



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Achieving the Johannesburg biodiversity target on protected areas

Press briefing on protected areas and the launch of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Technical Series 36: Protected Areas in Today's World: Their Values and Benefits for the Welfare of the Planet.

Tuesday, 12 February 2008, Iran Room at 1:15 p.m.

Participants will include:

His Excellency Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Her Excellency Ms. Marcela Aguiñaga, Minister, Environment, Government of Ecuador, the representative of the Brazil and Germany, in their capacity as the President of COP-8 and incoming President of COP-9 as well as the representative of Italy. The participants will also include Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Endorsed by World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and the United Nations General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit, Goal 1 of the 2010 Biodiversity Target calls on countries to promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes with its targets being: (i) At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved and (ii) Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected.

Currently numbering in excess of 100,000 and covering about 11.6% of the Earth's terrestrial surface, protected areas harbor great biological richness and are a major source of material and non-material wealth. They represent important stocks of natural, cultural and social capital, supporting the livelihood and wellbeing of many.

The second meeting of the working group on protected areas will review the progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) together with the International community is calling for incorporation of protected areas considerations into wider sustainable development and economic strategies.

Despite the significant monetary and non-monetary values of protected areas their importance remains poorly understood and greatly undervalued. As a result protected areas, in many instances, do not receive adequate financing or resources, making their effective management a challenging task.

A compilation of case studies on the ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits of protected areas, Technical Series 36 is an attempt to develop a greater understanding of the role of protected areas in both conserving biological diversity and in supporting human wellbeing.



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