Rede der Parlamentarischen Staatssekretärin im Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz

Ursula Heinen
President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear guests,

Welcome to Bonn, the venue of the 9th UN Conference of the Parties to the International Convention on Biological Diversity.

First of all, I would like to pass on Minister Seehofer’s best wishes. He is sorry he cannot be with you today, but he is attending the meeting of the European Ministers of Agriculture in Slovenia.

Here in Bonn delegates from all over the world have been discussing ways and means of sustainably preventing the loss of habitats and species. As we all know, however tiny a plant or an animal is, if we lose it, it is lost for ever. Some of these losses can, of course, not be prevented, but in many cases, there is so much we can do and are doing – as today’s event shows.

Sustainability is not just the keyword at the biodiversity conference; it is also the keyword for today’s prize giving ceremony here at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

This venue was chosen because sustainability plays an important role in many areas of the ministry’s work, in the field of agriculture, forestry and hunting.

The sustainable use of nature is also one of the essential elements of the “Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor” project, which the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is honouring today with the "Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance". This project has been awarded this prize for supporting cross-border efforts between Tanzania and Mozambique to protect the Selous-Niassa area. Through their joint efforts, the project members have found a way of sustaining and protecting the amazing biological diversity of their homeland.
I would like to congratulate the prize-winners on the exemplary way in which they have conducted their work. They have succeeded in involving many local people in their activities. In addition, the local population benefits from the income generated from activities such as sustainable hunting in certain parts of the region.

Equally important for the project’s long-term success is the cooperation with the CIC, various UN organisations and scientific institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The "Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor" project shows that if you really believe in an idea, you can put it into practice and develop it, even if it does involve considerable effort and setbacks. This is especially true when the aim of the project is to protect nature worldwide for future generations. And, even more so, when such a project also pays regard to economic and social sustainability. You are on the right track and I can only encourage you to continue your work with the same drive and vigour you have invested in it so far.

I sincerely hope that we will have many more such encouraging and landmark examples in the future, standing as they do for the implementation of sustainability in the best sense of the word.

Before I close, I would just like to wish each and every one of you an enjoyable evening with many interesting discussions.

Thank you.