



PRESS RELEASE

AN INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK THAYATAL

The Thayatal partner of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 Director Brunner: Protection of biodiversity is everybody's business

(Hardegg, January 2010) **The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. Since December, the National Park Thayatal has been a partner of this worldwide initiative as the first organisation in Austria and the first national park worldwide. After all the National Park Thayatal is one of the landscapes with the richest biodiversity in Central Europe. National Park Director Robert Brunner hopes to convince many people of the importance of biodiversity protection and motivate them to join in.**

Biodiversity, the diversity of life, has three main components: the diversity of species, the diversity of habitats and genetic diversity. The International Convention on Biological Diversity, which has been ratified by 192 States so far, commits its signatories to protect biological diversity as a whole.

As a partner of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the National Park Thayatal is planning to hold many events within this framework. Whether it is the Day of Species Diversity, the herb festival or natural history topics, all these events aim at providing information on the diversity of life. Each of us has the means to personally contribute to the protection and conservation of biodiversity, through choosing our food, designing our living environment or in our leisure activities.

The number of species in the world is unknown. Some disappear before they have even been detected and investigated, probably also those which would have been useful to humans. Biodiversity loss is a fact and it is also clear that humans contribute to it. This should also be brought to the public's attention in the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

As the first Austrian organisation and the first national park worldwide, the National Park Thayatal committed itself to disseminate, in a global partnership, information on biodiversity both at national and international level, and set initiatives. "It is to be hoped that many more organisations jump on the bandwagon", says Director Brunner.

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Further information:

www.cbd.int (English)

www.biologischevielfalt.at (German)

www.countdown2010.net (English)

www.vielfaltleben.at (German)

The National Park Thayatal supports:

