



Activities held to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity



REPORT BY THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

In compliance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Enhanced memorandum of co-operation between the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979), signed in Bonn (Germany) on 23rd May 2008, the Bern Convention has engaged the following actions to celebrate the 2010 International year on biodiversity:

- The logo of the 2010 International year on biodiversity has been displayed on top of the Bern Convention's website, in both English and French. The logo of the Decade on Biodiversity (2011 – 2020) will be soon posted on the Convention's website (www.coe.int/bernconvention);
- The event "European Biodiversity Day" was held at the Council of Europe on 28 April 2010 to mark the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The event was organised by the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and with the support of the Bern Convention. To underscore their common objectives, the three Council of Europe institutional bodies signed a Joint Declaration entitled "Working together for Biodiversity, Protection of Natural Areas and the Fight against Climate Change". The Declaration represent the renewal of the political commitment of the CoE Institutions to pursuing their action at Pan-European level to improve the state of biodiversity, protect natural areas, and fight against climate change.

The Declaration was presented to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention at its 30th meeting (6-9 December 2010).

A number of other events and technical meetings organised under the Bern Convention annual Programme of Activities were also the occasion to raise public awareness on the 2010 International Year of biodiversity including:

- Conference "Post-2010 Biodiversity Vision and Target: the role of protected areas and ecological networks in Europe" (26-27 January 2010, Spain);
- Sub-regional workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Georgia (20-21 April 2010, Tbilisi);
- Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, Regional Caucasus Network (17-18 May 2010, Georgia);
- Sub-regional workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in the Russian Federation (16-17 June 2010, Sebez National Park);
- Meeting of the Group of experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change (21-22 June 2010, Iceland);
- 2nd International Workshop on Invasive Plants in the Mediterranean Type Regions of the World (2-6 August 2010, Turkey);
- Meeting of the Group of Experts on Islands and Biodiversity (26-29 July 2010, Norway);
- Meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (14-15 September 2010, Council of Europe, Strasbourg);
- 30th Standing Committee meeting of the Bern Convention (6-9 December 2010, Council of Europe, Strasbourg).