



Press release

International Youth Summit Go 4 BioDiv opens with a wilderness camp

47 young people from four continents create political messages, dance theatre and art works for the UN conference on nature conservation / meeting with Bavarian Environment Minister Otmar Bernhard

Berlin / Eschborn / Osnabrück, 16 May 2008 – Tomorrow sees the start of the international Youth Summit Go 4 BioDiv. 47 young people from 16 countries will first get together in a wilderness camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park, where they will prepare their contributions to the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9). Over 5,000 delegates from around the world will attend COP 9 in Bonn from 19 to 30 May to discuss the protection and conservation of species and habitats, sustainable use of biodiversity, and access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

The young adults participating in the Youth Summit Go 4 BioDiv, to be held in parallel to this meeting, will share their experiences with the protection and use of biodiversity in their home countries, engage in discussion with political decision-makers and formulate their statements about what they intend to contribute to conserving diversity. Creative/artistic aspects will also be a major feature of their work. The young people will create a piece of dance theatre under the direction of professional choreographers and two pieces of glass art, which they will present to the delegates to the UN conference and the public in Bonn between 27 and 30 May. To bring the wilderness camp to a close, an “Evening of Diversity” has been organised for 24 May, during which the young people will meet Bavarian Environment Minister Otmar Bernhard and delegates to the UN conference.

“For me, biodiversity is about more than plants, animals, and micro-organisms and their ecosystems,” says Monika Shikongo from Namibia. “It is about people, about us and our need for food, security, medicines, fresh air, water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.” The 22-year-old ranger is one of 47 young participants who are involved in a host of very different fields: a ranger in a national park in Vietnam, an oceanographer working in the heart of the Amazon region, or a German student of environmental technology, for example. Their profiles can be accessed at: <http://www.go4biodiv.org/home/youth-summit/participants/>. After close to ten days in the Bavarian Forest the young participants will move to Bonn, where they will stay with host families.

Go 4 BioDiv was initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is being sponsored by the German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU). Cooperation partners are the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, the City of Bonn, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, and the Bavarian Forest National Park.

Go 4 BioDiv

International
Youth Summit 2008



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COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

Press contacts & information:

We will be happy to put you in touch with young **people to interview**. Please contact:
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The Youth Summit logo and a selection of **press photos** are available for download at:
<http://www.go4biodiv.org/home/press/downloads/>

To **arrange an interview with the Bavarian State Minister** for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, Dr. Otmar Bernhard, please contact: Nina Lacher, Tel: +49 89 9214-2213.

For further information, please visit www.go4biodiv.org