



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations

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H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
UN Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, February 12th, 2014

Excellency,

The first World Wildlife Day will be celebrated on March 3rd. At its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim March 3rd, the day of the adoption the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day (Resolution A/C.2/68/L.48).

The Resolution invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities.

In taking up this call and guided by the wish to contribute to the implementation of the resolution Germany and Thailand have agreed to jointly organize a panel discussion on March 3rd. It is planned to design it as a side event to the 9th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed title of the event is "Wildlife and its Contributions to Sustainable Development" in New York. The panel discussion shall take place on March 3rd, 2014, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the UN premises and it will be co-chaired by the Heads of Mission of Thailand and Germany.

Given the background of World Wildlife Day having been proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations as well as considering the manifold engagement of the

✓ United Nations with regard to the protection of wildlife we have the honour to invite you to ✓
participate and deliver a statement at the event. In case of conflicting schedules we would be
grateful if you could record a video message for World Wildlife Day which could be screened
at the event. ✓

We are sending herewith the concept note with the draft programme for the event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Ambassador Dr. Peter Wittig



Ambassador Norachit Sinhaseni



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations

Draft Concept Note (as of February 12)



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY**
3 MARCH

1. Background:

On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim March 3rd, the day of the adoption the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day (Resolution A/C.2/68/L.48).

The GA Resolution, inter alia,

- invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities;
- requests the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day, and, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 under section IV of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-first session about the implementation of this Resolution.

2. Proposal for a celebration of World Wildlife Day in New York

The upcoming first World Wildlife Day provides an excellent opportunity for UN member states to implement the resolution, also here in New York. Therefore, Germany and Thailand have taken the initiative to organize a side event in the margins of the 9th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG SDG) which starts precisely on March 3rd. The event shall be dedicated to celebrate the beauty of wild fauna and flora, to highlight the benefits that wildlife provides to people and to raise awareness of the urgent need to step up the fight against poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

The event will be conducted as a panel discussion on “Wildlife and its contributions to sustainable Development” (*working title*) and be co-chaired by the Heads of the Permanent Missions of Germany and Thailand. It will take place on March 03rd, from 1:15 p.m. – 2: 45 p.m. in one of the Conference Rooms at the UN Secretariat (CB).

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks by the co-chairs
2. Statement by the UN Secretary-General on World Wildlife Day
3. Statement by the President of the UN General Assembly
4. Video-message by the Secretary General of CITES, John Scanlon
5. Thematic key-note address by Mr. Janos Pasztor, Director, Conservation Policy & Science Department, “World Wide Fund for Nature International”
6. Interventions from UN Member States, UN organizations, other stakeholders incl. civil society
7. Closing remarks by the co-chairs