

awards and events

Bali climate change conference



The **Bali Climate Change Conference** in December – the key climate change meeting of 2007 – brought together more than 10,000 participants from 180 countries in a bid to agree on the process towards a post-Kyoto agreement. The arduous negotiations culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap, which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change. The heat is now on for countries around the world to agree on a treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. Other key decisions taken at the meeting include the launch of the Adaptation Fund as well as decisions on technology transfer and on reducing emissions from deforestation.

http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php



Elizabeth Haub award for environmental diplomacy

Former UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer was awarded the **Elizabeth Haub Award for Environmental Diplomacy** in December in recognition of “excellence in advocating for global environmental stewardship”. The prize, given out every year by the International Council of Environmental Law, recognizes eminent individuals “positive contribution to the development and promotion of international law and policy in a general way”. During his time as UNEP’s Executive Director from 1998 to 2006, Mr. Toepfer played a key role in addressing major environmental issues including the 2004 Asian tsunami. As Germany’s Environment Minister in 1987-1994, he introduced groundbreaking environmental regulations and actively contributed to the success of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. He was also a forerunner in the negotiations for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the establishment of the Global Environment Facility.

http://www.kssf.de/EHF/English/ehf_awards.htm

B4E, the Global Business Summit for the Environment is a major international conference focusing on business and the environment in Asia. It will highlight the environmental challenges facing global business today and share strategies and best practices for corporate environmental responsibility. The summit, now in its second edition, will take place in Singapore on 22 April in the fringes of this year’s **Champions of the Earth** ceremony. The UNEP prize, given out every year, celebrates individuals from every region of the world who have shown extraordinary leadership on environmental issues.

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



B4E and champions of the earth

World Migratory Birds Day, on 10-11 May, will focus on the theme ‘Migratory Birds - Ambassadors for Biodiversity’. The event, which has taken place in May for three years running, is a global awareness campaign that aims to inspire people to take action for the conservation of migratory birds. Birds are some of the best indicators for the status and trends of biodiversity around the world, as they inhabit virtually all the ecosystems in the world. Throughout their annual cycle, migratory birds cross many countries and continents, some of them from the tundra to the tropics, linking different ecosystems. By conserving them and their environment, we ensure the conservation of biodiversity on a wider scale.

<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>

world migratory birds day



From 19 to 30 May 2008 Bonn will host the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**. This key meeting will see more than 5,000 delegates from all over the world meet to discuss the protection and the preservation of species and habitats, the sustainable use of biological diversity as well as how to fairly distribute access to natural resources. As a crucial safety net against climate change, biodiversity is higher than ever on the global environment agenda. Global warming is already threatening biodiversity, causing coral bleaching and endangering many species which rely on their unique habitats in order to thrive. But biodiversity resources can reduce the impact of climate change by helping to absorb CO₂, fight flooding through mangroves and drought-resistant crops, and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?mtg=cop-09>



international year of the reef (IYOR)

The **International Year of the Reef 2008** seeks to draw attention to coral reefs as key elements of the ocean environment. Led by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the worldwide event will raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and aims to motivate people to take action to protect them. The first IYOR was declared in 1997 in response to the increasing threats and loss of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Ten years later, there remains an urgent need to increase awareness and to further conserve and manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems. IYOR 2008 will be a year-long campaign of events and initiatives hosted by governments, individuals, corporations and schools around the world to promote coral reef conservation. The first event will be the launch of a report on the 2005 coral bleaching in the Caribbean that affected more than 80 per cent of the reefs in the region.

<http://www.iyor.org/default.asp>

The **Great Rift Valley Earth Festival** is a weekend-long festival of art and music on 22-24 February in Kenya’s Laikipia Nature Conservancy. The event is organized by Kenya-based environmentalist Kuki Gallmann in support of UNEP’s climate change awareness campaign and the UN Millennium Development Goals. The festival was conceived in order to raise environmental awareness through art, by bringing together artists from around the world — with 180 musicians, dancers and other performers from Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East. Water, ‘Aqua’ has been chosen as the theme of the event, and all proceeds will go to water projects to help communities in the Great Rift Valley area.

www.gallmannkenya.org



conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity



great rift valley earth festival