Good food is key to both good health and a healthy planet. Yet significant changes in global food systems and diets over recent decades have resulted in profound negative impacts on health and well-being and environmental degradation. Poor diet is now the number one driver of ill health and public health costs globally. A key element of transformational change in food systems and sustainable diets is greater incorporation of food biodiversity or “the diversity of plants, animals and other organisms used for food, covering the genetic resources within species, between species and provided by ecosystems”. The GEF-funded Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project is the first global initiative of its kind to develop and test a successful comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to mainstreaming biodiversity for improved nutrition, linking evidence, policies, markets and awareness. Successes include mainstreaming into food-based dietary guidelines, food procurement and school feeding programmes, along with practical approaches to prioritizing biodiversity, generating evidence of nutritional value and novel policy support and incentives. This event will highlight how such an approach might be replicated in other countries or applied in other regions through an interactive panel discussion. The event will also highlight how the BFN approach might be incorporated into the One Planet Sustainable Food Systems Programme, and opportunities for new partners to get involved in BFN.

Presentation
The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project: Past, Present, and Where To Next?
Danny Hunter, Senior Scientist, Bioversity International

Panelists
Barbara Burlingame, Chair, IUNS Sustainable Diets Task Force
Emile Frison, Panel Member, IPES-Food
Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer, Nutrition and Food Systems Division, FAO

Moderator
Stephan Weise, Deputy Director General-Research, Bioversity International