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11 January 2011

NOTIFICATION

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2011 to 2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in its *Resolution 65/161*:

*Decides, following the invitation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020, requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, with the support of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and invites Member States in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funding of the activities of the Decade;*

The Decade coincides with and supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting held in Nagoya, Japan. A strategy to celebrate the Decade will be made available to all Parties soon.

The Secretariat encourages all Parties that have established a national committee for the International Year of Biodiversity to extend its mandate for the celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points and International Organizations



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## Opportunities for Zoos in South Asia

Award winning documentary producers, CICADA Bellwether are currently producing a high end factual series for the Discovery Channel. The programme is to be a very positive and educational look at animal behaviour and CICADA Bellwether hope to identify some individuals, animals and zoos they can work with and include in the programme.

For the record, we are not interested in negative stories or sad stories. We are interested in upbeat and surprising stories. The series is primarily based around film clips and will centre around unique experiences animal carers have had. One main theme we are finding are examples where animals have done the unexpected and may have got out of their enclosure or found themselves where they are not meant to be e.g. they go on a walkabout, have fun and act independently. Again, the emphasis is on the fun, the surprising, informative.

One good example is an orangutan at a zoo in Australia that taught itself how to short circuit its lock and got out and walked into the next door enclosure. Another interesting aspect is the animal escape simulation training that zoos do to be always prepared for such incidences.

We would be very happy to speak with anyone who may have any relevant experiences or be interested in finding out more information. Of key interest is identifying any existing footage of interesting incidents people that they might be able to include in the programme.

For further information, please email Julie Jackson at [julie@icadabellwether.com](mailto:julie@icadabellwether.com) or call +44 7891 459 344.