

# World Heritage

## Our treasures at risk

Go 4 BioDiv

International Youth Forum  
Natural World Heritage Sites  
Nagoya / Japan 2010





**Benjamin, Switzerland**



**Pascal, Congo (DRC)**



**Li, China**



**Rosa, Peru**



**Marina, Germany**



**Yeny, Peru**



**Sven, Germany**



**Vladimira, Slovakia**



**Battsetseg, Mongolia**



**Candice, South Africa**



**Hacen, Mauritania**



**Shazia, India**



**Fabian, Switzerland**



**Avaaraq, Greenland**



**Sudeep, Nepal**



**Naoki, Japan**



**Unur, Mongolia**



**Saniingo, Tanzania**



**Tavite, Tonga**



**Yen, Viet Nam**

# **“Our Treasures at Risk – World Heritage Sites in Times of Climate Change”**

16 – 29 October 2010, Mt Fuji / Nagoya, Japan



# Introductory Statement

World Heritage sites represent the most precious cultural and natural treasures of planet Earth. Their significance for conserving ecosystems and biodiversity transcends individual interests and national boundaries. This is why their protection and management has been accepted as a joint responsibility of all nations.

Biodiversity provides us with vital services and is the resource base for our future well-being. In spite of numerous commitments, the world's biodiversity is under unprecedented pressure. Natural World Heritage sites, many of which are protected because of their biodiversity values, are not immune to these pressures, and are often threatened by competing demands for human use. Adding to these growing pressures is the impact of climate change, which could lead to increasing biodiversity loss. World Heritage sites put our commitment to reconciling conservation and development to a sharp test: are we as a global community willing to safeguard our treasures from threats? Can we ensure these special places will survive the challenge of increasing impacts by climate change?

To accomplish this growing task, all sectors of society need to unite and develop strategies for the future of all life on Earth. Young people as the future custodians of the Earth have a special responsibility to take a leadership role in this important task. The International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv, held in

parallel with the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) in Aichi / Nagoya, Japan, is an invitation to young people from selected World Heritage sites to come together, share their experience and ideas, learn from each other and articulate a clear message to governments and to society. In 2008, during COP 9 in Bonn, Germany, Go4BioDiv participants made themselves heard for the first time, providing creative, enthusiastic, critical, and urgent commentary on the need for action. Their input, warmly received by conference delegates, engaged the public and spurred follow up action in their home countries.

As co-organizers of this second initiative, we are convinced that the Go4Biodiv participants will again inspire important actions on global and local levels. We commend the Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum to all attending COP 10, and we hope its spirit and insights will become a valued and permanent element of future Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



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## “Our Treasures at Risk – World Heritage Sites in Times of Climate Change”

Young people will have to bear the consequences of today’s (in-)actions and decisions – therefore their points of view should play an important role at international conferences and in political decision-making. The Youth Forum Go4BioDiv, which takes place in parallel to the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, is embedded into the broader framework of the UN-Year of Biodiversity, the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures and the International Year of Youth. It aims at raising awareness about the inter-dependencies of biological and cultural diversity and inter-generational responsibilities for the conservation of our global treasures. It offers young participants the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and exchange views on natural World Heritage sites as the emblematic and visible ‘flag-ships’ of nature conservation, and the effects climate change has on these sites. This initiative carries on the achievements of the first Youth Forum Go4BioDiv held during COP9 in Germany in 2008, which was the starting point for a network of engaged youths around the globe.

The Youth Forum 2010 brings together young people from the most outstanding sites our planet has to offer. The 40 participants, who live or work in natural and cultural World Heritage sites, are young adults aged 18 to 28, representing 25 sites from Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Greenland / Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, Mauritania, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, India, Nepal, Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Australia, Tonga, and the host country for COP 10, Japan.

Still in their home countries, the young people have prepared a creative exhibition on natural World Heritage sites, showing their personal bonds via photos, comics, videoclips, poems or short stories. In Japan, Go4BioDiv 2010 activities previous to the Nagoya-conference were mainly conducted in close contact with nature, at a camp near Mount Fuji. This exceptional cultural landscape is deeply associated with Japanese mountain worship and the country’s artistic and literary tradition and thus a wonderful example of the intricate linkages between nature and culture. There, the youths got to know each other well, integrated as a group, discussed and worked on their statements as well as on a dance choreography, thus creatively engaged with the challenges World Heritage sites have to face, in views of biodiversity conservation and climate change. During their stay in Nagoya they presented their messages to the delegates of COP 10 as well as the general public in form of a joint declaration, creative side events, lively discussions with politicians and colourful stage performances. They hoped to be able to reach the hearts and minds of the world.



# World Heritage Sites represented at Go4BioDiv 2010

## Africa

- 1 - Mauritania – Banc D’Arguin National Park (1989)
- 2 - Cameroon – Dja Faunal Reserve (1987)
- 3 - Congo (DRC) – Kahuzi-Biega National Park (1980, on Danger List since 1997)
- 4 - Tanzania – Kilimanjaro National Park (1987)
- 5 - Kenya – Lake Turkana National Parks (1997)
- 6 - South Africa – Cape Floral Region (2004)

## Asia

- 7 - Nepal – Sagarmatha National Park (1979)
- 8 - India – Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985, on Danger List since 1992)
- 9 - India – Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988)
- 10 - Mongolia – Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape (2004)
- 11 - China – Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (1992)
- 12 - Viet Nam – Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (2003)
- 13 - Japan – Yakushima (1993)
- 14 - Japan – Ogasawara Islands (Tentative List)

## Australia and the Pacific

- 15 - Australia – Great Barrier Reef (1981)
- 16 - Tonga – Lapita Pottery (Tentative List)

## The Americas

- 17 - Canada – Nahanni National Park (1978)
- 18 - Mexico – Sian Ka’an (1987)
- 19 - Costa Rica & Panama – La Amistad National Park (1983)
- 20 - Ecuador – Galápagos Islands (1978)
- 21 - Peru – Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (1983)

## Europe

- 22 - Greenland (Denmark) – Ilulissat Icefjord (2004)
- 23 - Germany – The Wadden Sea (2009)
- 24 - Switzerland – Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch (2001)
- 25 - Slovakia – Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (2007)

- - Japan - Satoyama Initiative
- - other natural World Heritage sites
- ★ - Nagoya/Mt. Fuji









# Hacen El Hacen, 27

## 1 Mauritania, Banc d'Arguin

I was born in the desert in 1983 and grew up there until the age of seven. When I was a boy, my biggest dream was to convert the desert into green prairies. After graduation, I got a job in wildlife management at the National Park of Banc d'Arguin. Banc d'Arguin is a place where the desert and the yellow dunes fuse into the blueness of the Atlantic Ocean. My major interest for the last two years has been to understand how the Banc d'Arguin ecosystem works, especially the interaction between the birds and the tidal flats. I have interviewed the chief of the park rangers who told me: "What makes the park very special worldwide is the presence of the local people, the Imraguen. They have been living in this area for hundreds of years. They have developed ways of living in harmony with nature such as collaborating with the dolphins to fish, using traditional sailing boats, or fishing in groups walking in the shallow waters of the bays. Whereas in other national parks of the region the local people have been evicted, in managing Banc d'Arguin, we consider the Imraguen an important ally and integral component of the ecosystem. They take their share just like jackals or hyenas or sharks do. After all, the fact that the Banc d'Arguin is a World Heritage site is not a coincidence: the park is a combination of a very rich ecosystem, a beautiful landscape and a historically and culturally significant place."



# Josiane Gakou Kakeu, 24

## 2 Cameroon, Dja Faunal Reserve

I work as a Forest and Fauna engineer for the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in the Department of Fauna and Protected Areas which is responsible for all the protected areas of my country. One of the first files I had to study and am still working on now is the management plan for the Dja Faunal Reserve. I have been involved in the Dja Biosphere Reserve since my university studies. The Reserve abounds with enormous potential which is, regrettably, not adequately appreciated. Its rich biodiversity is under threat from many sides, especially through poaching. It is by uniting our efforts and sensitizing all stakeholders that we will succeed in protecting this exceptional wealth. I find the lifestyle of the pygmies especially impressive; for centuries they

have known how to preserve nature, their living space, despite many external threats. In an interview with the chief of the Baka pygmies, I asked him what relation his community has to Dja Faunal: "We were born in the Reserve. All our resources come from there: We use leaves and branches to build our houses; we gather bush meat, firewood, wild yams, Moabi seeds, fish, caterpillars and snails from there to eat. Our medicines and spiritual rituals are all linked to the Reserve."



# Pascal Balezi, 28

3 Congo (DRC), Kahuzi-Biega National Park

I am a student of Biology in Bukavu which is very near the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. I feel there are so many reasons to fight for the protection of our unique site which is what we do with our youth group “Club des Amis de la Nature”. In the first place there is the obvious fact that it contains species which can only be found here and would be lost for the whole world if they were to disappear. But there are important cultural reasons as well - many clans are spiritually connected to a particular animal from which the clan’s name is derived and to whose protection the family is committed. Its disappearance would be a hard blow for the affected families. Many people also carry out specific rituals and initiations at special places within the park. I talked to



Cibikizi Ludungi, a guard, who, after 35 years working in the park, is still in love with his job. He told me about the difficult, violent years in the late 1990s when he and his colleagues had to fight off the armed groups to regain control of the park. He lost seven comrades but eventually they managed to recover control. Today life is beginning to thrive again at Kahuzi-Biega and he and his colleagues are proud of having contributed in winning this fight.



# Prudence Mazambi, 25

3 Congo (DRC), Kahuzi-Biega National Park

I have a strong attachment to nature. Growing up in a family of farmers who also had cattle and many animals has helped me develop a special relationship with all living things and inspires me to protect life wherever it is threatened. This is why I am a member of our local youth group “Friends of the Nature” (Club des Amis de la Nature). I remember that in the village, people used to raise the alarm whenever they noticed that a particular species of animal was becoming too rare. This concerned the villagers in a special way. Today, since it has become very difficult for people to protect the animals, the existence of the park is very valuable. The species there are our common treasure. And today, as a student of biology, I understand the deep interdependence of species and the grave consequences which would result if this protected area is allowed to be disrupted. Some of the people understand this in an intuitive way. Somebody told me recently: “The national park is a treasure for all of us, a jewel that we must absolutely protect. It contains so many lessons for everyone, especially for our children who can visit it whenever they want. It is also a source of medicinal plants and the ingredients which are part of our traditional diet. And it cleans the air we breathe.”





# Neema Thomas Mallya, 23

**4** Tanzania, Kilimanjaro National Park

I am a Safari guide who loves spending time in the bush. I feel very privileged to be able to be in protected sites showing the wonders of Tanzania to visitors. I bring them to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru, Serengeti and Ngorongoro, all of which are important natural sites of Tanzania. Did you know that there are only five female guides in Tanzania? I am one of them. I feel that I have a special role to play in showing the uniqueness of our culture to interested tourists. The lives of animals and people of the area depend on this mountain and they are all affected by the snow melting caused by global warming. The rivers have started to dry up and water is becoming scarce. Once the fields start to get dry and animal poaching increases, tourism as the main source

of income will decrease. This will have a negative effect on the livelihoods of people in general, not only on tourist guides like me. I have interviewed an elder from Kilimanjaro about what he sees as the benefits of our World Heritage site. He said: “The best benefit is I’m 87 years old and still walk with both legs and enjoy life. Because of my age, I can still remember how huge the glacier of Kilimanjaro was in its early days and it is a pity to see it decreasing year by year.”



# Saningo Saruningoidima, 23

**4** Tanzania, Kilimanjaro National Park

I was born and still live in the Kilimanjaro region and for this reason I am concerned about the conservation of this natural World Heritage site. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the only one covered with snow in a tropical region. The springs from the Kilimanjaro forest flow down its slopes thereby benefitting people, animals and plants. The indigenous people of this area are small-scale farmers; they rely on rainfall and irrigation for their agricultural activities. Global warming is threatening the future of Mt. Kilimanjaro - the ice cap on the peak melts every day. In recent years, we have experienced a decrease in the water volumes of rivers and springs which will harm both the aquatic ecosystem and the entire ecosystem in general. It is predicted that if preventive measures are not taken, one day only bare rocks will be left on our beautiful mountain., We have started to teach children the values of nature with our own project in the hope that they will grow up knowing how and why it is important to safeguard the environment. I would like to urge international organizations to co-operate with us in the conservation of our heritage sites. I believe that, if we all agree with one heart, we will succeed.



# Mikelita Ngillipian, 28

5 Kenya, Lake Turkana

I live on the shore of Lake Turkana. My tribe is the Elmololo, a minority community. I studied community development and social work and now work with the community as a volunteer in capacity building, youth mobilization and with women's groups. I have a very deep relation to the natural site I represent. Our living dead, our ancestors, and their spirits live in the lake and they take care of each one of us. They communicate with the community through special agents, orikaya, by means of visions or dreams. They also urge us to care for and sustain the lake. I relate to the lake physically in that I derive my livelihood from it through fishing, using appropriate materials and protecting it. Over-fishing and unsustainable fishing methods



or inappropriate tools result in depletion of fish species and loss of biodiversity. According to a fisherman whom I interviewed about traditional fishing practices: “To conserve and preserve the lake, we control fishing by a rotation system, leaving certain places for the fish to grow for about four to six months. We use our traditional knowledge about wind directions, the phases of the moon, stars, and water flows to decide which species can be harvested.”



# Candice Mostert, 27

6 South Africa, Cape Floral Region

I have been a member of a Regional Ecological Support Team within CapeNature since January 2010. This team's aims are to support biodiversity planning and review, manage data effectively, provide ecological decision support, maintain a scientifically sound biodiversity monitoring and evaluation system, facilitate staff development, and promote biodiversity coordination and networking. With time, my relation to the Cape Floral Region has evolved and will continue to do so. I have grown from being someone who has benefited from access to the site, to someone who is now its steward. I believe this potential is in everyone. The Cape Floral Region has been an enabling environment for change, learning, growth and a form of livelihood for me. It is an integral part

of my heritage and my memories. It has been the backdrop to my life as it has been to many other South Africans, Capetonians and visitors to our Cape Province for whom it is truly irreplaceable. I would like to quote a conservation manager who, when I asked him what his relation to the site was, said: “It is my home, income and work. Heritage is what we are all about. We all live in the past but move forward. Heritage represents cultural aspects of who we are, where we have been and where we are going.”





# Sudeep Jana, 28

7 Nepal, Sagarmatha National Park

I am interested in protected areas, biodiversity conservation and indigenous peoples. I belong to a country, Nepal, which has devoted almost 20% of its land to protected areas and which offers exemplary models and lessons in participatory and community based conservation. Conflicts between local people and protected area authorities and thus local alienation from nature conservation are some of the biggest threats to my World Heritage site. My affinity to this World Heritage site is particularly due to the ongoing attempts to understand and reveal the ignored and unnoticed contributions of local Sherpa as part of the general discourse about conservation. I interviewed a Sherpa community leader and he told me the following: “I am a Sherpa; I am older than this national park. Before it was declared a national park and designated a World Heritage site, it had been the traditional homeland of the Sherpa, and we call it Khumbu. The entire Khumbu is a ‘Beyul’ (a sacred hidden valley). The Sherpa have a deep relationship with nature, and its conservation is closely linked to the preservation of our culture. The livelihoods of the majority of Sherpa people depend on tourism which can only blossom as long as the beauty, nature and culture of this area are preserved.” The local Sherpa people have played a significant role in conserving biodiversity in the area since ancient times. But their cultural and religious practices and traditions have not been adequately recognized or rewarded by the state authorities. On the contrary, their rights and roles have sometimes been curtailed by park rules and laws. “The Government should respect our sacred sites and our cultural practices. If our culture erodes, this is also a threat to the conservation of this area.”



# Dhritiman Das, 28

**8** India, Manas National Park

I am working in North East India, part of the Eastern Himalayan and Indo Burma Eco-region, which is globally important for biodiversity. My main goal is to understand the resilience and sustainability of natural processes together with human pressure to the ecosystem. My PhD research focus will be on the community structure, productivity, and stability of the forest grassland ecosystems of Manas National Park. I will also be investigating specific impacts of fire, grazing and other management practices. I asked our deputy field director what he thinks are the most pressings threats to Manas. He answered: “The main problem is the lack of trained personnel, especially frontline staff. Our forest guards were not equipped with enough

arms and ammunition required to combat poaching and illicit wildlife trade in Manas.” A local farmer pointed to another problem: “For me, Manas is a pristine site for wildlife and forests. Previously we collected firewood, thatch etc.; after becoming a National Park, we cannot collect anything. I am a poor villager. My agricultural harvest is sometimes destroyed by elephants, or wild boar coming from the Park. But, still I believe we should conserve Manas. It is our heritage.”



# Shazia Quasin, 25

**9** India, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.” - John Muir

I remember as a kid being fascinated with nature and the poetry I read at school. I became involved in something which I worked very hard to achieve - to conduct research at the Wildlife Institute of India, with Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers as my field site. No one can imagine my utter excitement and nervousness, the sleepless nights before I started working there. A dream came true. I still remember the enthusiasm with which I trekked for hours

and hours just to see why it was called ‘Paradise on Earth’. I was in love already! From that day on my love and attachment to this place has known no limits. My World Heritage site is a very spiritual place. I interviewed a Bhotia lady who told me the following: “I worship Nanda Devi as the Goddess Parvati. I played an active part in the Chipko movement (Hugging the Trees in Garhwal Himalayas). One of the major problems of this area for the people is a ban on the collection of traditional medicinal plants and a ban on trekking and mountaineering, specifically to Nanda Ghungti (the home of Goddess Nanda Devi), which is a pilgrimage for the Bhotia community.”





# Unur Delger, 28

**10** Mongolia, Orkhon Valley

I have been working for the “Climate Change and Biodiversity Program” in Mongolia since January 2010. In order to secure the sustainable use and protection of natural resources, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), together with the park administration, organizes training in forest and pas-ture management and environmental education campaigns to raise awareness among the environmental authorities, inhabitants and nomadic pastoralists of the park. I am tremendously inspired by the nomadic culture which cul-tivates the pure relationship and harmony between human beings and their natural environment. With animals wandering in peace searching for forage and pearl colored yurts (gers) appearing to be a part of this landscape, the nomadic lifestyle affects me as a beautiful lyric full of grace. I interviewed the park director about the challenges and threats to the Orkhon Valley: “We

are experiencing temperature rises, decreasing precipitation, intense droughts, land degradation, water pollution and forest and biodiversity loss. Other threats to the park are gold mining activities, illegal logging and poaching due to high unemployment and poverty in Orkhon villages. Until now, we are the only ones to work for the protection and preservation of the World Heritage site – up to now, we lack the support of the communities which is essential for long-term conservation. We think community-based manage-ment could be a good solution for the World Heritage site. However, at present, the legal situation in Mongolia does not allow for joint management activities within a protected area. We thus have to hope for an amendment of the laws before too long.”



# Battsetseg Horoldorj, 26

**10** Mongolia, Orkhon Valley

My name is Battsetseg and I am presenting the Orkhon Valley, of which I am very proud. The beauty of my homeland inspires me every day. My grandparents and my parents were born and grew up in the Orkhon Valley like me and my son. The Orkhon Valley pictures how unique and persistent nomadic lifestyle is, how human beings can live in perfect harmony with nature, and how important nomadic culture has been for the economic development of the world. I became aware of my deep appreciation of life in the Orkhon Valley during my university years. The longer I stayed away from home, the more I thought, heard and learned about the beauty and historic importance of my homeland. This led me to decide to return home and do something meaningful for its sustainable development. I found a job at the Orkhon

Valley Park Administration and started my second studies in ecology. My work tasks include conducting studies on wildlife and working on buffer zone management. Recent studies show that global warming and human activities endanger the Orkhon Valley’s ecosystems and its wildlife. Mongolian ecosystems and pastoral systems are very sensitive to climate change which is progressing in central Mongolia almost three times faster than the global average. We are already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change in the park. I interviewed a tourist in the Orkhon valley who said: “I think we Mongolians are very lucky to be born in this extraordinary beautiful, multifaceted country. We just have to learn or relearn how to appreciate it.”



# Fu Li, 26

## **11** China, Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area

I was born and grew up in the county quite close to Wulingyuan World Heritage site. I often went there to breathe the fresh air, enjoy the amazing scenery and come into close contact with all kinds of plants and animals. Every time I visited the place a kind of peacefulness and relaxation took hold of me. I am very impressed and fascinated by this natural site. What makes Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area famous, are its exceptional topographic features of grotesque peaks, endangered flora species and rare wild animals. With the rapid development of a modern economy, more and more natural features of the environment have been damaged by human activities. Many kinds of plants and animals are dying out at an alarming pace. The natural World Heritage sites can provide them with a safe home to live. It is obvious that safeguarding our natural Sites plays an important role in modern society. It should not only be the mission of a few people but of all human beings. As a native from a World Heritage site, I am willing to do everything in my power to protect it. Being a teacher, I would also like to encourage my students to make our young generation take action as soon as possible.



# Peng Na, 26

## **11** China, Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area

I have lived in Zhang Jia Jie where my World Heritage site is located since my birth. I have worked for my park for seven years now. I will begin a new career in October, studying Environment and Resource Protection Law. After that, the next step will be to start my research in Spatial Planning and Human Geography. I consider our World Heritage site a magical garden. It is unique in its abundant natural resources and its stunning scenery. In the park there is a golden stream full of magic. I have heard from old people in the site that the stream breeds and protects many wonderful lives. But it is sad that, due to the impact of climate change and human activities, the amount of stream flow gradually decreases every year. This leads to an elevation of the

riverbed because of sedimentation and to exposure of the rocks. We should protect our earth by developing low-carbon economies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, by promoting eco-tourism and by protecting biodiversity, including agriculture and forestry. I think this will help to create a harmonious relationship between humankind and nature.





# Pham Thi Hai Yen, 27

**12** Viet Nam, Phong Nha-Ke Bhang

After graduating from Da Nang University, I started working for the Management Board of Phong Nha–Ke Bang National Park. My daily tasks are to assist the Park Management in monitoring the Park’s forest protection activities and the performance of its forest rangers. I prepare and translate periodical reports for the Management Board, including the regular and ad-hoc reports to UNESCO and relevant departments. I also conduct information campaigns on the heritage values, laws and regulations of forest protection, as well as environmental protection for local communities in buffer zones, calling for their joint efforts in protecting this significant World Heritage site. Raising the consciousness of local people in the park buffer zone is considered a very important factor for the park’s protection, especially since most of the local communities, notably ethnic minorities, depend for their livelihoods on the use of forest products, including illegal logging and wildlife hunting. Mr. Tran Ngoc Anh is a veterinarian for the animals in the Park and his major task is to receive and rescue wild animals which have been confiscated from hunters and illegal traders. He says that “local authorities are paying more attention to animal rescue which is a great motivation for me and my colleagues.”



# Dang Ngoc Kien, 30

**12** Viet Nam, Phong Nha-Ke Bhang

I was born into a poor family of three children in Quang Binh province, one of the poorest provinces in Viet Nam. After studying biology, I started working in the Park’s Scientific Research and Wildlife Rescue Center as an animal researcher in October 2003. I often conduct fauna surveys (bat, bird, primate, reptile and amphibian). I have worked with experts from the Cologne Zoo who have discovered many new reptile and amphibian species. My daily work is quite hard; I spend most of the time, very often nights, in the forest. Working in the Park thus offers me many chances to discover the mystery of primary jungle forests. I interviewed a local conservation collaborator who told me the following: “When I was young, my family was very poor so that I often went to

the forest to go hunting or to collect forest products, such as honey or bamboo shoots. In 1992, I shot a Gaur because it came to my corn field and destroyed my harvest. The police came to my house and explained to me that I had shot a rare animal, which is strictly protected by the law. They confiscated my gun and I had to pay a huge fine. When the National Park was established, I was happy to be selected to participate in an information campaign on biodiversity conservation and park protection. Since then, I have become a local conservation collaborator and a member of the forest protection team of my village.”



# Kayo Nomura, 24

**13** Japan, Yakushima

I come from the City of Nagoya, which is the fourth most populated urban area in Japan. It has a total of about 9 million people and is one of the most important industrial centres of Japan. My first point of contact with World Heritage was the NHK TV program show in Japan. I looked forward to watching it every day. Many types of World Heritage sites were introduced and I got very interested in the topic. During my half-year stay in China, where I had the possibility of visiting some of the great World Heritage sites like the Temple of Heaven, The Great Wall and the Summer Palace in Beijing. I started to understand the role World Heritage sites can play in society and that they can be an important tool for the development of a local region, working together with the population. On the other hand, because of increasing numbers of visitors, I also saw the threats World Heritage sites are faced with. In this Youth Forum, I am representing the natural World Heritage site of Yakushima and I am interested in the role this site can play in Japanese society. The island of Yakushima is covered by a unique remnant of a dense, temperate ancient forest. Yakushima makes me think about biodiversity in environmental education. Even if people value the place as a pristine natural treasure, in reality the close interlinkages of people with nature date back more than a thousand years on the island. My interest and studies are in Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Education, and how to teach these topics in Japanese schools and companies. World Heritage Education was only recently introduced into the curriculum of Japanese schools. I would like to help people understand that natural World Heritage sites are much more than only places to have a nice picnic.



# Naoki Tagashira, 23

**14** Japan, Ogasawara Islands (Tentative List)

I am a student of World Heritage at Tsukuba University and I represent the Ogasawara Islands, or, as they are sometimes called in Japan, the “Galápagos of the East”. My first visit to the Ogasawara Islands was in August 2010 during a field trip with my university. From the moment I arrived, the atmosphere of the islands inspired me. The Ogasawara Islands belong to Japan but are different from any other natural site in Japan. The houses and architecture around the port of Chichijima are very different from other Japanese style houses because Chichijima was occupied by the US after the Second World War. During our time at Ogasawara we visited several conservation points and talked to park rangers and other conservationists. I was very im-



pressed by their work and their commitment to the protection of the site. I also became aware of the major threat to the islands – invasive species. As a result of being on a remote island, living things in Ogasawara have evolved into unique species and are unable to survive attacks by invasive species. The arrival of invasive species is mostly due to human activities. In the future, I would like to be a park ranger to help protect nature from human activities.





# Fumiko Nakatani, 23

## ● Japan, Satoyama Initiative

I grew up under in the shadow of high-rise buildings with neon lights in the concrete jungle of Osaka, the second biggest city in Japan. When I started to study architecture and urban planning in Fukui prefecture in the green countryside of Japan, I became interested in Satoyama. Traditional Japanese building techniques are deeply committed to Satoyama; especially in rural areas, traditional houses are built with local wood by local carpenters. Compared to the period before World War II, the number of well managed Satoyama is clearly decreasing. I believe that to recover Satoyama would not only halt loss of biodiversity but also contribute to the conservation of traditional Japanese landscapes and architecture. These two aims should be discussed together. In

my studies, I have focused on vernacular architecture, especially the conservation of traditional buildings and their landscape. I have joined some groups which engage in activities relating to Satoyama in Fukui prefecture. At present, I am doing a master's degree in World Heritage. From my point of view, we have to establish stronger connections between cultural properties and natural sites to be able to manage and conserve them for future generations.





# Anna Lyons, 27

**15** Australia, Great Barrier Reef

To me the Great Barrier Reef is home. I have lived in this region my entire life and have travelled to many islands and reefs up and down the coast. My connection to the Reef is strong - seated in my sense of belonging to the region, the landscape, its people, heritage and cultural past. I've seen the Great Barrier Reef at its absolute best, and my greatest concern for this World Heritage site is that it will change irrevocably for future generations in response to climate change. I have also witnessed some of the effects of climate change on the reef first hand and understand the importance of protecting our national biodiversity and heritage values. Our efforts to encourage a global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions and to introduce policies for the reduction of greenhouse gases and a more sustainable Australia are aimed at reducing this threat. We must continue to develop, test and implement strategies for increasing the resilience of the Reef in the face of this global challenge. Climate change cannot be fully averted and we must understand, prepare and adapt to its inevitable effects. I interviewed a Torres Strait Islander who told me the following: "Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the Great Barrier Reef. Our management practices date back to time immemorial. Government managers must ensure that use of Western scientific knowledge in management activities compliments the strong traditional cultural knowledge that exists, if we are ever to hope that the Great Barrier Reef remains for our future generations."



# Tavite Fisi'italia Loloa, 22

**16** Tonga, Lapita Pottery (Tentative List)

I am a youth volunteer at the Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC) and I dedicate most of my time to environmental projects. The replanting of coastal vegetation and support of maintenance work, repairing the fences around excavation sites for instance, is part of the work that we do for the Lapita Pottery Site. We want to ensure that the site is respected. Therefore we educate primary school students on the value of these sites and provide training so that they protect the environment and understand the significance of these archaeological places to Tonga and the whole Pacific region. Maintenance of the excavation sites is primarily left to the person on whose land the site stands. Replanting the coastal vegetation reduces the impact of rising sea levels. The sea level is already dangerously high and since the site is so near to the ocean it might one day be flooded by the salty waters and lost forever. Most of the vegetation that we plant is traditional shrubs that gradually have become almost extinct in Tonga. Our group also pursues other initiatives such as campaigning for a 'no car day' and a 'planet hour' in Tonga. With this we want to support the campaign of 350.org in order to influence the international climate negotiations in COP 16. However, we lack equipment, transportation facilities and other things. I interviewed the Lapita Pottery Site warden who is also the owner of the land. He said: "I believe that the maintenance of the Site is fine, but I wish that I could have a glass box to display the findings of the site. It would be really nice to show these materials to all interested visitors."





# Jenn Redvers, 25

**17** Canada, Nahanni National Park

I started working in one of UNESCO’s first World Heritage sites, Canada’s Nahanni National Park Reserve or Naha Dehé, five years ago and I have been involved in most of the research and monitoring programs within this backcountry Park, including ecological field research and report writing as well as leading guided hikes and interpretive programs with tourists. I get to live in the Park throughout the summer in staff cabins or tents and have seen many different areas in the Park, which has no road access. I am a Chipewyan Dene born and raised in the Northwest Territories of Canada who loves to be outdoors and loves to see people connecting with the land around them. I am very proud of the natural and cultural significance of this place and our practice of

co-management with the Dehcho First Nations. I interviewed Jerry, who has been the Grand Chief of the Dehcho First Nation for over four years and who is related to the late Charles Yohin, a respected Dene Elder: “Naha Dehé is one of the very sacred areas of the Dene people. It is the home of Yambadeja, the one who walked on the edge of the snow, referring to the past glaciations in the area. The main challenge we face today as the First Nations of Naha Dehé is how we are going to co-exist with non-native people. It is about non-native people seeing First Nations as equal subjects and not objects. For example, the mining activities and interests in the area might try to fit First Nations into their plans as well as working with them side by side.”







# Alan Monroy Ojeda, 24

**18** Mexico, Sian Ka'an

I studied Natural Resources Management and have had the opportunity to work in several natural protected areas. I have specialized in wild bird population monitoring and banding and in community development. I have learned from the local population much more than I could have learned at school, and, together with my deep appreciation of nature, I have found my path through life: biodiversity conservation. Natural World Heritage sites are places where man can still return to the vital source of life and to the har-monic relationship with Mother Nature. It is important to safeguard them because throughout these places we can still find the inspiration to respect and protect our planet (Gaia). The Mayan people who live

and depend on the resources of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve show to the world how their bond with their glorious past makes them conscious of their responsibility to protect the land that belongs to their ancestors and their children. I asked one of the park wardens why he enjoys working in the park and he answered: "In the Mayan language Sian Ka'an means 'place where heaven is born'. It is a sacred place for the Mayan people, and all the park wardens are Mayas. It is an honor for me to work here and to protect the inheritance that the elders have left for me."

# Roger Romero, 28

**19** Costa Rica, La Amistad National Park

I am the Chief Director of the Conservation Association Red Quercus. The Red Quercus Association involves several communities and has as its ob-jective the conservation of the Natural Reserve and its buffer zone through organic agriculture, rural tourism, environmental education, research and monitoring. In my job, I coordinate and administer several activities for the organization. The civil society on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica should get organized and use the National Park as an opportunity to achieve sustainable development together with the conservation of a protected area. I believe that there are several threats facing my protected area. The first one is the growing fragmentation of the buffer zone and biological corridors. This has become a serious threat for the biological processes and dynamics which are necessary for sustaining the wild flora and fauna populations. Another threat is the increasing loss of forest, biodiversity, soil and water due to illegal logging, poaching and fishing. In several cases these activities have put the supply of basic resources for the indigenous and local human population at risk. There is a high incidence of forest fires, which provoke irreversible damage to biodiversity and the resources of the neighboring communities who depend on them. Furthermore, agricultural and livestock productivity is low due to inadequate and unsustainable practices.







# Andrea Andrade, 22

**20** Ecuador, Galápagos Islands

I live in the beautiful enchanted islands of Galápagos, surrounded by an incredible ecosystem that is unique in the world. I work in a tourism agency, and from my position, I can perceive that excessive tourism and fishing are two of many serious problems that are affecting the sustainability of Galapagos. Due to the total isolation of the archipelago, evolution took place in its own way creating innumerable land and sea species that cannot be found anywhere else, like giant turtles and sea iguanas. But the ecosystem of Galápagos is very fragile. Something that everyone should understand is that islands will be the first places in the world to suffer the impacts of climate change. In an interview with a technical assistant of the Charles Darwin Foundation, he said: “Conservationists around the world are searching for ways to avoid severe impacts of climate change. Sadly, there’s nothing we can do to entirely avoid the consequences of climate change. Even if we start to take drastic measures now, it would take us between 25 to 50 years to turn around the wheel. Therefore, we should urgently try to reduce our non-sustainable and destructive ways! For our own benefit, we need to find ways to mitigate the expected severe impacts, if we want to survive in the difficult times ahead of us. As a start, I propose to change the term sustainable development for something like ‘economic decreasement’ - hopefully this will still be possible under socially and environmentally bearable conditions.”



# Rosa Miranda, 19

**21** Peru, Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu

The Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu represents an Andean sacred site and is also an icon of Peruvian identity recalling a great past. But what strengthens a greater identity is that it belongs to local cultures. Mine is located in Andahuaylillas which is now a Cultural Heritage of my country. This part of the earth strengthens my feelings of identity and self-esteem because it gives me several reasons to be proud of it, like being sheltered by Apus (sacred mountains) and the spirits of the mountains, who watch over my village and its welfare. Among these Apus, the most important is the Apu Qori Orqo (Golden Mountain in Quechua), who makes us feel protected with his great appearance. Another reason for me to feel proud is the church of my village, which is now a very important tourist place for its cultural value and unique beauty, reasons that have made it deserve the title of “The Sistine Chapel of America”. Another reason is culture, traditional knowledge of local inhabitants and their associated working values (ayni and minka), respectful environmental practices, like muyus and laymes (agricultural areas in rotation and rest), and natural fertilizers that enrich Pachamama (Mother Earth), who rewards us with the sacred grain of corn and other crops. Rural communities still practice these farming traditions. All these reasons and many more made me decide to keep living in this place and to contribute through my studies to the sustainable development of my village.



# Yeny Baca, 25

**21** Peru, Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu

I studied Biological Sciences and have just finished a technical course to become an official tourist guide. I have always had a special interest in nature and scientific investigation and through the years I have learned that the conservation of natural resources, renewable or not, is one of the most important keys for the survival of our planet. We must make people aware of the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. I work as a forest ranger of the National Service of Natural Protected Areas. One of my duties is to develop ways of spreading these ideas, and to work hand in hand with the local communities of the Sanctuary because they are the essential actors for achieving our shared vision and conservation goals such as

the preservation of our ecosystems. Under the leadership of the Sanctuary’s authorities we have been developing campaigns to collect solid wastes, we have organized conferences to teach people how to not have a bad impact, and we have set up groups of local people as volunteer teams who will help to control any fire threats inside the Site and surrounding areas. The person I interviewed was a local resident of Wayllabamba, a village located in the Inca Trail sector. He says: “There’s no better place to take care of nature than home itself, because if I start taking care of what I have at home, I will be able to persuade people to take care of what they have.”





# Avaaraq Olsen, 25

**22** Greenland, Ilulissat Icefjord

Growing up in Greenland is growing up in Nature. I love that I grew up in an arctic country. It gives me a calmness that I cannot get anywhere else. My relation to nature is unique, because every Greenlander has their own special relation to the landscape. Nature means a lot to us Inuit people. Maybe this is because of our ancestors' beliefs. Before Christianization, the Inuit people believed that everything had its own spirit. Like a stone, a little fish, or the leaves from a small tree. Even though I am Christian, I still believe in the power of nature. I believe it is important to listen to and to take care of nature. It is important to preserve what we live on. That is why I believe it is important to safeguard our World Heritage sites, sites where all human beings have a responsibility. I was getting interested in Ilulissat Icefjord while earning my degree in Arctic archeology, Inuit culture and Inuit philosophy at the University of Greenland. I believe in sustainability and I want to make a difference by helping to create better conditions for local people. Ilulissat Icefjord and its area are unique - you cannot experience anything like it elsewhere. It fascinates me that one place can contain such a history and at the same time provide so much information about glaciology. I interviewed a park ranger from Ilulissat and asked him about climate change: "In winter, it is no longer possible to go fishing on the ice with your dogsled. That never happened years ago."



# Qivioq Kreutzmann, 29

**22** Greenland, Ilulissat Icefjord

When I was studying in different places in the world, I discovered that I come from a very special place. This is difficult to see when living and growing up in the land of green. My island Greenland, is full of ice which is melting. I have interviewed the Bishop of Greenland, Sofie Petersen, who said: "That the ice is melting fast is obvious to anybody living in Ilulissat. Previously, majestically large icebergs sailed past town. Now they have become smaller and they easily break into small pieces, which probably is a result of several cracks with water in the iceberg. Ilulissat has a lot of tourism, which has not diminished, as many come to see the sights of our glacier, before the ice melts away completely. This brings a lot of new jobs in tourism, which is of course to the delight of

the city. But I think the big cruise ships and the great amount of tourists cause problems because they leave a huge carbon footprint on a small piece of earth." In ancient times, people believed that the mother of the sea was guarding the animals and she could hide them in her unkempt hair if people did not respect nature and that the Northern Lights are the spirits of our ancestors, the aurora. Big international companies from abroad are now approaching for oil, mining and hydro-energy for aluminum. Is this a good idea? What kind of society do we want? Human footprints in the melting snow?





# Marina Schweikert, 19

**23** Germany, The Wadden Sea

I was just a toddler when I first came into contact with the Baltic Sea and some of its inhabitants such as jellyfish. At the age of 5, we moved to the Island of Sylt in the North Sea, where I'm still living. It often shocks me how little people know about how to treat our natural environment when throwing away their rubbish or playing with plastic toys in water. It fascinates me that people really believe that they have seen a shark when they have seen the fin of the local whale species. I interviewed a biologist from the conservation center of the Wadden Sea about threats to our World Heritage site: "There are a number of serious and very different kinds of threats. A big oil-spill could destroy the whole area of the Wadden Sea within a few days. Climate change is a threat to

many native species. Disturbance by tourism and water pollution are pressing problems that have already existed for decades. Regarding the fishing lobby, we have a wide shrimp fishery with trawl nets, which destroy the sea-bottom. We need a zone in our World Heritage site where fishing is completely prohibited. Another problem is human infrastructure and construction works. This daily ambition to bring every meter of a coastline under control and to rule out all the natural dynamics costs us more biodiversity than some major industrial projects."

# Sven Oltrop, 28

**23** Germany, The Wadden Sea

I did my community service in the Wadden Sea World Heritage site in Germany. I have learned much about the ecosystem during this time and, although I have always lived close to the Wadden Sea, I was completely overwhelmed by the diversity of species I saw then. There is so much more to discover than seals and gulls if people try to look a bit closer. My tasks were counting the breeding birds and the resting birds and detecting oily birds along the coastline. They are affected by ships illegally dumping oil into the North Sea (Atlantic) to save money instead of paying the fee for disposal in a harbor. Unfortunately, they ignore the fact that they cause massive environmental damage. I also worked as a park ranger on a small uninhabited island. I can tell you that was the best time of my life so far! We had no tap water and only got food supplies twice a month by ship. After this, I studied landscape ecology. I interviewed a national park ranger from the island Wangerooge: "There are many dangers that threaten the Wadden Sea. There are plans for offshore wind parks and there is always the risk of oil disasters. There will be major problems if nature conservation factors are outranked by economic factors. There is a risk of forgetting the principle of sustainability."





# Benjamin Eggel, 21

**24** Switzerland, Jungfrau-Aletsch

I spent my whole life in and near the great Swiss Alps in the middle of Europe. Last year I passed my high school degree with focus on the subjects biology, chemistry and physics. Now I study management at university. In winter I spend almost all my free time in the mountains. In the middle of the Alps, you find the wonderful region “Jungfrau-Aletsch”, which since 2001 is a WHS -- the first UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site in the Alps. The heritage area has an approximate size of 824 km2. It is dominated by the biggest glacier of the Alps, the 23km long “Great Aletsch Glacier”. I was already very fascinated when I was 8 year old and my father took me to the Aletsch Glacier for the first time. There are not many places in the world where you can see the impact of global warming as clearly as you can see it in the Aletsch Glacier. Due to rising temperatures, the glacier is receding by 30 to 75 meters every year.



# Fabian Nellen, 20

**24** Switzerland, Jungfrau-Aletsch

I grew up in a small village near the World Heritage site Jungfrau-Aletsch. The landscape around here is something unique with its high mountains and glaciers. I interviewed one of the members of the local group lobbying to gain the UNESCO label for the region. He said that it was not easy to convince the local population of the value of this label. Many people were afraid of losing their basis of livelihood, because agriculture is a very important part of our culture. But this was a huge misunderstanding, which persists until today in the minds of some people here. They did not know that to safeguard does not mean to stop every human influence. It can also protect the cultural and traditional way of life and, on the other hand, create new opportunities like

tourism. But tourism also brings new problems. Because of my appreciation for nature, I think we have to get people talking about the importance of biodiversity. We have to come up with convincing reasons why we have to be careful with ecological systems. In that way, I think the Youth Forum is a great possibility to introduce political discourses. We need people’s attention. As many people as possible must understand why biodiversity is such an important issue and what the threats are to our natural environment.



# Vladimira Lackova, 28

## 25 Slovakia, Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

When I went to high school, I became quite active as a volunteer in various non-governmental organizations which are devoted to the protection of Slovak forests. All these volunteer activities deepened my interest in nature which is why I decided to study environmental science and management. I did my thesis in the Slovak National Park. At present, I work in the Bavarian Forest National Park in Germany. I love deciduous forests like the Carpathians because of their ever-changing face throughout the year. The incredible green in spring time, the refreshing shade of the thick canopy on a hot summer day, the red, orange, yellow and brown-colored leaves in autumn, just before the forest gets covered by a white blanket of snow in winter. I interviewed the director of a nominated site in Germany: “Our beech forests show us the cycle of life: As a new tree grows, an old one dies. Nowhere else is this principle of life so evident. The German beech forests, which are nominated to become a World Heritage site, are the very last remains of middle-European virgin forests. We’ve exploited the natural resources of our country for centuries. It’s our turn to begin saving our last beech forests.”





# Comic: Vietnam



Kien drew this comic telling the story of Mr Nguyen Van Hoan. 10 years before, he was a hunter. When Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park was formally established in 2001, he became a member of the forest protection group in his village and now works as a field assistant and guides scientists to research adjacent areas of the park.



# A day in my life: Neema from Tanzania

A not so ordinary day in Neema’s life, while she’s not showing visitors the beauty of Kilimanjaro National Park. There are only five female safari guides in Tanzania, and she is one of them. That’s a big responsibility!



# Comic: Mexico

Alan tells us a story about a Mayan boy called Canek, who finds a sea turtle lying on a Sian Ka'an beach. The quelonium makes him realize that we all are connected with Mother Earth.





# A day in my life: Yeny from Peru

Yeny takes the train to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu at night to wake up surrounded by marvelous scenery. Being a forest ranger is not easy, especially when so many tourists come to visit this Peruvian wonder.



# Comic: Slovakia

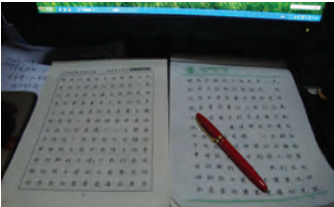
Vladimira drew a very realistic manga about the problems that threaten the Primeval Beech Forest of the Carpathians, like the lack of having a management plan or logging industries.





# A day in my life: Na from China

Na starts her day in China getting ready for the next challenge: she will study Environment and Resource Protection Law in October, to be more skilled for protecting Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area.



# A day in my life: Marina from Germany

On the German shores of the Wadden Sea, Marina finds the perfect way to combine her love for the World Heritage site she lives in, with the practice of her favorite water sport: kite-surfing. Expect strong winds!





# Go4BioDiv 2010 Partners

Go4BioDiv has the endorsement of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Japanese hosts. This event is managed and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the Japanese University of Tsukuba. Its core financier is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Additionally it has received important support from the Mexican Senate, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, the Japanese non-profit organization Earth Bounder, Spirit of Japan Travel, The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), Star Alliance Airlines, the German Federal Foundation of the Environment (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU), and the World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF-Germany.



The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is based in Montreal, Canada. It was established in 1996 to support the threefold goals of the Convention: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Institutionally, the Secretariat is linked to the United Nations Environment Programme. [www.cbd.int/secretariat/](http://www.cbd.int/secretariat/)



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network comprised of government and NGO member organizations. Among its many tasks, it works as the official technical advisory body to the World Heritage Committee on natural heritage. Through its worldwide network of specialists it reports on the state of conservation in World Heritage sites and evaluates nominations submitted by state parties. [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre (WHC) is the focal point and coordinator within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for all matters related to World Heritage. Ensuring the day-to-day management of the Convention, the Centre organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations and organizes international assistance via the World Heritage Fund upon request. [whc.unesco.org/en/about/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/)



The University of Tsukuba is one of the oldest universities in Japan. It is ranked one of the top Asian universities. The World Heritage Studies Program was established in 2006. It opens the way for its students towards the international level, contributing to the protection and the safeguarding of the heritage under diverse and often challenging circumstances. [www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/](http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/)



The GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH) was formed on 1 January 2011. It brings together under one roof the long-standing expertise of the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED, German Development Service), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ, German Technical Cooperation) and InWEnt – Capacity Building International. As a federally owned enterprise, it supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. [www.giz.de/en/](http://www.giz.de/en/)



The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) formulates the development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany, which is carried out by the implementing organizations, i.e. GIZ. [www.bmz.de/en/](http://www.bmz.de/en/)

# Go4BioDiv 2010 Team

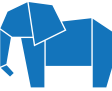
Young people not only participate in the International Youth Forum – several of them were actively involved in the preparation of the event. They want others to carry on the torch to many more congresses and meetings...



**Tatjana Puschkarsky** is the liaison person for Go4BioDiv within IUCN Headquarters, Switzerland. She takes care of the preparation of participants and programmatic issues. Tatjana was a participant in the International Youth Forum Go4Biodiv during COP9. [tatjana.puschkarsky@iucn.org](mailto:tatjana.puschkarsky@iucn.org)



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**Thora Amend** coordinates the Go4BioDiv team. She has been involved in biodiversity conservation, regional development and environmental communication for many years – mainly for German development cooperation, GIZ. Thora also helped to conceptualize and organize the first Go4Biodiv event during COP9. [thora.amend@giz.de](mailto:thora.amend@giz.de)



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