



Opening of the exhibition „Focus on Nature“ Thursday, 22 of April 2004, 6 p.m.,  
United Nations, United Nations Visitors Lobby, First Avenue at 46th Street

Society depends on nature - and in particular on biodiversity - for food, fuel, shelter, medicines and livelihoods. Biodiversity also provides critical ecosystem services on which society relies for water filtration, pollution control, soil protection and reduced vulnerability to droughts, floods and landslides.

Developing countries are most severely affected by biodiversity loss and the crippling burden of poverty and disease arising from unsafe water and environmental degradation. Fortunately, there are a growing number of community initiatives taking root in the developing world that are finding ways to eradicate poverty while protecting the environment thus helping to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

The exhibition "Focus on Nature" - a series of outstanding nature photographs selected by the editors of GEO- highlights the issues at stake. These images were chosen not only for their beauty and visual impact, but also to underline international projects that are effectively promoting sustainable development. The projects have all been initiated or implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) or NGOs such as "GEO Protects the Rainforest". This exhibition is complemented by a series of photographs entitled: "People - Forests -Development", which presents a unique glimpse into the tropical rainforests of Africa and features projects in which local communities and GTZ are working together.

**The exhibit will be open from April 22 until 8 of June 2004**

On the occasion of the 12th session of the UN-Commission on Sustainable Development UNDP, The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, Equator Initiative, WCS, GEO Magazine, BMZ and GTZ have the pleasure of inviting you to the opening event of the exhibition

## „Focus on Nature“

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United Nations-Visitors Lobby  
First Avenue at 46th Street

### Programme:

- Opening address:
  - Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator
  - Kerstin Müller, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany
  - Ruth Eichhorn, Director of Photography, GEO
  - Launch of a CD-ROM outlining projects of the Equator Initiative
- Cocktails and Refreshments



We look forward to **welcoming** you.

Please bring this invitation together with photo identification.  
They will be needed to enter the United Nations building.  
RSVP to UNDP Equator Initiative at Email: [equatorinitiative@undp.org](mailto:equatorinitiative@undp.org)  
or Fax: 212 457-1370 or Tel: 212 457-1709

The government of Germany, UNDP and the Equator Initiative  
invite you to the opening of the photo exhibition  
“**Focus on Nature**” / “**People - Forests - Development**”

