

# awards and events

## Champions of the Earth and B4E



For 2009, UNEP's Champions of the Earth awards are being recast to encompass four new categories: environmental policy, business, civil society and science and technology. The new categories – which replace the award's previous regional emphasis – highlight the urgency of cooperation between all players and all sectors of society to achieve a global Green Economy. The awards will go to transformational leaders around the globe: they may be politicians, civic figures or youth leaders, and can range from musicians to economists. The award ceremony will once again take place in parallel with the annual Global Business Summit for the Environment (B4E), co-hosted by UNEP and the U.N. Global Compact, in Paris, France, in April 2009.

<http://www.unep.org/champions/>

In July 2007, Live Earth made history with a seven-continent, 24-hour music extravaganza stretching from New York to Sydney and Johannesburg that brought together acts like The Police, Genesis, Madonna and Kanye West. Organizer Al Gore's 2008 follow-up is Live Earth India on 7 December in Mumbai. The concert will feature Jon Bon Jovi and Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan to raise climate change awareness. The organizers – who include Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – say the event will "provide a platform so India can continue its global climate leadership". The event will benefit projects, including the Light A Billion Lives campaign and Climate Project India, dedicated to promoting awareness and finding solutions to climate change while alleviating poverty.

<http://liveearth.org/>

## Live Earth India



## UNEP Governing Council



The UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum, 16–20 February 2009, Nairobi, Kenya, will discuss UNEP's work and the latest environmental issues. The two main themes of the meeting will be 'Globalization and the Environment – Global Crises: National Chaos?' and 'International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform'. Ministers will discuss formally and informally the interventions necessary to create a 'green economy'. The meeting will also be attended by U.N. heads, and trade union, civil society and business leaders.

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species has declared 2009 the Year of the Gorilla. Three of the four gorilla subspecies are listed as 'critically endangered' in the Red List published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Partners in the Year of the Gorilla campaign include the Great Apes Survival Partnership – under UNEP and UNESCO – and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The objective of the Year is to support scientific research and conservation action for gorillas, including funding training of trainers, develop alternative sources of income such as ecotourism, and boost education and awareness.

[www.yog2009.org](http://www.yog2009.org)

## 2009 Year of the Gorilla



## Earth Overshoot Day



22 September was the last day in 2008 on which the world's 6.7 billion people were living in balance with the planet's biocapacity. This is according to the Global Footprint Network, a group that aims to draw attention to estimates that people are consuming 40 per cent more resources than the planet can currently replenish. The last full year when humanity was deemed to be living in resource equilibrium was 1985, when the global population was around 4.8 billion. Since then, Earth Overshoot Day has come steadily earlier each year – in 2007, it was set at October 6.

[www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)

## Prix Pictet



The Prix Pictet is a major new global photography prize that focuses on sustainability, rewarding photographers "and the images they use to tell stories of urgent global significance". The inaugural prize was given to Canadian photographer Benoit Aquin for his series on desertification in China entitled 'The Chinese Dust Bowl'. Mr Aquin received his prize on 30 October from former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said he hopes the prize "will help to deepen understanding of the changes taking place in our world and raise public awareness about the urgency of taking preventative action."

[www.prixpictet.com](http://www.prixpictet.com)