



22 MAY 2013
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
WATER & BIODIVERSITY



Message from Julia Marton Lefevre, Director-General of IUCN

International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2013

If biodiversity is life on Earth, then water is the lifeline for biodiversity. IUCN scientists estimate that up to one million species rely on freshwater habitats, and millions more, including human beings, rely on food, freshwater and many other services supplied by these precious ecosystems. On this International Day for Biodiversity, I encourage you to show your care for our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other freshwater ecosystems. I myself will be celebrating the 2013 Day in Russia, home to many lakes and particularly Lake Baikal, which contains one-fifth of the world's unfrozen freshwater resources. Freshwater is truly our life support system on this planet and we must all do our part to protect it.

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