



Presse Release

## Underwater Biodiversity: The United Nations Environment Programme and the Bonn Convention Welcome the German Launch of DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D

Bonn/Berlin, 10 March 2008 – World-renowned ocean explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau presents the documentary film *DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D: TRIBES OF THE OCEAN* and invites audiences to join in a voyage into the world of these ancient sea dwellers. Thanks to the immersive IMAX (R) 3D cinema technology, viewers will dive in and become a part of these animals' daily lives in our planet's vastest habitat, the ocean. Nimble dolphins and giant whales impress with their refined social behaviour and an advanced ability to communicate.

The herbivorous manatee and the majestic orca, which also hunts other whales and seals, are very different species but both are wonderful examples of the wide array of underwater life. The documentary conveys the urgency of conserving these animals and offers spectators, for the very first time in 3D, a direct encounter with small and large marine mammals.

Following *OCEAN WONDERLAND* and *SHARKS 3D*, *DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D: TRIBES OF THE OCEAN* is the third installment in the ocean series directed by Jean-Jacques Mantello. *DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D* is produced by 3D Entertainment and McKinney Underwater Productions. Award-winning actress Martina Gedeck narrates the film. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) are proud to support this film in the Year of the Dolphin 2008 as a valuable contribution to the quest to raise awareness of the urgent need to protect these species.

Whales and dolphins cover distances of thousands of kilometers during their migration through the oceans. CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, is the only UN-Convention which protects these nomads of the ocean on their migration. For instance, the endangered humpback whale annually migrates up to 20,000 km between its summer feeding grounds in the polar sea and the waters close to the equator, in which they give birth to and raise their calves.

"Dolphins and whales are more endangered than ever, facing threats ranging from habitat loss and pollution to overfishing, bycatch and noise pollution. *DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D* shows these magnificent creatures and their diverse behaviour in their natural habitat, while at the same time reminding us of the urgency to actively work towards their conservation and that of their marine environment," said CMS Executive Secretary Robert Hepworth.

At the next UN conference on species conservation hosted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the governments of 190 states will confer on how to halt the increasing loss of diversity. As the only Convention of the United Nations Environment Programme based in Germany, the Bonn Convention stands for conservation across national boundaries.

"The screenings in Berlin come in the run up to the meeting of the biological diversity convention in Bonn in May. Here governments must accelerate the provisions of this key treaty to ensure a brighter future not only for dolphins and whales, but also for all life on Earth," said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director.

**For Film and Press Information:**

[www.dolphinsandwhales3d.com/](http://www.dolphinsandwhales3d.com/)

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