



Press Release

Young, versatile, committed: around 50 young people from all over the world present examples of the way forward at the UN conference in Bonn

Website for the International Youth Summit is now live at: www.go4biodiv.org/ – contribution to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Frankfurt / Osnabrück, 26.03.2008 – The future belongs to the young – yet increasingly they are threatened by the loss of biological and cultural diversity. The International Youth Summit Go 4 Biodiv centres on proposals about how that might be prevented and on ideas about what young people can contribute to preserving diversity. It will take place from 16 to 30 May in connection with the ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Further information about all aspects of the Youth Summit is now available on the website www.go4biodiv.org/. Go 4 BioDiv was initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is sponsored by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU, German Federal Environment Foundation). Cooperation partners are the City of Bonn, the Bavarian Forest National Park, the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH. UNESCO recently declared Go 4 BioDiv a contribution to the UN's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Go 4 BioDiv begins on 16 May with an International Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park: 51 young people aged between 17 and 30 from 16 countries will meet here. They originate from countries such as Benin, Bolivia, China, the Czech Republic, Germany, Madagascar, and Viet Nam. There are sometimes vast differences in how these countries approach the protection of species or cultural diversity. Nevertheless, the participants are united by their concern for the loss of the natural wealth of this one world and by the will take action. These young women and men are already working in their home countries toward the conservation of biological and cultural diversity.

They will spend ten days at the Wilderness Camp at the foot of the Falkenstein mountain in the Bavarian Forest National Park developing messages that they will then present in Bonn to the UN conference delegates and the public. Political decision-makers and experts from different disciplines will be available to hold discussions with the young people in various dialogue sessions. But direct experience is not neglected in the preparations: the young people will sleep in what are so-called "Country Huts" and "Theme Huts" in the National Park - cabins intended to give an impression of different ways of living in this world. Dance workshops, excursions exploring biodiversity and the National Park, and evening activities are also part of the programme.

Starting on 27 May, the group will then present their ideas and proposals to the UN conference delegates. They will also present the work they have developed in the National Park at the major exhibition "Expo of Diversity" organised by DBU to accompany the UN summit. Around 400 square metres of space at the exhibition site and a programme element on the main podium of the "Expo" will be set aside for that purpose.

For more information please visit: www.go4biodiv.org/