



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Press release

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19 May 2008
090/2008

Schavan increases research expenditure for biodiversity protection Ministry launches new priority on sustainable land management

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will considerably increase its funding for research activities which serve to protect biodiversity, as Research Minister Annette Schavan said on Monday on the occasion of the opening of the UN Conference on Biological Diversity. Through its funding of biodiversity research, the BMBF is making an important contribution to implementing the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which will be discussed by about 7000 conference participants in Bonn this week and next. "Scientists develop strategies on how to stop the loss of biodiversity," said Schavan. She announced that activities would be expanded to include the Sustainable Land Management funding priority. Project funding for biosphere research is thus increasing by about 50 percent to a total of 30 million euros per year. Together with funding for institutions, support for research on the protection of biodiversity will amount to about 90 million euros per year.

"The research findings are urgently needed to respond to the challenges of Global Change," said Schavan. "The aim of the UN conference in Bonn should be to develop a master plan which states what instruments can be used to tackle specific serious problems. Time is running out. We must therefore do our utmost to promote a consistent protection of biodiversity beyond all national interests. Eventually, people and society as a whole will benefit from these efforts."

The minister said that sustainable land management which respects the natural habitats of flora and fauna is also the best solution from an economic point of view. The research

projects funded therefore always include a focus on the cultural, social, economic and regional concerns of people.

A particular priority of BMBF funding is research in dynamic growth regions, where land use is changing particularly fast. The aim of biodiversity research is to understand the impact on biodiversity before vital resources are destroyed. The minister gave two examples – the international BIOTA AFRICA research network and the research collaborations for sustainable forestry.

Information on this topic is available at www.bmbf.de and www.dlr.de

Further information is available from Redaktionsbüro Forschung für Biodiversität (Phone: +49 30 700 186 677, E-mail: forschung.biodiversitaet@s-f.com).