

CMS Participates in the Roundtable: Challenges and Ambitions of Conventions related to Biological Diversity



Geneva, Friday, 4 June 2010 - Natural systems that support economies, lives and livelihoods across the planet are at risk of rapid degradation and collapse, unless there is swift, radical and creative action to conserve and sustainably use the variety of life on Earth. Actions are requested at all levels.

To raise awareness of the impending crisis and to spur the world to act, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. In September 2010, the General Assembly will hold a special high-level meeting on the subject. It will give the international community an opportunity to demonstrate much needed leadership in advance of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, to be held in October 2010, which will adopt a new strategic plan for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To celebrate World Environment Day, under the theme “**Many Species - One Planet - One Future.**” echoing the urgent call to conserve the diversity of life on our planet, UNEP/CMS was invited to a special roundtable, organized at the International Environment House to discuss the challenges and ambitions of the Conventions related to biological diversity. More than 100 people attended the roundtable led by Gaetano Leone from the UNEP Regional Office for Europe

The general discussion included the participation of Francisco Rilla, as Information and Capacity Building, John Scanlon, Secretary-General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Anada Tiéga, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention and Daniel Ziegerer, acting head of section global affairs, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

During the general discussion, Francisco Rilla (Information officer at CMS) stressed the importance of the Convention on Migratory Species in the process of synergies and harmonization of information management and , the role of capacity building strategies and the tools of the Convention (e.g. MoUs, listing species on the Appendices).

More information about the event and on the WED 2010, please see <http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english>