

Minister Svandís Svavarsdóttir
Ministry for the Environment
Iceland

Brussels, 19/02/2010

Ref:

Invitation to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity.

Dear Minister Svavarsdóttir,

As you certainly already know, the United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth, in particular on the 22nd of May, the International Day of Biodiversity.

On this occasion, BirdLife International, a global partnership of 100 grassroots conservation NGOs, and Fuglavernd (BirdLife in Iceland) would like to invite you to rediscover and enjoy the natural beauty of Flói Nature Reserve, which is an IBA (Important Bird Area) managed by Fuglavernd.

We believe that through this visit you would give an important sign of your commitment to the preservation of your national natural heritage and to the construction of a sustainable future for Europe.

For many years BirdLife International, a major civil society network supported by millions of Europeans, has engaged with decision-makers by contributing with state-of-the-art science and policy initiatives to conserve biodiversity and improve the environment for the well-being of people

Biodiversity loss and human induced climate change are the two most alarming manifestations of our current overuse of natural resources and disregard for the ecological consequences of our actions. Tackling those inextricable problems requires joint up thinking that puts the science of ecosystems management at the heart of decision making. Ecosystem health is crucial for climate mitigation and adaptation, while climate stabilisation is fundamental for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem functions. This, in turn, is vital for the long term viability of our economy and wellbeing of our population.

We hope yours will be a strong and clear voice for the environment and that Iceland can play a positive role towards ambitious targets in the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which will be held in Nagoya, in October 2010.

We very much look forward to hearing from you and please be reassured that BirdLife is at your disposal for any further information that you might need and ready to support your challenging work for the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Angelo Caserta

Regional Director Europe, BirdLife International

Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson

Chairman Fuglavernd – BirdLife Iceland