

**Convention de Berne
Bern Convention**



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH**

PRESS RELEASE - 3 March – World Wildlife Day

Through a Resolution adopted by its General Assembly on 20 December 2013 the United Nations proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day.

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), Europe's Treaty on Nature Conservation, joins global efforts to increase the understanding of the interrelation between the protection of the environment and human wellbeing, including health, security and economic prosperity.

Wild fauna and flora constitute a common, outstanding heritage which is critical for human well-being: without wildlife there would simply be no life on Earth.

Nature charms with its beauty and diversity, and provides recreational services which contribute to our quality of life as well as to the economy of our countries. Although wildlife has been traditionally seen as a major source of food, clothing, energy and health remedies, progress in knowledge and research shows a much wider range of benefits deriving from sustainable management of wildlife and its habitats. For instance, the preservation of genetic diversity in agriculture can increase resilience to threats and pests; in medicine, wildlife provides a huge resource for new treatments and pharmaceutical products; a healthy marine environment means abundance of resources for fisheries, a beautiful landscape generates positive emotions...

Nature also impresses with its strength notably today with the recurrent ecological disasters which threaten our quality of life and the long-term survival of humankind. Sustainable use and adequate conservation of wildlife are not an option.

For more than 30 years the Bern Convention underlines humankind's role for the conservation of European Wildlife as a natural heritage which needs to be preserved for the benefit of future generations. The Bern Convention is much more than a regional agreement about environmental protection: it is a tool for achieving sustainability and, as such, it is an important European contribution to the sustainable development of life on this planet. Moreover, the Convention promotes participation and representation in the environmental debate, the monitoring and, to some extent in the decision-making process.

The Convention has also played an important part in wider international co-operation, complementing and interacting with the European Union, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) and its agreements, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the European Landscape Convention.

Don't risk your future, bet on nature!

More information at: www.coe.int/bernconvention