the places where they are found. Biological diversity is the resource upon which families, communities, nations and future generations depend. It is the link between all organisms on earth, binding each into an interdependent ecosystem, in which all species have their role. In short, it is the web of life.

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 "The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)" to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The first International Day for Biological Diversity was 29th December, 1993 and was created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly and this was the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was partly done because it was difficult for many countries to plan and carry out suitable celebrations for the date of 29 December, given the number of holidays that coincide around that time of the year.

2011 is the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) and this is why this year's International Day for Biological Diversity focuses on forest biodiversity. More than 5,000 commercial products of our everyday life, such as fuel, herbal medicines, food, furniture and clothing, are provided by forests. Forests prevent soil erosion and help to regulate the climate; they provide clean water; forests are the most biodiversity land-based-ecosystem and their biological resources can produce precious social, cultural and economic benefits. They are indispensable for humankind. But now they are facing the grievous threat of deforestation, climate change, commercial hunting and invasive alien species (IAS) that is non-indigenous species, plants and animals that damage the bioregions they invade. In this special year, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are working together to stress the importance of forest biodiversity to humankind. The theme is "Forests for People", to highlight and celebrate the crucial role of people in the management, conservation and sustainable development of the World's forests.

Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) has planned to celebrate the World biodiversity day in Uganda and requests you to attend. Although "The World Biodiversity Day" is normally celebrated on 22nd May every year, PROBICOU has realized that the 22nd May of this year falls on a Sunday. PROBICOU has therefore decided to celebrate this event on Wednesday 25th May 2011. The celebrations will be held at the Uganda National Museum from 2:00pm-5:00pm and the chief presenter will

be the Executive Director of the National Environment Management authority (NEMA). The main topic for discussion will be the “Forestry Biodiversity and peoples livelihood in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities which is in line with the global theme “Forestry Biodiversity as earths living treasure”.

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**Proposed schedule for the public debate to celebrate the world Biodiversity Day  
25<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

| Activity                   | Topic  | Responsible person/presenter | Presenter     | Duration      |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Registration               |  | PROBICOU                     |               | 2:00-2:20 PM  |
| Introductions              |  | PROBICOU                     |               | 2:20-2:30 PM  |
|                            |  |                              |               |               |
| <b>Presentations</b>       | Forestry Biodiversity and peoples livelihood in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities | NEMA                         | ED NEMA       | 2:30-3:00 PM  |
|                            | The status of Uganda's forest reserves   | Makerere University          | Dr. Bakuneeta | 3:00-3:30 PM  |
|                            | linkages between poverty & biodiversity conservation                                 | PCLG-Uganda                  | Dr. Kasoma    | 3:30-3:50 PM  |
| <b>General discussions</b> |  | UFWG                         | UFWG          | 3: 50-500 PM  |
| Way Forward                |  | PROBICOU                     | PROBICOU      | 5: 00-5:20 PM |