

## Press release

Biodiversity plays a role in protecting human life

**At the International Youth Summit Go 4 BioDiv 50 young people from 16 countries present their ideas on conservation of biodiversity / Summit runs in Bonn until Friday**

*Bonn, 27 May 2008* – Conserving the planet's biodiversity means respecting human life. This was the message with which 47 young people from 16 countries opened the International Youth Summit in Bonn today. It is also to be understood as a plea to the delegation of the UN conference on nature protection currently taking place to give the issue of biodiversity the attention it deserves. The Youth Summit participants will be presenting their work and ideas at the Expo of Diversity, which runs alongside the conference.

Many political actors share their opinion: the opening ceremony was attended by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Manfred Konukiewitz, responsible for global and sectoral policies and for climate policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Mayor of Bonn Bärbel Dieckmann. In their statements they spoke of their respect for the work presented by the young participants. Ms. Dieckmann stressed: "What the future of mankind will be like depends on whether or not we will be successful in maintaining biodiversity. The Children's Summit demonstrated that the young generation has been sensitised for this issue and is willing to change its own behaviour for the sake of protecting biodiversity. And I am very happy that young adults from all over the world now have the opportunity to present their ideas and suggestions to the UN delegates and to the participants of the Mayors Conference in Bonn as well." For Manfred Konukiewitz the international dimension of protecting nature and biodiversity is particularly important: "Biodiversity is at its greatest in developing countries. We are working for the conservation of genetic and biological resources to ensure our survival and the survival of young people and to alleviate poverty worldwide."

Following the opening ceremony, the Youth Summit participants, in conjunction with the German forestry and timber industry, planted "Five trees for five continents" – as a symbol of the lasting impact they want their presence in Bonn to have. One of the trees selected, the European Beech, was planted at the Youth Summit itself. The forestry industry chose typical trees for the other continents of the world: the Wollemi, a rare species from Australia, the North African Atlas Cedar, the Chile Pine and the Ginkgo from Asia.

The International Youth Summit Go 4 BioDiv is being held from 16 to 30 May in parallel to the UN conference on nature protection. The first stage began on 16 May in the Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park: there the young participants worked on formulating their points of view on preserving biological and cultural diversity; they made pieces of glass art based on the ecological footprint model, produced a photo exhibition and a piece of dance theatre. The venue for the Youth Summit in Bonn is Area 144 at the Expo of Diversity; the Summit participants are available for discussions between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. every day. During the day they also have a number of activities planned.

# Go 4 BioDiv

International  
Youth Summit 2008



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE  
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

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

## Upcoming events at the Youth Summit in Bonn – a selection:

Time	Event	Venue
28 May From 10:00 a.m.	<i>Focus on Latin America &amp; Europe:</i> Includes: Gender and biodiversity in Honduras, Experiencing nature with all the senses: the code of practice for forestry education worldwide	Expo of Diversity, Area 144
29 May 1:15 p.m.	<i>Film, Dance &amp; Talk:</i> Including a dialogue session with <b>Adolf Kloke-Lesch</b> , Head of Directorate Global and sectoral policies; European and multilateral development policy; Africa; Middle East, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  <b>Prof. Dr. Werner Wahmhoff</b> , Deputy Secretary General, German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU)  <b>Karl Friedrich Sinner</b> , Director, Bavarian Forest National Park	Expo of Diversity, Main stage
29 May From 4:30 p.m.	<b>“A journey through diversity”</b> – young people from 16 countries stage a medley of entertainment  Performance by the Bonn based choir, the <b>MultiKultiChor</b> and a group of performers in Bolivian national costume	Expo of Diversity, Area 144
30 May From 10:00 a.m.	<i>Focus on Europe:</i> Including: how can we inspire interest in nature and development? Examples of environmental communication	Expo of Diversity, Area 144

For further information, press photos and the Youth Summit's logo please go to:  
[www.go4biodiv.org](http://www.go4biodiv.org),

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