



## **Happy International Day for Biological Diversity!**

22 May 2010

*Welcome to the first issue of the GECHH News Note, an informative tool to raise awareness of the linkages between global environmental change and human health.*

The International Day for Biological Diversity is being observed on May 22 under the theme “*Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation*”.

The Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH) Project welcomes this theme as it draws attention to the crucial role of biodiversity in achieving global human health and wellbeing. Hosted by UNU’s Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, the GECHH likewise works to further understanding of the relationships between biodiversity loss and human health -- the regulation of infectious diseases, the provision of fresh-water and food, and the regulation of natural hazards, to name but a few.

“Biodiversity may be considered as our ‘life-support’: we all depend on biodiversity, every day, every moment. The scientific and policy communities must work together towards maintaining the vital linkages between biodiversity and human health”, says Aldo Cosentino, Countdown 2010 Ambassador and Director-General for Nature Protection at the Italian Ministry for Environment Land and Sea, in welcoming the GECHH approach to biodiversity and human health.

The loss of biodiversity can impact human health and wellbeing tremendously, especially the most vulnerable populations across the globe. “The International Day for Biological Diversity and the International Year of Biodiversity provide opportunities to increase synergies for combating biodiversity loss towards global human health and wellbeing within the framework of sustainable development”, says Anne Larigauderie, Executive Director of DIVERSITAS.

Happy International Day for Biological Diversity from the [GECHH Joint Project!](#)

### **Related Links:**

- [CBD Fact-sheet “Human Health and Biodiversity”](#)
- [Countdown 2010](#)
- [Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, volume 2, issue 1-2](#) (co-edited by A Larigauderie and HA Mooney, and dedicated to Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being)
- [DIVERSITAS](#)
- [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- [International Year for Biological Diversity](#)
- [Ministry for Environment Land and Sea of the Government of Italy](#) (Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare)