



Republic of Botswana

## Department of Environmental Affairs

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Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism

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Secretariat  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environmental Programme  
413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 400 Montreal  
QC H2Y 1N9 Canada

Dear Sir/Madam

### **BOTSWANA COMEMORATES THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY (IYB) 2010**

The Government of Botswana through the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has, as from January 2010, engaged in activities that are geared towards celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity.

Botswana launched the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) 2010 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 by the Director of Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Stevie Monna. The launch was characterized by media briefings on national media houses by the high ranking officers in the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism. The highlight of this launch was at the International Day of Biodiversity that was commemorated in Tsetseng, a village in the north-western part of Botswana under the theme "**Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation**". This was an initiative that was in collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank Project that is spearheaded by the Botswana College of Agriculture supported by the Botanical Kew Garden in the UK, the Department of Forestry and Rangeland Resources and most importantly the Tsetseng community. The event was marked with a biodiversity hunt and stakeholders exhibiting environmentally sound practices and products.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June the DEA led the national commemoration of the World Environment Day under the theme of "**Biodiversity a Source of Life – Conserve it!**". The Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT), Honorable Onkokame Kitso Mokaila and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Honorable Ms Khin-Sandi Lwin, were guest speakers at the event. The speakers reminded members of the community and the

stakeholders of the importance of biodiversity to Botswana and the need to further the conservation efforts. The commemoration attracted stakeholders and exhibitors from a wide range of sectors such as education, media, mining, Non-Governmental Organisations, Parastatals and community based organisations.

Other IYB 2010 activities that have taken place in Botswana include the following:

- DEA exhibition during the Tourism Pitso that took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 ; this is a forum where issues that affect tourism are discussed by stakeholders of the tourism sector and relevant organisations. This year's theme was on **Tourism and Biodiversity**
- Environmental Movie and Dialogue where the public was invited to come and watch an Environmental Movie called **"Home"** followed by a light discussion based on the movie and issues of biodiversity.
- Published articles on conservation of biodiversity

Botswana has taken the IYB 2010 celebrations further and continues to ensure that we take part on the international discussions on the environment and meetings including the following

- The Regional Consultations In Support Of The Finalization Of The International Regime On Access And Benefit-Sharing And Conference For The African Environmental Ministers on the 4-10 March 2010, held in Windhoek, Namibia
- The Fourteenth Meeting Of The Subsidiary Body On Scientific, Technical, And Technological Advice (SBSTTA) 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010 held in Nairobi, Kenya
- The Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) of the Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD) 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 held in Nairobi, Kenya
- Resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (WG ABS 9), 10-16 July 2010 held in Montreal, Canada,

Find attached the schedule of upcoming activities that Botswana will engage in and pictures from the events. In light of this the Botswana government wishes to take this opportunity to express gratitude for your continued support in all our activities.

Thank you,



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S. Monna-Director