

The Embassy of the Federal
Republic of Germany in Cairo

Ministry of Environment of
the Arab Republic of Egypt

Have the pleasure to invite you to the 47th Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) Panel Discussion

on May 2nd, 2017 at 6:30pm

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), 11 Al Saleh Ayoub Street, Zamalek

“Biodiversity in a Changing Climate”



Human survival and wellbeing depend upon biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. Yet, in recent decades, the world has experienced unprecedented biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, undermining the very foundations of life on Earth. Rapid demographic changes, over-consumption, and the use of technologies that damage the environment, now combined with climate change, are pushing our planet to its limits. Severe shortages of food, water and energy are predicted as human pressures on the planet's climatic, geophysical, atmospheric and ecological processes, approaching a level at which abrupt global environmental change is likely to occur.

Scientists believe we are beginning to transgress the planetary boundaries within which societies have been sustained for the past 10,000 years. According to a recent WWF study, current extinction rates are estimated to be between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate. Optimistic studies claim an annual species loss between 0.01 and 0.1 percent which translate from 200 to 2,000 species extinctions every year. Since all living organisms are part of an integrated and interdependent web; and each species has its own role, a malfunction or loss of any part of the ecosystem can cause an imbalance that affects all other parts. In other words, reduced biodiversity is strongly affected by and strongly affects human wellbeing.

In response to these concerns, governments negotiated the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with its main objectives to conserve biodiversity, ensure fair and equitable sharing of its benefits and promote

it as a cornerstone towards achieving sustainable development. In late 2018, world leaders will meet for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (Biodiversity COP'14), taking place in Egypt for the first time in its history. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about biodiversity among the population and the communities within the region, thus contributing to the fulfillment of the CBD objectives.

At the intersection of four biogeographical regions – Irano-Turanian, Mediterranean, Saharo-Sindian and Afrotropical – and bounded on the north and east by two largely enclosed seas, the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, Egypt is homeland to a high variety of species: Around 2075 species of plants, 470 of birds, 93 of mammals, 1700 of sea creatures, 106 of Reptiles and Amphibians as well as a countless number of insect species are spread over the Nile Delta, the Nile Valley, two deserts and the coastal regions, not to mention fish and bird immigration paths. With limited awareness of wildlife conservation, threats to biodiversity due to human behavior are rising. They include excessive hunting, clear-cutting and deforestation as well as habitat destruction and pollution of all types, mostly for developmental purposes. The abundance in species is likely to decline in the coming years if biodiversity and ecosystem management is not integrated into development planning and industrial activities.

The 47th Cairo Climate Talks will bring together academics, policy makers, NGOs, and private sector representatives to discuss how Egyptian biodiversity can be ensured, wildlife protected and natural habitats sustained to preserve a resourceful future for current and coming generations.

The discussion will be opened by

H.E. Julius Georg Luy

Ambassador of the Federal Republic
of Germany in Cairo

Dr. Yasmine Fouad

Assistant Minister of Environment at the Minis-
try of Environment of Egypt

Keynote Speaker

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD

UN Assistant Secretary General, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Panelists:

Prof. Dr. Hamdallah Zedan

Preparatory Committee & National Focal Point,
United Nations Conference on Biodiversity,
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

Dr. Lisa Biber-Freudenberger

Senior Researcher, Center for Develop-
ment Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Prof. Hanaiya El-Itriby

President of National Gene Bank,
Agricultural Research Center, Ministry
of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Noor A. Noor

Executive Coordinator, Nature
Conservation Egypt (NCE)

Moderator: Meredith Brand Science Journalist

A buffet will close the evening