

Biodiversity for Development Newsletter



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Issue no. 2
May 2008

THE 9TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBD (COP-9)

will be held in Bonn, Germany, from May 19-30, 2008. During this conference, the Biodiversity for Development Initiative will be officially launched at a high-level panel discussion on May 27th. Other COP-9 events on related issues may also be of interest to network members.

NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:

The Conference of the Parties (COP), which occurs every two years, gathers all the 190 governments that have ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). COP is the governing body of the CBD, and advances the Convention's implementation through the decisions it takes at these meetings. The agenda of the conferences is very wide-ranging, reflecting the various programmes of work the COP has established.

In addition to the national delegations, a broad spectrum of environmental and development organizations participate actively in the COP meetings. More than 5,000 participants are expected at the upcoming meeting in Bonn, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local community members, youth, parliamentarians, members of the scientific community, media and business representatives, as well as delegates from the 190 Parties to the Convention.

COP-9 participants will be invited to hold a special plenary session on May 22 to celebrate this year's **International Day for Biological Diversity**, which has the theme of "**Biodiversity and Agriculture**". This focus on agriculture is timely, as the international community is presently faced with one of the most severe food crises of modern history. Renewing biological diversity in agriculture, including methods of dealing with the adverse effects of climate change, is an important issue on the agenda of COP-9. The conference will also focus on the **2010 Biodiversity Target**, which aims to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global and national levels by 2010, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON "BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION"

27 May 2008, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Biodiversity for Development initiative will be officially launched at a high-level discussion during COP-9, co-chaired by **H.E. Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**, German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, and **Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif**, CBD Executive Secretary.

The panel will include selected **government ministers and directors of multilateral and bilateral organizations**. In addition to launching the Biodiversity for Development initiative, the aim of the panel discussion is to share approaches and experiences on **how to better integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into development and poverty reduction development strategies and programmes**.

The panel will have three specific objectives:

1. Provide a quick overview of current and ongoing related activities being undertaken on this issue within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategic Plans (PRSPs);
2. Demonstrate that integrating biodiversity considerations into development projects can result in positive outcomes for both development and biodiversity;
3. **Launch the Biodiversity for Development network** bringing together main development organizations and cooperation agencies.



A series of posters illustrating the links between biodiversity, development and poverty alleviation will be exhibited in the conference room during the high-level panel discussion. Informal meetings between CBD Program Officers in charge of this initiative and representatives of organizations involved in the network will also be scheduled during the conference.

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATION TOPICS:

- 1) **H.E. Mr. Alain Joyandet**, Secretary of State, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs: *“The integration of biodiversity into development sectors: the French development cooperation perspective”*
- 2) **H.E. President Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr.**, President of the Republic of Palau, Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA): *“Sustainable use of island biodiversity as a tool for development: making the most of the wealth of islands”*
- 3) **H.E. Ms. Georgette Koko**, Gabon Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Conservation, The Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC): *“Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: a way to fight poverty in Africa”*
- 4) **H.E. Mr. Harison E. Randriarimanana**, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest and Tourism – Republic of Madagascar: *“Linking biodiversity, poverty alleviation and development: the experience of Madagascar”*
- 5) **Mrs. Monique Barbut**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility (GEF): *“The GEF Small Grant Programme: a tool for biodiversity and development at the community level”*
- 6) **Mr. Wolfgang Kroh**, Speaker of the Board of Managing Directors, KfW Entwicklungsbank: *“The relevance of sustainable finance for biodiversity protection and its sustainable use”*
- 7) **Mr. Stephen Groff**, Deputy Director Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD: *“Strategic Environment Assessment: a crucial tool to better integrate biodiversity into development and poverty alleviation policies”*
- 8) **Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd**, Director of the Environment and Energy Group, UNDP: *“The role of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals”*
- 9) **Mr. Bakary Kante**, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP, *“The Poverty and Environment Initiative: Integrating sustainable use of biodiversity into National Development processes”*
- 10) **Representative** from the Equator Initiative/ UNDP: *“How to better integrate biodiversity considerations at the community level: the example of the Equator Initiative”*



SOME OTHER COP-9 EVENTS RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- **Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction Day**, May 24, Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG). A one day meeting highlighting emerging experiences in linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in policy and practice. <http://www.povertyandconservation.info/>.
- **Achieving Synergies Between the CBD and UNFCCC: The Potential for Pro-Poor REDD**, May 19, PEP
- **Small-Scale Fishing Communities: Perspectives on Marine Conservation and Management**, May 21, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples
- **Linking Biodiversity with Improved Livelihoods- Case Studies from Africa**, May 22, Birdlife International
- **Best Practices for Development, Implementation and Evaluation of NBSAPs**, May 22, SCBD
- **ABS. Communities, Business and Livelihoods**, May 23, Equator Initiative and UNU-IAS
- **Food Security in an Era of Climate Change: What can Agricultural Biodiversity Contribute and how?** May 26, Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, CGIAR, UNEP and other organizations.
- **Linking Biodiversity and Tourism**, May 26, WTO
- **Pastoralism as Conservation: High Nature Value Pastoralism**, May 26, IUCN
- **BMBF Projects: The Other Perspective: Visions of African Stakeholders on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development**, May 28, PT-DLR Funding Agency on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

USEFUL LINKS:

For information about COP-9: <http://www.cbd.int/cop9/>
and COP9 side-events: <http://www.cbd.int/cop9/side-events/?mtg=COP-09>