



Celebrations
of the
**International Day for
Biological Diversity**

2007

Biodiversity and Climate Change



Convention on
Biological Diversity



The six pictures on the front cover are the winning entries submitted to the CBD for the children's painting competition organized by the CBD Secretariat. From top to bottom: Andréa Figueroa, Carlos Cruz-Merino, Karène Dubé-Paré, Sakila Rahman, Véronique Forget, Stéphanie Tremblay

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For further information, please contact Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Phone: 1(514) 288 2220
Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.int
Website: www.biodiv.int
Typesetting: Em Dash Design



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Preface

Climate change and the loss of biodiversity are the two most important environmental challenges facing mankind.

In 2007, the International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated under the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change, highlighted the interrelation of these two phenomena and the need to address them not as separate issues, but as issues that are intrinsically intertwined.

Never before have the Parties to the Convention responded in such large numbers—over 65 Parties held events—and in such an enthusiastic manner to mark this important day.

For the first time, the Secretariat established an interagency task force comprised of different Heads of Agencies designated to help promote synergies amongst organizations for the celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity. To better assist the CBD National Focal Points, regional coordinators were appointed within the Secretariat to liaise with the Focal Points to help facilitate the celebrations at the local level.

A major celebration was held at the Botanical Gardens in Montreal with more than 300 participants, including representatives from federal, provincial and municipal authorities of Canada, and the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The day gained unprecedented coverage this year from local and international media, including more than 100 newspaper and magazine articles published worldwide, and broad coverage from television and radio stations around the world.

This success would not have been possible without the generous contribution of the Government of Norway, whose support made it possible to highlight these urgent issues on a global scale to a global audience.

In 2008, the International Day for Biological Diversity will focus on the theme of Biodiversity and Agriculture. Celebrated as the Parties meet in Bonn for the ninth Conference of the Parties where they will review the programme of work on agriculture, it will offer a unique opportunity to highlight the relation between these two issues so vital for the future of mankind.

Indeed, the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity has emerged as a major tool to promote public awareness and mobilize the public at large for the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention.

It is for these reasons that the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. Parties and other governments are strongly encouraged to initiate preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity, building on the experience gained in celebrating every year's International Day for Biological Diversity.

I also encourage all 190 Parties to the Convention to actively celebrate the 2008 International Day for Biological Diversity and build on the success and variety of activities summarized in this booklet.



Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity



Message from Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaoui

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Climate change is real. The United Nations lead scientific authority on climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its most recent report, prepared by 2,500 experts from 130 countries, has indicated that the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the Earth's atmosphere is at a level not seen for some 650,000 years. The cause: human activities.

Biodiversity loss is real. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the most authoritative statement on the health of the Earth's ecosystems, prepared by 1,395 scientists from 95 countries, has demonstrated the negative impact of human activities on the natural functioning of the planet. As a result, the ability of the planet to provide the goods and services that we, and future generations, need for our well-being is seriously and perhaps irreversibly jeopardized. We are indeed experiencing the greatest wave of extinctions since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. Extinction rates are rising by a factor of up to 1,000 above natural rates. Every hour, three species disappear. Every day, up to 150 species are lost. Every year, between 18,000 and 55,000 species become extinct. The cause: human activities.

Climate change is one of the major driving forces behind the unprecedented loss of biodiversity. The second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, recently issued by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, demonstrates that before the end of the century, species and ecosystems will struggle to keep pace with changes in temperature and rainfall and extinction rates will increase. This is already evident in the Arctic, the environmental "barometer" of our planet, where reduced sea-ice threatens to lead to the disappearance of the iconic polar bear and other unique species. The consequences of climate change will be distributed unequally around the globe, but will affect the most vulnerable countries. Africa, which contributes the least to climate change, will be the first to suffer. Climate change has already caused the level of Lake Victoria to drop by about 30 per cent. Between 25 and 40 per cent of Africa's unique species could be lost by 2085.

The relationship between biodiversity and climate change runs both ways. Climate change is an important driver of the loss of biodiversity. At the same time, the loss of biodiversity and the deterioration of natural habitats also contribute to climate change. It is said that every human being on Earth owes one breath to forests and a second to the oceans. The loss of coral reefs and the destruction

of intact forests and mangroves will exacerbate climate change, biodiversity loss and their impacts.

Maintaining biodiversity will make ecosystems resilient in the face of a changing climate. Forests and peatlands represent an important storage place for carbon dioxide. Intact mangroves are an important protection against sea-level rise. A variety of crops and livestock are important resources against changes to the rhythm of the seasons.

Climate change is indeed an energy and a security issue but is also an environmental issue. Biodiversity loss is an environmental issue but it is also an economic, financial, cultural, ethical as well as a security issue. Coinciding with the Polar Year, this year's celebration by the international community of the International Day for Biological Diversity, on 22 May, offers a unique opportunity to acknowledge that climate change and biodiversity are two faces of the same coin of life. Addressing both requires the mutually supportive implementation of the Rio conventions for the benefit of life on Earth. We in the Secretariat of the Convention on life on Earth shall spare no effort to achieve such a strategic objective.

We wish all the countries of the world and their people a successful and memorable celebration.



Message from Mr. Ban Ki-moon

**UN SECRETARY GENERAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on earth and one of the pillars of sustainable development. The richness and variety of life on earth makes possible the ecosystem services on which we depend: clean water, food, shelter, medicine and clothing. Environments rich in biodiversity are resilient when stricken by natural disaster. All of this is of particular importance for the poorest citizens of our world. Those who live on only a few dollars a day need biodiversity to meet their basic needs. Without the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, we will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

However, biodiversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate. This, in turn, is seriously eroding the capacity of our planet to sustain life on earth. It is for this reason that world leaders attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 agreed to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity. This commitment was reiterated at the 2005 World Summit. The 2010 biodiversity target is now fully integrated into the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and, as a sign of further support, the international community decided to declare 2010 the International Year for Biological Diversity.

As the world also focuses more attention on climate change, the links between climate change and biodiversity are also being articulated. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment—a state-of-the-art appraisal of the world's ecosystems and the services they provide—has identified climate change as one of the biggest causes of our planet's loss of biodiversity, along with changing land use patterns. In addition, the recently released report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made it crystal clear that climate change is real and will continue to affect our lives and ecosystems for many years to come. Those impacts will include the extinction of ever increasing numbers of species, further weakening a number of already fragile ecosystems.

It is therefore timely that the theme of this year's observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity is "Biodiversity and Climate Change." Indeed, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is an essential element of any strategy to adapt to climate change. Mangrove forests and other coastal wetlands represent a bulwark against extreme weather events and rising sea-levels. As agricultural landscapes become warmer and drier, the diversity of livestock and cereal crops can provide farmers with options to cope with new

conditions. Forests, peatlands and other ecosystems contribute to sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby helping to mitigate increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the international community is committed to conserving biodiversity and combating climate change. The global response to these challenges needs to move much more rapidly, and with more determination at all levels—global, national and local. For the sake of current and future generations, we must achieve the goals of these landmark instruments.



Message from H.E. Marina Silva

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF BRAZIL AND
PRESIDENT OF COP 8, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

The spirit of Curitiba, and our collective efforts, have helped to implement the agreements of the Convention on Biological Diversity and those of the MOP 3, based on the concept of the autonomy of Parties in relation to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility in international agreements. However, we still need to make an additional concerted and global effort to reduce the significant implementation deficit in the CBD's 2010 goal of reducing the rates of loss in biodiversity.

In these two years in which Brazil has led the Convention, we've worked along four guidelines:

- We need to work hard on a feasible international regime on access to biodiversity;
- We need to facilitate the sharing of benefits from the use of biodiversity;
- The issue of biodiversity needs to cut across all levels of policy and strategy;
- And we need to increase regional and global cooperation.

With these measures, we will mobilize resources to address the serious implementation deficit of the CBD, and allow Parties to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity, so that natural resources can be protected through the generation of benefits, in a virtuous cycle: sustainable use, sharing of benefits and more conservation.

This is the vision we want to highlight on the International Biodiversity Day: conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing. With this, we'll be fostering a virtuous cycle that, aside from protecting biodiversity, will allow us to increase synergies with other Conventions and to contribute to the protection of natural resources and the long-term management of ecosystems and environmental services.



Message from H.E. Sigmar Gabriel

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION
AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF GERMANY, AND HOST OF
COP 9, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

As the host of the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in Bonn next year from 19 to 30 May, I am delighted to have this opportunity to address a few words to you on International Day for Biological Diversity.

I feel that, especially in connection with biological diversity, climate change, with its impacts and interactions, is one of the areas in most urgent need of international action. I am therefore very pleased that this year's theme for International Day for Biological Diversity is "Biodiversity and Climate Change". Moreover, I believe that linking these two issues sends a signal. It is an opportunity to promote biodiversity conservation and raise public awareness and acceptance.

Biodiversity helps us to protect the climate. Healthy ecosystems not only supply us with food, raw materials and fertile soils, they also regulate the global climate and thus protect us from natural disasters such as floods, droughts and storms. In this context, I would especially like to highlight the carbon storage potential of natural and semi-natural woodland and bogs. Intact ecosystems also have a positive effect on other climate relevant cycles and processes, for example on the hydrological system or the natural emissions and natural sinks of the greenhouse gases methane and nitrogen dioxide.

Conversely, climate change is a threat to biological diversity: the ice is melting away under the paws of polar bears, entire regions and their habitats are at risk of drying out—for instance Brazil's Amazon rainforest. Furthermore, the second part of the fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that 20 to 30 per cent of the planet's species are likely to be at risk of extinction if global temperatures rise between 2 and 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

In short: nature conservation is climate protection and climate protection is nature conservation. This may be a trite statement, but it has complex implications. Essentially, it means that we must make the instruments of climate protection useful for nature conservation and vice versa.

Cooperation between the two conventions concerned—the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change—must be improved

in order to enhance the synergy effects between the instruments of climate protection and those of nature conservation. I am therefore delighted that the Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Yvo de Boer, is taking part in this event and will later present his point of view.

Biological diversity is, incidentally, also the reason why I cannot be with you in Montreal. For today in Germany, in preparation for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, we are launching a national campaign for biodiversity. Our aim is to communicate to a broad public the importance of protecting the natural foundations of life. Today, we will establish a “nature alliance” consisting of prominent people from politics, trade and industry, science, civil groups, culture and media, who will help us to convey our messages and inform and motivate the public.

In this context, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Djoghlaf, on the outstanding video on “Biodiversity and climate change”, which became available on the CBD homepage a few days ago. It impressively highlights the links between biodiversity and the impacts of climate change and the resulting serious impacts on different interrelated ecosystems—and ultimately also on humans. We will be happy to distribute this video and use it to raise public awareness of the key messages of biodiversity conservation.

For today’s celebration, I would like to wish you all the best, every success and many interesting talks. I look forward to seeing you all at the latest in a year’s time in Bonn for the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity during the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.



Some samples of the imaginative drawings submitted by school children to the CBD Secretariat for the children's painting competition

International Day for Biological Diversity

BACKGROUND

To increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 22 May as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD). The Second Committee of the UN General Assembly originally designated 29 December as IBD (the date that the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force). However, in December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IBD, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992. This was partly done because it was difficult for many countries to plan and carry out suitable celebrations for the date of 29 December, given the number of holidays that coincide at that time of year.

IBD 2007: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The International Day for Biological Diversity provides a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages, backgrounds, cultures and nationalities, to participate in activities that help educate, publicize and emphasize the importance of biological diversity as a vital part of a healthy planet.

Celebrated by an ever-growing number of countries, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, invited citizens around the world to mark this occasion by reflecting and focusing on issues related to this year's theme—Biodiversity and Climate Change.



Chosen to coincide with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) World Environment Day theme of Climate Change and to complement the International Polar Year, the theme reflects the fact that climate change now poses one of the principal threats to the biological diversity of our planet.

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a comprehensive assessment of the links between ecosystem health and human well-being, climate change is likely to become the dominant direct driver of biodiversity loss by the end of the century. Projected changes in climate, combined with land use changes and the spread of exotic alien species, are likely to limit the capability of some species to migrate and therefore accelerate species loss.

The impacts of climate change on biodiversity are of major concern to the CBD. The Convention also recognizes that there are significant opportunities for mitigating climate change and adapting to it, while enhancing the conservation of biodiversity.

The overall message for this year's celebration of IBD is clear. If the threats to biodiversity loss and climate change are tackled together, the prospects for adapting successfully to the challenges of the coming decades will be much improved. Necessary steps must be taken to facilitate the adaptation of biodiversity to a changing climate, and therefore ensure the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor.

This year more than 60 countries and 14 partner organizations held events and celebrations to commemorate IBD. These national initiatives can be accessed on the CBD website:

<http://www.cbd.int/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007-ctrs.shtml>



Celebrations in Countries Around the World

The International Day for Biological Diversity is an opportunity for countries to raise awareness on biodiversity and the Convention. Based on information received from countries, the following section summarizes how they celebrated IBD in 2007.

Parties to the Convention

ALBANIA

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration translated the IBD materials produced by the CBD into Albanian. These booklets and fact sheets were distributed to government offices, non-governmental organizations, research centres and schools.

ALGERIA

The Association of Friends of the Environment organized an exposition on Biodiversity and Climate Change at Biskra University, in parallel with the day's activities organized by the wilayas' (provinces) Environmental Divisions. To reach a greater audience, the exposition was moved to the Community Arts Centre, where it remained from 23–26 May. Colorful banners were displayed in order to attract the attention of passersby. An information kit was presented to the Secretary General upon his visit to the expo.



The Ministry of Environment and Territory Planning in collaboration with the Environmental Divisions of the 48 wilayas prepared several awareness-raising activities. The Ministry produced a brochure related to this year's theme, issued the CBD poster on IBD, presented the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore, and prepared a course on awareness of climate change and biodiversity for presentation in all schools. Various wilayas also held activities such as awareness campaigns, observation of rare bird species, roundtable discussions on the radio and exhibitions.

ANGOLA

The Ministry of Urbanization and Environment held a seminar series from 22–23 May on the assessment of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in the country. Comprising two sessions, the first was chaired by the Premier's Assistant Minister, Mr. Aguinaldo Jaime, and held in the Congress Hall in Luanda. The second, more technical session, featured a guest lecturer from Sao Paulo University, Professor Jacques Marcovitch. Participants included representatives from different ministries, universities, oil companies, energy and industry firm experts and members of civil society.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

To increase awareness of the biodiversity found in the country, Environment Education and Information Officer, Ms. Carol Faye George, invited school children to produce a collage, picture or video on the local flora and fauna. Participating schools were all part of the Environmental Cadets Programme.

ARGENTINA

The National Office of Environmental Management and Biodiversity Conservation, in conjunction with the Office for Climate Change and the National Environmental Information System (Sistema de Información Ambiental Nacional, SIAN), published a Spanish-language booklet on climate change and biodiversity. The booklet can be found at:

http://www.ambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/CCB/File/052207_dia_bio2007.pdf

The Department of Biodiversity and Experimental Biology and the Faculty of Physical and Natural Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, presented the Secretariat's video on climate change and biodiversity to students and staff in order to promote awareness of this increasingly important and complex issue.

The Secretariat of Environmental Policy, of the provincial government of Buenos Aires, issued a release on the endangered ruddy-headed goose, an exclusively South American species with only 1000 individuals left, to raise awareness of how climate change affects local biodiversity.

ARMENIA

IBD was commemorated through a series of events organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection. Two speeches were televised on this day: by the Minister of Nature Protection on environmental problems in Armenia and by the head of the Bioresources Management Agency on biodiversity and biosafety. Due to heavy rains on 20–22 May, flooding was a problem in many regions, hence part of the second speech related to floods and their negative role in biodiversity and soil

conservation. An expedition to Sevan National Park and Khosrov Reserve was organized for children and youth. A competition of environmental photos and pictures among students was also organized.

AUSTRALIA

Trust for Nature, a non-profit organization which works to protect remnant bushland, aims to protect Victoria's one million hectares of uncleared bush on private land by the year 2020.

Trust for Nature's Executive Director, Mr. Mike Gooley said, "This year the United Nations' Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity acknowledges the impact of climate change on biodiversity. The Secretariat has clearly stated that climate change has already forced flora and fauna to adapt due to changing or shifting habitat. In Victoria this means we will see species move across the state seeking new habitat as their old habitat disappears or significantly changes."

Mr. Gooley said Trust for Nature will continue to work closely with communities, state and federal governments, conservation agencies and other stakeholders to fulfill its vision of protecting one million hectares of bush by 2020.

AZERBAIJAN

IBD was widely publicized through newspaper articles on conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, and televised speeches and messages from representatives of both governmental and non-governmental environmental organizations.

Seminars on Biodiversity and Climate Change were held at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and at its various regional offices across the country. Various representatives from government, scientific organizations and the general public attended these seminars.

The month of May was designated to the greening of the country through voluntary tree and shrub plantings every Saturday. A series of lectures on this topic was given throughout the year at all educational institutions. An exhibition of children's drawings was organized—"The environment through the eyes of the children."

BARBADOS

For this year's celebrations, the Natural Heritage Department (NHD) of the Ministry of Energy and the Environment organized activities geared towards engaging the next generation of young people in Barbados. Students at the Wesley Hall Infants School and the Holy Innocents Primary School were taken on the Atlantis submarine tour, a popular attraction in Barbados and a chance to

see parrot fish, angel fish, banded butterfly fish, trumpet fish and other marine creatures in their natural habitat along the coral reefs that line the coast of Barbados. The tour comprised a boat trip to and from the submarine aboard a transfer vessel, and a forty minute underwater tour on the submarine. The NHD anticipated that the underwater experience would allow students to encounter first hand the beauty and wonder of the underwater world, thus helping them to understand and appreciate the importance of the coral reef ecosystem, which is highly vulnerable to climate change.

In addition to the tour, the children were each given a copy of “The Little Green Book—Introducing Ozzy Ozone and Friends, Volume 1,” produced by the Ministry of Energy and Environment. The book provides tips on how children can help save the environment and exposes them to such important issues as the ozone layer, biodiversity, hydroponics, the marine environment and climate change. The children were also encouraged to ask questions and were given an informative talk on climate change, the importance of biodiversity and how the two interrelate by representatives from the Environment Unit and the NHD.

BELGIUM

The Belgian CBD National Focal Point issued a press release titled “Biodiversity and Climate Change: The Same Fight!” outlining several major events and activities throughout the country, as part of their celebrations.

The National Focal Point, in collaboration with the Federal Departments of Environment and Science, organized a “Belgium Day of Biodiversity,” at the Museum of Natural Sciences, which included a presentation on the conclusions from the conference, “Biodiversity and Climate Change,” organized by the Belgian Biodiversity Research Platform on 21 May.

Belgium’s National Biodiversity Strategy 2006–2016 was officially launched, with federal and regional Ministers of Environment addressing the conference.

Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010, presented the current status of this initiative. Children and class winners of the contest, “The Wake-up of Biodiversity,” received their prize. Lastly, the Director of the Museum launched the national campaign, “I Give Life to My Planet!” More information on this initiative can be found at:

<http://vip.biodiv.be/>

BOLIVIA

Mr. Iván Zambrana, Head of the Biodiversity Department of the Ministry of Urban Development, issued a statement calling for the population of Bolivia to

be aware of the importance of biodiversity and climate change and its potential impacts. He reminded the public that biodiversity loss is one of the most worrying aspects of our current ecological crisis and a problem that everyone must face together.

In collaboration with “la Asociación Prodefensa de la Naturaleza” and “la Liga de Defensa del Medio Ambiente (LIDEMA),” the Biodiversity Department organized a seminar which included a presentation on the present status of biodiversity in Bolivia and a discussion on policies for the sustainable use and conservation of the country’s biological resources.

BRAZIL

Brazil’s Minister of Environment, Ms. Marina Silva, announced the release of the document, “Priority Areas for Conservation,” prepared by the Brazilian Government in collaboration with Conservation International and SOS Mata Atlantica. A “Map of Forest Cover” was also distributed.

Researchers at the Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests gave a presentation on Cerrado—a dryland in Brazil—and how it is being affected by climate change.

IBD material provided by the CBD Secretariat was widely used and distributed.

CAMEROON

Cameroon celebrated at both the national and provincial levels. At the national level, activities were marked by a declaration made over national television and radio stations by H.E. Minister Hele Pierre, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection. The UN Resident Coordinator read the Address of the United Nations Secretary General. The event also provided a forum for the Minister to show the public a wooden sculpture, which the Government of Cameroon is donating to the Secretariat’s Museum of Nature and Culture.

At the provincial level, roundtable discussions were held by various delegations of the Ministry indicating the linkages between climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as the need for concerted action to be taken by various stakeholders towards addressing the challenges of climate change.

The National Biodiversity Focal Point also had an interview with Radio Environment to highlight efforts by Cameroon to implement the Convention at the national level. The Focal Point invited youth to register and participate in the African Children’s Summit on the Environment, scheduled for 30 July–2 August 2007 in Yaounde, Cameroon.



CANADA

The Acadie Éco-Quartier in Montreal gave away white clover seeds in order to increase lawn biodiversity. Adding white clover to grass has many advantages, such as decreased use of fertilizers due to nitrogen-fixing properties of the plant, reduced water needs and better control of unwanted species.

A Biodiversity Weekend was held in Ottawa with the support of the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation. More than 300 people celebrated the importance of urban wetlands, education and community participation. Guests included Mr. David Coates, CBD Programme Officer; Mr. Anthony Cary, British High Commissioner to Canada; Ms. Onno Gaanderse, City of Ottawa; and Ms. Hazel Lambert, Ottawa Catholic School Board. Donations over \$100,000 for this urban enhancement project were acknowledged.

An event called “Creatures of the Night,” featuring bat and insect specialists was held. In addition, 10 scientists and specialists from Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Museum of Nature, among others, took part in a biological survey, the Macoun Marsh BioBlitz. Some 1150 species were identified, with approximately 100 new species added to the original listing.



The POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, University of Victoria, British Columbia, with support from local groups and individuals, officially launched the Chemainus Biodiversity Education Project, which focuses on teaching the value of biodiversity. Dr. Kelly Bannister, Head of POLIS, said she hopes the Chemainus project will be a springboard for other island, community-based initiatives. For more information:

<http://mkiemele.googlepages.com/home>

The Canadian Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Federation, through Hinterland's Who's Who, added a webpage dedicated to biodiversity, with special emphasis on its status in Canada. The webpage can be viewed at:

<http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=389>

The Botanical Garden of Memorial University (MUN), Newfoundland, celebrated IBD by offering a free presentation to the public. Ms. Madonna Bishop, Research Liaison with MUN Botanical Garden gave a presentation on "Plantwatch Newfoundland and Labrador," and learning how to become a citizen scientist.

CHINA

In Beijing, the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), in collaboration with the European Union, UNDP and the China Youth League, organized an activity to mark IBD. In a keynote speech, SEPA Vice-Minister Wu Xiaoqing said biodiversity is closely related to climate change and that the Chinese government would continue to take effective measures to strengthen biodiversity conservation and reduce the risks and damage caused by climate change.

He said China is taking into account biodiversity and climate change while developing relevant plans and programmes to reduce impacts on biodiversity and the climate of overexploitation of land and other natural resources. He noted that the challenges for biodiversity conservation in China are still huge, particularly due to rapid population growth and economic development. To achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target, future efforts will focus on four areas of work: integrating biodiversity conservation into economic and social development strategies and programmes; strengthening national capacities for biodiversity conservation; strengthening international exchange and cooperation; and enhancing wider public participation.

The EU and China signed agreements during the ceremony to provide funds for five pilot projects in Yunnan, Anhui, and other provinces, as part of the EU-China Biodiversity Programme launched on IBD last year. Youth and students across China were also called on to propose biodiversity-friendly activities.

For more information, please see the following website (in Chinese):

<http://www.sepa.gov.cn/ztd/07swdyx/>

Press release in English:

<http://www.undp.org.cn/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&catid=14&topic=22&sid=4129&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

To raise university students' awareness of biodiversity issues, SEPA, together with several universities, launched an "Eco-Film Week for University Students" at the People's University.

At the opening ceremony in Beijing, attended by some 100 representatives from over 23 universities, the SEPA CBD Office and China Association of Environmental Journalists provided DVDs to university representatives. Focusing on the significance, value and role of biodiversity, they alerted the audience to the challenges and threats climate change poses to biodiversity.

Fifteen media representatives were invited to attend the opening ceremony, with Guangming Daily, Science and Technology Daily, Legal Daily, Jiefang Daily and the Internet version of the People's Daily all publishing reports on the film week. In addition, over 30 Internet media nationwide posted a news release issued by the Chinese News Agency.

The SEPA CBD Office and China Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation jointly organized a photo competition for "Biodiversity Conservation and Use in China." Prize-winning works, along with other works, were published in the book "Digital Photos for Biodiversity Conservation and Use in China." The photographs were put on public display on 22 May at the Beijing Zoo.

The SEPA CBD Office, in collaboration with several institutions, designed and printed posters for IBD and sent them to local environmental departments, research institutes and institutions of higher education. Posters were also put in government office buildings and relevant public places.

Various forms of activities were organized throughout China during IBD. For example, Jiangsu Province published special features on IBD in Xinhua Daily and used mobile imaging and other tools to communicate IBD messages. In addition, 15 provinces and municipalities organized relevant activities and more than 20 provinces and municipalities disseminated materials prepared by SEPA.

COLOMBIA

The Luis Ángel Arango Library in Bogotá City, in collaboration with the Alexander Von Humboldt Institute, GEF and Javeriana University, organized a series of conferences titled, "Biodiverse Colombia: Our City facing Climate Change." The aim was to raise awareness of known mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change, and to sensitize citizens on the importance of biodiversity conservation in all areas of Colombia, but especially those near and within the city. For more information:

<http://www.rds.org.co/oficina.htm?x=1054185>

COOK ISLANDS

Celebrations included a half-hour television documentary on the biodiversity of the Cook Islands, specifically focusing on protected areas, access and benefit sharing and invasive species. The documentary was followed by local advertisements on climate change. These activities were produced jointly by the National Capacity Self Assessment for Global Environment Management Project and Climate Change 2nd National Communication Project under the National Environmental Service. The Cook Islands News commemorated IBD through a newspaper article.

COSTA RICA

The president of the National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica (Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, INBio), Mr. Rodrigo Gámez Lobo, prepared a statement on climate change and biodiversity that was posted on their website.

http://www.inbio.ac.cr/es/sabias/sabias_cambio_climatico_biodiversidad.htm

DOMINICA

The Environmental Coordinating Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment organized a Media Blitz from 14–22 May to raise awareness of the activities taking place and to solicit the support and participation of the general public.

On 22 May, 50 students from Isaiah Thomas Secondary School and Nehemiah Comprehensive Secondary School embarked on an environmental expedition that included visits to the Morne Diablotin National Park where they traversed the Syndicate Nature Trail. Officers from the Division of Forestry were on hand to facilitate an educational tour for the participants.

Schools were encouraged to conduct student-led assemblies focusing on the importance of maintaining present levels of biodiversity and highlighting IBD. Schools with established environmental clubs were the principal target group for this activity.

ERITREA

For the first time Eritrea celebrated the day as a festival for school children, and held its celebrations in Asmara, at Dembe Sembel Elementary, Junior, and Secondary School. The children expressed their concern about their future as far as environment, in general, and biodiversity, in particular, is concerned, through various activities and performances, including painting, drama, music, presentations and panel discussions.

Those attending the special ceremony and exhibition included Minister Woldemichael Gebremariam, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment; Minister Ahmed Haji Ali, Ministry of Fisheries; Minister Arefaine Berhe, Ministry of Agriculture; Director General for Environment, Mr. Mogos Woldeyohannes, other high government officials, representatives from major stakeholders, parents and all students. Minister Gebremariam and Director General Woldeyohannes spoke about the relevance of conserving biodiversity at both the national and global level, and encouraged efforts to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

IUCN—The World Conservation Union provided 85 T-shirts, the CBD Secretariat sent posters, postcards and booklets, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed 10,000 nakfa and the World Bank granted access to research and information through its Information Center. To increase awareness about biodiversity conservation, the Department of Environment (DoE) redistributed the promotional material, after being signed by the Honorable Minister.

Students prepared opening speeches both in English and in Tigrinya. Stating that conserving biodiversity is about protecting life and the future of our planet, the students concluded their speeches by saying, ‘We want our trees and wild life back!’ The students prepared for the day by participating in different clubs, all directly related to the theme of biodiversity. Nine student clubs were formed, including those for agriculture, art, music and drama, media and presentations. The aim was to let students absorb information on biodiversity and climate change in a way that conformed to their interests.

Many parties collaborated to make the celebration possible; the DoE contributed both financially and technically, and received full cooperation from the Dembe Sembel School in organizing the festival. Parents, school administration, teachers and students all worked together in partnership with the DoE to stage the successful event. Preparations for the festival started with a two-hour motivational audio visual lecture two months before the event on the state of biodiversity, the causes of biodiversity loss, its effects and the possible solutions. The lecture made a significant influence and the feedback from the children was very positive.

Elders presented a cultural show on Culture and Biodiversity, detailing how biodiversity is the backbone of our culture and demonstrated the interdependence between culture and nature through practical examples. Medicinal herbs, cultural artefacts and tools made from plants and animal skin were displayed. Gifts were presented by the DoE to all students, teachers and invited guests, with awards and certificates of appreciation given to the best performing students, teachers, clubs, and to the school administration and parents committee.

ESTONIA

Estonia's Ministry of the Environment organized a seminar to commemorate IBD that incorporated lectures on climate change, the UNFCCC, obligations and activities of Estonia regarding implementation of the UNFCCC, and connections between climate change and biodiversity. The CBD materials were distributed during the seminar. Participants included primary and secondary school biology and geography teachers, and students from Tallinn Technical University.

The Ministry also sent a CD to schools throughout Estonia, which included the CBD IBD booklet, a brochure on European Union Action against Climate Change and Estonia's 4th National Communication under the framework of the UNFCCC. The CD includes links to websites on climate change and a link to a climate change game.

ETHIOPIA

The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation celebrated IBD in two phases. The first was a field trip to the birthplace of coffee in the southern part of Ethiopia at the Choche in situ conservation site, some 350 kilometers from the capital Addis Ababa, to celebrate with the coffee farming community, the regional agricultural and government officers and concerned individuals. Almost all the Institute staff, local communities and local authorities participated in this event.

The second event was held on 22 May in the hall of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, under the main theme Biodiversity and Climate Change. Featuring the participation of high-level officials, the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia officially opened the celebration. Oxfam America, UNEP and the Centre for Development Research of Bonn University provided financial support.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The Mediterranean region and the European Community, as part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, highlighted IBD through their EcoMEDia Magazine. Also available through the magazine are the statements of the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif. For more information:

<http://www.ecomediamagazine.org/>

FRANCE

The Natural History Museum of Paris provided access to many of their online resources. They also sent an email to their many partners containing the



messages of the CBD Executive Secretary and the Secretary General of the UN, as well as the PDF version of the CBD information booklet.

The Ministry of Ecology, Development and Sustainable Management, prepared a ground fresco, “Grasslands and their High Biodiversity,” to be displayed in the entrance hall of their offices until 6 June. The fresco, enhanced by patches of natural grassland, flowers and animal sounds, attracted several hundred visitors and was greatly enjoyed by adults and children alike. For more information:

<http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/Journee-mondiale-de-la,8150.html>

GAMBIA

A ceremony held at the offices of the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Abuko, provided representatives of various stakeholders, opinion makers, local authorities, students and researchers an opportunity to reflect on the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Dr. Almamy Camara, Director of the Department of Parks and Wildlife, discussed “The need to adapt to new patterns of temperature and rainfall, which has a major influence on evolutionary changes that produce the plant and animal species we see today.”

Alhagje Manjang, Senior Wildlife Officer at the Department of Parks and Wildlife focused his message on human activities that, in the Gambian context, contribute to global warming, such as poor fishing methods, sand mining and oyster collection methods.

GERMANY

The Working Group on Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group organized a conference on Biological Diversity

and Climate Change on 7 May at the Bundestag. Participants were invited to discuss and analyze the linkages between biodiversity and climate.

The German Youth-Multimedia project, Naturdetektive, of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) organized a special “20+10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity” activity to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity. Ten schools from 10 different CBD countries planted—at the same time around the world—20 native forest or fruit trees, on either their school grounds or an adjacent natural area. Countries participating were: Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Kenya, Iran, Mongolia, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia/Yap and the Russian Federation. The CBD Executive Secretary signed special certificates for each of the participating schools. For more information:

<http://naturedetektive.de/2007/dyn/12388.php>

See special section on page 54.

The parliamentary group Alliance 90/The Greens launched their special ad-hoc working group on COP 9 and COP/MOP 4 on IBD. By developing strategies for the conservation of biodiversity, and work on financial instruments and mechanisms for that purpose, they wish to ensure that the issue of biodiversity is the main focus in the environmental debate in parliament and among the general public.

The Government of Germany used the International Day for Biological Diversity to launch its national campaign for biodiversity by Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Its aim is to communicate to a broad public the importance of protecting the natural foundations of life. The establishment of a “nature alliance” comprising prominent people from politics, trade and industry, science, civil groups, culture and media helps to convey the message and inform and motivate the public.

To support celebrations in Vietnam, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) GmbH—on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ)—supported a series of events focused on biodiversity and climate change. Please see page 53 for more.

For more information:

<http://www.naturallianz.de>

For video message:

http://www.bmu.de/english/press_statements_speeches/doc/39394.php

GHANA

Ghana held celebrations in the Boti Falls region of the eastern part of the country, an area directly affected by climate change as massive deforestation in the region has led to the river supplying water to the falls drying up during the dry season.

Over 550 people participated in a durbar, or ceremonial gathering, including chiefs, land owners, members of the Assembly, school children and farmers. Speeches were given by the Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, the district Chief Executive, the chief of the Boti Falls area and the Eastern regional Minister. Community members were invited to ask questions on issues concerning the theme and conservation of Boti Falls. According to the response received from those participating, a “significant” understanding of climate change and its impact on biodiversity conservation was observed. Farmers were also eager to allow their lands to be used for conservation purposes. Additional activities included radio and television discussions on biodiversity and climate change throughout the week leading up to the day.

GREECE

The volunteers of Serres hosted a radio show on Rodon FM 95 in Praxis, Greece to promote IBD. The main purpose of the show was to highlight how we are all dependent on biodiversity. Through the comments and questions from callers, different threats to the local biodiversity were brought to light. The last hour of the show was dedicated to explaining what the individual can do to help protect biodiversity. To view pictures of the event, please see:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHntvOghV_c

GUYANA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as the National Focal Point for the Convention, coordinated several activities, which included coverage by media from local television.

Thirty students from 15 environmental clubs participated in a nature tour, held on 2 June in collaboration with the National Parks Commission of the CEIBA Biological Research Centre. Dr. Godfrey Bourne, Guyanese scientist and currently an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, USA, and owner of the research centre, provided a brief history of the Centre, emphasizing the importance of conservation. Participants learned about various plant species and basic agricultural techniques.

A roundtable discussion targeting tour operations in Guyana and the Customs and Trade Administration of the Guyana Revenue Authority was held on 23 May. Discussions centred on the biodiversity research application and permitting process, benefits arising from biodiversity research conducted in Guyana, and the role the public plays in the process, with an emphasis on tour operators and the Customs and Trade Administration.

The CBD video on Biodiversity and Climate Change was distributed to seven local television stations.

Ms. Annie Pitamber, EPA Senior Environmental Officer, was interviewed on the morning show “Guyana Today.” Providing a brief background on the Convention, she explained the relationship between biodiversity and climate change. Activities planned for IBD were also highlighted. Ms. Pitamber was also featured on the evening newscast, along with Ms. Sharifah Razack, Director, Education Information and Training Division.

A panel discussion on the television programme “Close-Up” featured Mr. Ramesh Lilwah, Biodiversity Specialist, EPA, Dr. Patrick Chesney, Conservation International-Guyana and Dr. Raquel Thomas, Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation. Discussing the interactions between biodiversity and climate change, they emphasized that just as climate change affects biodiversity, so changes in biodiversity can affect the world’s climate. Simple ways in which people can adapt to, and mitigate the effects of, climate change were highlighted.

HONDURAS

In Tegucigalpa, at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the CBD video on Biodiversity and Climate Change was posted on the intranet as a means of raising awareness among its 750 employees. Posters and other printed materials were distributed at the main entrances of the bank beginning on 21 May.

The Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA) organized several activities in conjunction with other partners. Chiminike Interactive Nature Centre organized a photography competition for all ages, and an art competition for primary and secondary school children was held throughout the month. On 18 May, a panel of judges picked three winners in each category. All submitted paintings and photographs were displayed until 23 May at the Nature Centre.

SERNA organized a guided visit to La Tigra National Park for two primary schools. Students were given the opportunity to experience the characteristics of a protected area and learn about the management strategy of the park. At the



“Rosy Walter” National Zoo, guided visits and tours were provided for schools of lesser means, to encourage the children to learn more about the country’s fauna, ecosystems and habitats, and the importance of conserving biodiversity.

At the Chiminike Interactive Nature Centre, SERNA organized a one-day symposium on 22 May, featuring seminars on the impacts of climate change on various ecosystems and species, presented by specialists in these fields. Videos and movies on climate change were also shown, as were videos and documentaries on the region’s biodiversity. The day ended with an outdoor concert at the centre.

On 22 May, approximately 200 young people from Christ the Worker School gathered to celebrate IBD. Activities included a presentation of IBD by the General Director of Natural Resources and Biodiversity, Mr. Arcadio Choza, from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Manejo de Recursos Naturales, MARENA), followed by a documentary video called, “Almendo: Tree of Life,” which showcased hundreds of Honduran species and focused on the large parrot, the Lapa Verde, presently listed as endangered.

HUNGARY

The State Secretary of the Nature and Environment Protection at the Ministry of Environment and Water held a press conference. Student journalists, trained last year by professional journalists at the country’s IBD celebrations, were invited to participate. The students have been very helpful in spreading biodiversity-related information among other students.

This year’s topic was linked to the official theme of IBD and also to Hungary’s natural flora and fauna and agricultural biodiversity. The conservation of traditional plant varieties and landraces adapted to different environmental, climatic



and geographical conditions are of great importance regarding adaptation to climate change.

A nation-wide competition, “Let’s Look Around in Our Neighbourhood!” involved students recording the kinds of traditional crop, fruit and vegetable varieties that can still be found in the kitchen gardens of their villages/towns. Students needed to collect the traditional/local name of the plant, describe its characteristic features, why people grow/plant that variety or whether there is any specific cultivation method. During the survey they had the opportunity to draw from the experience and knowledge of the older generation living in the countryside.

The deadline for the competition is St Martin’s Day (11 November 2007), the last day of the agricultural period. Experts from the Hungarian Research Centre for Agrobotany, an institute with nation-wide responsibility for the technical coordination of plant genetic resources collections, will help students determine plant varieties.

To commemorate IBD, and with the help of the Research Centre for Agrobotany, a colourful temporary seed exhibition of traditional Hungarian crops (including maize, wheat, lens, beans, oat and rye) opened in the Green Gallery of the Ministry of Environment and Water.

INDIA

Lok Sabha Television, which broadcasts live proceedings of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament), aired a live one-hour public forum on IBD, which included a screening of the CBD video *Biodiversity and Climate Change*. A panel discussion, comprising Mr. G. Balachandhran, Joint Secretary and India’s National CBD Focal Point; Dr. R.S. Rana, Ex-Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources; and Ms. Shalini Bhutani, Regional Programme Coordinator, Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), followed, with panelists taking telephone calls from viewers across the country.

To enhance public awareness of IBD, the Government of Delhi placed an ad in *The Times of India*. The Delhi Government also organized a workshop at the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, currently under development, with the Chief Minister

of Delhi addressing participants. Two thousand copies of the CBD poster were given to schools and Resident Welfare Associations, and one hundred copies, with more to come, of the *Biodiversity and Climate Change* video were distributed to schools.

The State Biodiversity Board of Uttar Pradesh organized a national seminar on biodiversity and climate change in Lucknow. Attended by policy makers, scientists, NGOs and research scholars, Mr. Desh Deepak Verma, IUCN – The World Conservation Union Country Director, delivered the keynote address.

The State Government of Manipur, in its capital Imphal, organized an activity, as did forest departments in various parts of Jharkhand. Movies on biodiversity conservation were screened at the Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park in Ranchi, and in villages of the Palamau district. Booklets, calendars and stickers were distributed, and discussions on the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change organized.

The Department of Environment in Rajasthan organized a group discussion on biodiversity and its significance to the state. Local NGOs also participated in the discussion. A short film on vanishing vultures was screened at the end of the event.

Chandigarh State Administration, in collaboration with local NGO Yuvsatta and Eco-clubs of different schools set-up under the National Green Corps, organized a ‘tree and bird watching’ contest on 22 May. The Department of Environment printed a poster and brochure on the IBD theme and distributed it to various Eco-clubs. It also issued a press release on the subject in the local newspaper *The Tribune*.

The CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai, one of the Centres of Excellence of Ministry of Environment and Forests, organized various biodiversity-related programmes in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. In Andhra Pradesh, training programmes were organized for villagers, Panchayat officials, women and NGOs. Apart from resource materials, fruit bearing saplings were distributed to participants. A short film on Biodiversity and Climate Change was also screened.

In Karnataka, a nature walk for students took place at one of the forest reserves. After a discussion on the subject, participants walked around the reserve, identifying several birds, animals and indigenous medicinal plants.

In Tamilnadu, CPREEC's field office at Ooty organized a meeting followed by a human chain of participants carrying placards with environmental messages. Various NGOs and students participated.

In Madhya Pradesh, celebrations were held in the capital Bhopal, and various district headquarters in the state. Activities included distribution, through the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, of a pamphlet on IBD geared towards raising awareness, a painting competition on the theme of this year's IBD, a screening of a documentary film on the subject, a quiz competition, games, and the hanging of banners in public places.

In Kerala State, the Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the IBD celebrations, organized by the Environment Department and the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB). The Chief Minister also released the *Kerala Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*. In his presidential address, the Minister for Forests and Housing mentioned the declaration of Kurinji Sanctuary for the conservation of 'Neelakurinji.' Other activities included the launch of the KSBB website (www.keralabiodiversity.org) and a state-level seminar on the topic 'Biodiversity —Major challenges for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization.'

In Mizoram State, IBD was observed in the capital, Aizwal, with papers presented on various biodiversity-related topics. Target groups included members of the Mizoram Biodiversity Board, science faculties and students from Mizoram University and Colleges and various NGOs.

In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a function organized by the Department of Environment and Forests was chaired by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and included a screening of the video on *Biodiversity and Climate Change*.

The State of Andhra Pradesh made wide use of the resources provided by the CBD Secretariat. As part of the celebrations, several activities were organized; including a familiarization workshop for research scholars, a meeting of stakeholders, a children's painting competition, and a function by the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board with Special Chief Secretary as the Chief Guest.

CEE Himalaya

The Centre for Environmental Education, Himalaya (CEE Himalaya) celebrated IBD simultaneously in three Himalayan states.

In Kashmir, celebrations took place at the Institution for Orphans run by the People's Education Trust, Baramulla. More than 50 orphan girls participated in this event that included a lesson on local biodiversity, the importance of IBD, and educational games to help learn about biodiversity and related issues in



a joyful and interactive manner. The children were provided with a set of indoor and outdoor games such as badminton sets, skipping ropes, baseball bats and balls.

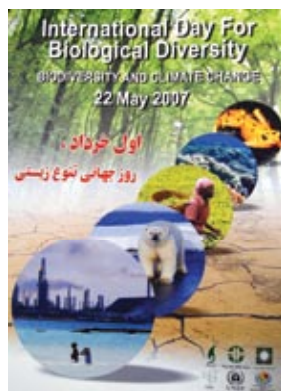
In Himachal Pradesh, CEE Himalaya collaborated with Paryavaran Avam Gramin Vikas Sansthan from Solan and MDV Jeev Sewa Sansthan, Dhyarighat to celebrate IBD. Over 30 people representing local NGOs, village panchayat members, women's groups, villagers and youth participated in the celebrations. The event featured presentations about the importance of biodiversity, goods and ecological services provided by biodiversity rich ecosystems, as well as climate change and related issues.

In Uttarakhand, in collaboration with the local NGO Sanyon ka Sangathan, approximately 150 students from three local schools, representing Grades 6 through 12, participated in IBD celebrations. These celebrations included a brief presentation about IBD, the importance of biodiversity and the threats it faces due to global climate change, and a drawing competition. The Bhowali branch of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources staged an exhibit on local biodiversity of grains, pulses, and medicinal and aromatic plants.

Gujarat Science City

Celebrations at Gujarat Science City included a poster exhibition on the theme, student's arts competitions and hands-on activities, a one-day workshop with scientists in the biodiversity and climate change fields, and screenings of biodiversity movies.

Gujarat Science City used the celebration as a way of sensitizing visitors to the world of science and technology. Visitors could explore the marvel of science in the Hall of Science, experience an IMAX 3D movie, explore the Children's Activity Centre, learn about energy in the Energy Education



Park, and end the evening at the Grand Musical Fountain inside the Science City campus.

The Kalpavriksh—Grain—IIED Biodiversity Information Pack was launched. Divided into three parts: Understanding the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; A Simple Guide to Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge; and, A Guide to the Biological Diversity Act 2002; the guide attempts to explain the provisions of the Act to people directly affected by it in a simple manner, focusing largely on the rights and responsibilities of communities in biodiversity conservation.

IRAN

The environmental magazine Green Wave (Mojesabz magazine) featured the CBD poster for the International Day for Biological Diversity on its cover, and the CBD poster designed for the Day was printed and translated into Persian.

IRELAND

Coillte, a state-owned company operating in forestry, organized the first ever Irish National Biodiversity Week. Environmental NGOs hosted a range of events around the country in association with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's "Notice Nature" public awareness campaign.

Coillte announced it will be managing three new LIFE projects:

- 1,990 hectares—"Restoring active blanket bog in Ireland"
- 571 hectares—"Restoring raised bog in Ireland"
- 550 hectares—"Restoring priority woodland habitats in Ireland."

According to the company, each is the largest project of its kind to be undertaken in Ireland.

ISRAEL

The Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection issued a press release highlighting the major interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. Touching briefly on biodiversity research in Israel and worldwide, the release highlighted the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and planning and biodiversity issues in Israel.

JAMAICA

The Institute of Jamaica celebrated by holding a series of lectures at the Institute's Lecture Hall on 22 May.

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) showcased the value of biodiversity, while highlighting the impacts of climate change on all living things.

NEPA collaborated with the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCdT) to host a workday to remove Ginger Lily—an invasive species that stifles the growth of native plants—in a section of Holywell Recreational Park in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. Removing the Ginger Lily supports the conservation campaign for the national park, managed by the JCdT on behalf of NEPA.

Additional activities included displays at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library and the Holywell Resource Centre; radio commercials on climate change; the creation of a webpage on NEPA's website; and posters on biodiversity and climate change.

JAPAN

Over 350 participants attended events in Nagoya, Japan. On 21–22 May, Mr. Ryo Kohsaka, CBD Junior Programme Officer, delivered presentations on the importance of biodiversity. The audiences, which included citizens, NGOs, university researchers and students, responded positively and the event was a great success.

A signing ceremony was held for a wetland affiliation with the City of Greater Geelong, Australia. Migratory birds which stop over at the Fujimae Tidal Flat in Nagoya pass the winter in wetlands in Geelong.

The United Nations University (UNU) Institute of Advances Studies, the Global Environment Information Centre and the Ministry of Environment of Japan organized a symposium at the UNU Centre in Tokyo. The senior-Vice-Rector of the UNU, as well as the Director General of the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Ministry of Environment, Japan, provided opening remarks, followed by a reading of the messages of the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and the UNFCCC. There were two other presentations, followed by two panel discussions and open forums on biodiversity and climate change issues.

At Waseda University, a daylong symposium was co-organized by the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) and Waseda University Environmental Research Institute, and supported by Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Agency. The symposium included scientific presentations on climate change and biodiversity and a panel discussion. Several halls were set up for school



children to visit, with exhibits, presentations and games for the children to participate in.

LEBANON

The Initiative for Biodiversity Studies in Arid Regions—American University of Beirut (AUB), with the Chemistry Department, USFC, Chemistry Student Society and Biology Student Society, celebrated IBD with a poster forum, highlighting important contributions that AUB faculty and students have made towards biodiversity conservation and climate change.

All departments and clubs involved in biodiversity/nature conservation were invited to participate. The posters were separated into three categories:

- Chem216 and Chem206 posters, under the theme of “Bioprospecting”
- Research contributions from research assistants and faculties
- Artistic contributions related to biodiversity and nature conservation

Participants were awarded a participation certificate, with prizes awarded to three student posters and one research assistant poster.

MALDIVES

The Maldives targeted many of their IBD activities to schoolchildren, as they represent the future of biodiversity conservation.

The Environment Research Centre of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water organized a meeting on 22 May, with the Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Mr. Ahmed Abdulla, Acting Minister of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security, Mr. Abdul Rasheed Hussein, and other government officials in attendance. In his speech, Mr. Abdulla spoke about the critical importance of environmental sustainability and protection of the country’s rich biodiversity.

Several publications by the Environment Research Centre were released, including Public Perception on the Environment: A Maldivian Perspective; Kasim and the Hawksbill Turtle: A Children's Storybook; and the first issue of their monthly newsletter, Pemphis.

A special video song by the Acting Minister of Higher Education, Mr. Abdul Rasheed Hussain, featuring a plea to leaders and elders to join hands to save the environment and biological diversity, was released. The song called for listeners to listen to the world's plea, to look at environmental crimes and bring about justice for the environment.

The Environment Research Centre organized a reef sightseeing tour in the "Tourist Submarine" for school children in the capital island Male'. Shown the diversity of the coral reefs, the children learned about the vulnerability of the reef ecosystem to climate change. Students also watched a video documentary on healthy reef ecosystems and the CBD video on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

A marine museum tour was organized for school children later in the afternoon. Students were taken to the Marine Museum of the Marine Research Centre, to see the fish and marine animals on display and to discuss the species of fish and coral found in the Maldivian reefs.

Local television, radio and dailies covered the day's events, with Television Maldives broadcasting special reports and interviews.

MALTA

Nature Trust Malta invited the general public to a talk on Maltese natural heritage at Wied Gholliega Environment Centre, at the University of Malta. Students visiting the nature reserve on 22 May were given free nature publications.

The Biological Conservation Research Foundation (BICREF) celebrated IBD by talking with youths about the meaning of Biodiversity and the 2010 target to halt its loss, through conservation research and action. BICREF also discussed the problems of climate and environmental change on biodiversity and its effects on humans.

St. Martin's College hosted the educational gathering with an introductory speech by Ms. Bernie Mizzi, Principle. Mr. Joseph C. Grioli, Vodafone Malta Foundation board member, also spoke, stating, "The Vodafone Malta Foundation is driven by Vodafone's passion for the world around us, which is about caring and commitment. The Foundation aims to make social investments that will make a difference to the world. Our support will surely lead to raising awareness about the need to care for our environment." Dr. Adriana Vella discussed why biodi-

versity needs to be taken more seriously and why voluntary work to protect our natural environment should be a part of everybody's lives.

BICREF showed and distributed its documentaries, produced with the assistance of the Ministries of Finance and Tourism, to upper secondary education entities including: MCAST, Private, Church and State Sixth forms. A copy was forwarded to the AV Library CCT of the University of Malta for education and research purposes.

The documentaries aired on all three main local TV channels and were also shown on an Australian TV channel.

BICREF also produced three educational posters for secondary schools focusing on the sea: its biodiversity, dolphins and BICREF's work. These posters aim to promote conservation values and awareness for biodiversity research and protection. BICREF's members, as part of ongoing research projects, including biodiversity around the coasts, and offshore creatures such as cetaceans and turtles, took all the photos. Creating the posters was done with the HSBC-Earthwatch research fellows' assistance.

MAURITIUS

The Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries, in collaboration with the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) Botanical Garden Trust, organized a tree planting ceremony on IBD at the SSR Botanical Garden in Pamplemousses.

The Minister of Environment and NDU, and acting Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries, Mr. Anil Bachoo, called for primary and secondary school students to "become environment stewards," with full and active participation in environmental protection and conservation. He urged students to practice the three R's—reduce, reuse and recycle—at home, as well as at school, for waste minimization. He also invited them to participate in a tree planting campaign to make Mauritius "clean and green."

During the ceremony, more than 80 plants, including several rare species of palm tree, were planted by students to sensitize the younger generation to biodiversity, its importance and the need for the conservation and protection of the country's natural heritage and biodiversity.

MEXICO

In celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the President of Mexico, Mr. Felipe Calderón, spoke in Chihuahua on the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to the people of Mexico. The President announced that 11 million of the 250 million trees pledged by Mexico to the worldwide One Billion

Tree Campaign would be planted in the state of Chihuahua. He also announced the signing of an agreement between the federal and state governments to invest almost one billion pesos for environmental protection in Chihuahua; and declared that 12 million pesos would be invested into seasonal employment in five zones of the state of Chihuahua. The Governor of Chihuahua, Mr. José Reyes Baeza, affirmed the urgency of making a commitment to leave a healthy environment for future generations, and that governments and society must take immediate actions to preserve biodiversity.

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) organized an event on 25 May at the National College. Minister Juan Elvira Quesada, Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, delivered a speech, and lectures were given by Dr. José Sarukhan, CONABIO National Coordinator, and Dr. Mario Molina, winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Some 680 people attended, including students, academics, professionals, media, and the general public. The lectures were broadcast via Internet to the Autonomous University of Coahuila, the Regional Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Mexico City, the center of radio astronomy and astrophysics in Michoacán, and the Center for Higher Education Scientific Research in Baja California. Fact sheets were distributed on steps that people can take to reduce their contribution to climate change. A video of the event will soon be available at:

www.conabio.gob.mx

The Mexican Federation of Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences prepared several articles on biodiversity. Topics included species loss, loss of forest area, and the displacement of millions of people due to climate change. Zoological Parks of Mexico City held various activities; including video screenings, painting and art workshops, and biodiversity presentations.

MOLDOVA

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Office, Biosafety Office, Climate Change Office and Ozone Office, organized a press conference featuring representatives from radio, newspapers and national television (Moldova 1, NIT, Moldova 7 etc.). Discussions centred on biodiversity, GMO use and the effects of climate change. The International Day for Biological Diversity garnered wide publicity from the media in Moldova; through national television, radio, news agencies and articles published in newspapers and magazines. For example, the magazine *Noi*, geared towards youth and teenagers, published a series of articles on biosafety and also held a drawing competition.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Biosafety Office of the Ministry of Ecology organized a meeting with territorial inspectors. Information about IBD was disseminated and applicative aspects concerning biosafety discussed. At the Botanical Garden (Institute of Genetics and Plant Physiology of the Academy of Sciences) scientific staff from the Botanical Garden, Biodiversity Office, Biosafety Office and the Climate Change Office, participated in a roundtable discussion. Meetings took place with secondary-school students, and a design and essay competition was organized, with winners receiving books and CDs. These meetings concluded with an excursion to the Botanical Garden.

MOROCCO

The Ministry of Territory Planning, Water and Environment organized, in collaboration with the High Commission of Waters and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, the Research Group for Birds of Morocco, the Scientific Institute of Rabat, the German organization GTZ and UNDP Morocco, a one-day event at the National Planning and Urbanization Institute of Rabat.

Several departments, universities, research institutes, associations, organizations, as well as national and international experts, participated through presentations, written communications and posters touching on:

- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity
- Mitigation and adaptation measures
- Current status, gaps and limits of scientific knowledge
- Tools for evaluating the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.



MOZAMBIQUE

Various institutions in ten provinces organized public events such as symposiums and debates on several radio and TV stations. The Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs and two major directorates were responsible for pre-

paring a symposium and facilitating public debates in two secondary schools in Maputo City.

The CBD Focal Point attended the “Café da Manhã,” a widely broadcasted radio show, and delivered an IBD message on “Janela Ambiental,” a Mozambique television station.

Within the provinces, events with major impact were carried out in schools and local communities, where, apart from the public debates and forums, a national tree-planting campaign was launched.

Quizzes for young children were created to inform them about the importance of biodiversity conservation. In Maputo City, young people with the most correct answers were awarded books, copybooks, pencils, erasers and ballpoint pens.

NEPAL

A workshop, “Community Biodiversity Register for Acquisition and Utilization of Biodiversity,” was organized in Pokhara. Hosted jointly by the District Biodiversity Coordination Committee, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) and the GEF Small Grants Programme, the purpose of the workshop was to share knowledge and experiences of Community Biodiversity Register (CBR) and increase institutional collaboration and networking to mainstream good practices of CBR. Chaired and inaugurated by Mr. Narahari Acharya, Chief Local Development Officer, the workshop featured some 60 participants from DADOs, DFOs, representation from different Kaski organizations, farmers, as well as local and national media. Two books on CBR were launched during the inauguration, as well as the presentation of 10 papers on CBR good practices and issues.

Other important events included a radio message from the honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, publication of the bulletin and an essay competition on biodiversity and climate change. The Secretary of the Minister presented the prize to the winner of the essay competition.

NETHERLANDS

Naturalis (the National Museum of Natural History), the Biology Institute of Leiden University and the National Herbarium Nederland organized a series of lectures titled, “The diversity of insects in a warmer climate: can insects adapt?” For more information:

http://biology.leidenuniv.nl/ibl/S10/news/archives/2007/05/16/lecture_jacques_van_alphen_for_biodiversity_day.shtml

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality organized a workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change. The purpose was to bring together representatives of government, non-governmental organizations and the scientific community to exchange views on the challenges and opportunities for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and how they can be incorporated into Dutch policy. Presentations were made by all three groups, and were followed by a discussion on the ways forward. A report of the meeting will be widely circulated. The workshop was held in the Ministry's conference centre at Castle Groeneveld.

NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua celebrations were held at the Christ the Worker School just outside of Managua, with approximately 200 students, ranging in age from 15 to 18 years old, participating. Students heard a presentation by the General Director of Natural Resources and Biodiversity, Mr. Arcadio Choza; learned about biodiversity, as presented by the MARENA (Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de Nicaragua) National Focal point; watched a documentary titled *Almendra Tree of Life*; to better develop an understanding of our interdependence on biodiversity, students passed around a ball of thread from one person to another to demonstrate how we are all part of the intricate web of life. In addition, students visited the Thomas More University and provided a copy of the documentary to the students there.

NIGER

The Minister of Environment and the Fight against Desertification addressed the country on 22 May to raise public awareness on the threats on biological diversity and to call on each person to act responsibly with the aim of sustainable management of this heritage.

The Minister underlined the efforts made by Niger in the field of integrated management of ecosystems and the conservation of biological diversity, the mitigation of the effects of climate change and the fight against desertification. He also emphasized the President's program, which constitutes a real example of adaptation to the negative effects of climate change.

The Executive Secretary of the National Council of the Environment for Sustainable Development, the focal point of the CBD, in association with the Wildlife and Fisheries Department of the Ministry of the Environment, organized a conference on the theme Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Following an opening message from the Interim Executive Secretary were several presentations on the biological diversity and the challenges facing it; the UNFCCC and its challenges; and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

A 45-minute film about global warming followed the presentations and preceded a question and answer period.

NORWAY

SABIMA organized a one-day seminar on the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change on 22 May in commemoration of IBD. For more information:

<http://www.sabima.no/sider/tekst.asp?side=309> (Norwegian only)

PAKISTAN

The Biodiversity Directorate and Forestry Wing, in collaboration with Machiara National Park and AJK Wildlife Department organized an event at Patteka, Muzaffarabad. The programme included:

- Presentation on the importance of Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Public-speaking competition for students
- Presentations by experts on the country's biodiversity
- Poster/drawing competition among students and an informal quiz
- A guided tour to familiarize students with the components of the ecosystem and how climate change is affecting it.

The day's events ended with the guest speakers participating on a live talk show arranged at a local television station.



Participants take part in a nature walk



The Institute of Pure and Applied Biology of Bahauddin Zakariya University marked IBD by presenting seminars on the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Graduate students in zoology contributed, under the supervision of their professors. Presentation topics included:

- Biodiversity of Pakistan: Threats and Conservation Requirements
- Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity
- Environmental Philosophy and Ethics
- Nuclearization and Biodiversity
- Pharmaceutical Pollutants and Biodiversity
- Energy Resource Utilization and its Influence on Biodiversity
- Fresh Water Crisis and State of Biodiversity in 2025.

The Attock Refinery Limited (ARL) in collaboration with the National Cleaner Production Centre-Foundation celebrated IBD through an awareness raising campaign at Morgah Government Girls High School. Speakers included Kotha Kalan, Union Council, Nazim Chaudhry Javed Akhtar Khan, Rawalpindi Education Officer, Naseem Altaf, ARL CBA Union President, and Ali Mardan, ARL Human Resource Manager.

PARAGUAY

The Department of the Environment (La Secretaria del Ambiente, SEAM) issued a press release to commemorate IBD. The press release gave an overview of biodiversity and its importance, as well as its interlinkages with climate change. It included a statement from the Director of Biodiversity Protection and Conservation of SEAM, Dario Mandelburguer, discussing how the effects of climate change on the country's biodiversity will impact on the lives of its people.

PERU

The National Environmental Council (Consejo Nacional del Ambiente, CONAM) of Peru prepared several activities to commemorate IBD. Celebrations began on 18 May with a conference on free trade and biodiversity followed by a full

day family-oriented event on 19 May. After a few words of welcome from the Executive Secretary of CONAM, there was a theatrical performance on the value of biodiversity in everyday life, as well as interactive games for children. A trip to the coast was organized, to raise public awareness about local biodiversity.

On 21 May a formal conference comprising scientific experts, research institutions, private companies, students and general public was held. The forum focused on the positive and negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and presented probable scenarios for adaptation and mitigation to its consequences.

On 22 May celebrations began with words of welcome from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, followed by the opening by the Prime Minister of Peru. Several messages were presented including those of the Executive Secretaries of both the CBD and the UNFCCC. The day ended with a cocktail reception and an exhibition of all biodiversity related products produced in Peru.

PHILIPPINES

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, organized activities in partnership with other governmental agencies and NGOs at the national level.

From 2–31 May, streamers were hung in conspicuous places within Metro Manila. On 22 May and 26 May, there was a free showing of “Endangered Tales.” On 22 May, participants observed “World Migratory Bird Day” and assisted in the launching of the book “Numbers and Distribution of Water Birds and Wetlands in the Asia-Pacific Region.” Entrance to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center was free on that day. There was also a release of herons and a ceremonial planting of Nilad at the Manila Bay area.

From 22–25 May, a Bio-Trade Fair and Exhibit were held, which included an exhibit on biodiversity and climate change. On 23 May, a forum on Biodiversity and Climate Change was organized to draw the attention of key stakeholders to the intertwined issues of climate change and biodiversity; initiate discussion on addressing challenges to biodiversity from climate change; and come up with a Forum Resolution to continue the discussion on the two issues to further enhance awareness at the national and local levels.

On 24–25 May, there was a short lecture followed by a film on issues related to biodiversity and climate change, such as coral reef resiliency, wetlands and climate change, and the impact of climate change on mangroves.

An IBD concert featuring Haribon Foundation Ambassadors and the Wuezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation took place 25 May, and on 26

May, the closing program included the delivery of certificates of recognition to wildlife enforcement officers/biodiversity conservation partners; and the release of herons and handing over of a Nilad tree to the City of Paranaque.

The Metro Dumaguete Roadrunners Club hosted a “Clean-Up Drive.” The 22 May event included a five-kilometer pre-determined route for clean-up that ended with the launch of a Biological Diversity Exhibit. Prior to this event, there was a poster-making workshop for communication, education and public awareness, concluding with a five-kilometer “fun-run” on 20 May.

POLAND

Mr. Jan Szysko, Poland’s Minister of the Environment, held a press conference on climate change threats to biodiversity, and the role biodiversity and soils play in the adaptation and mitigation to climate change. The CBD video on Biodiversity and Climate Change was translated into Polish and shown during the conference.

The Ministry of the Environment organized a plastic arts competition for primary school children on the theme of biodiversity and climate change. Children had to prepare their works on one of two issues:

- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity: How will biodiversity look like at the end of the 21st century if we do nothing about climate change?
- Adaptation and mitigation activities: What can we do on a global and local scale?

About 100 works were received from schools all over the country. Young artists showed great sensitivity, creativity and awareness, with the best works rewarded.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Office, Biosafety Office, Climate Change Office and Ozone Office, organized a press conference for IBD. Representatives from national mass media: radio, newspapers and national channels of television (including Moldova 1, NIT, Moldova 7) participated. Issues addressed included biodiversity, GMO use, and local and global climate change effects.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Biosafety Office of the Ministry of Ecology organized a conference with the territorial inspectors, focusing on IBD and biosafety.

The Botanical Garden (The Institute of Genetics and Plant Physiology of the Academy of Sciences), hosted various activities. A roundtable discussion was held with the scientific staff of the Botanical Garden, Biodiversity Office, Biosafety Office and Climate Change Office. Several activities were organized for secondary schools including seminars and art and essay competitions. At the end of the day a guided tour of the greenhouses was given.

The youth magazine *Noi* was engaged to publish a series of articles on biosafety. The magazine also launched a drawing competition on the theme “Biosafety—Genetic Modifications,” with the results to be announced in October 2007.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Sao Tome commemorated the International Day for Biological Diversity through several public awareness campaigns on TV and radio, informing people of the importance of biological diversity.

SINGAPORE

The National Parks Board of Singapore, co-organized with the Raffles Museum for Biodiversity Research (RMBR) of the National University of Singapore, “The Biodiversity of Singapore Symposium II: Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity and the Linnaeus Tercentenary.” The half-day symposium was held at the Botany Centre of the Singapore Botanical Gardens.



In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board, noted that people are often surprised that Singapore has such a rich biodiversity, and that Singapore continues to discover new species. The guest-of-honor at the event was Ambassador Tommy Koh, a distinguished diplomat who received UNEP’s “Champions of the Earth” award last year. Swedish Ambassador Pär Ahlberger provided insights on Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy and systematics.

The event featured two key talks: “Climate Change and Biodiversity in Singapore,” by Dr. Geoffrey Davison from the National Parks Board; and “Reflections on Linnaeus: Taxonomy and Biodiversity in Singapore,” by Professor Peter Ng from RMBR.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Republic of South Africa announced the Ramsar listing of two new Wetlands of International Importance, the sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands and the Makuleke Wetlands in the far northeast of the country, part of the Kruger National Park on the border with Zimbabwe and Mozambique. For more information:

http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.southafrica_makuleke.htm

The Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI) is a pioneering partnership between Wines of South Africa (WOSA) and the South African conservation sector. Its goal is to minimize further loss of threatened natural habitat and to contribute to sustainable wine production through the adoption of “biodiversity guidelines.”

On 22 May, Jo Mason from WOSA was available for interview to discuss how South Africa is leading the world in terms of eco-friendly wine production, through an industry’s commitment to preserving biodiversity.

The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) in Empangeni used IBD as a platform to draw attention to the considerable and growing problem of exotic or alien animals in the country. Due to several discoveries of exotic animals in shipments at the airport, NSPCA issued a press release on 22 May to draw attention to this very serious issue in biodiversity conservation.

The City of Cape Town and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape jointly celebrated IBD at the Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA). The BCA is a nature reserve of which 953 hectares was, on 22 May, proclaimed a Local and Provincial Nature Reserve by the Minister for Environmental Affairs, Planning and Economic Development, Tasneem Essop. The day’s programme included a guided trip through the BCA, and presentations by guest speakers, including Minister Essop and Deputy Mayor Charlotte Williams.

The Indalu Yethu (Our Heritage) campaign, a partnership between the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), was officially launched on IBD in Mogale City. Celebrations took place in two stages.

The first was an Imbizo, a forum for enhancing dialogue between the government and the people, with the Mogale City community. The key objective was to allow people from the area to share best practice examples and to exchange views on how the community can maximize returns invested in good environmental practices. An equally important objective was to foster stronger relations between Mogale City, as an example of South Africa’s communities, and the national Parliament. Chair of the Imbizo was Langa Zita, the current chair of the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs. The Imbizo was a success and attracted

some 200 guests, representing local government, neighboring schools, civil society organizations and local businesses.

The second part featured the formal “launch” of the campaign at the Maropeng Centre, which drew more than 150 decision makers from the government and business sectors. Mr. Koketso C. Seerane, the Mayor of Mogale City, welcomed guests. This was followed by a keynote address from the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk.

SPAIN

The Council of Environment and Territory Ordinance of the Canary Islands Government, directed by Domingo Berriel, celebrated IBD with the approval of conservation plans for more than 15 threatened species within the Canary Islands.

The Biosphere Reserve of La Palma Island, held a celebration with Mr. José Luis Perestelo, President of the Island. The day showcased the different landscapes, ecosystems, as well as the unique flora and fauna of “La Isla Bonita.”

An institutional declaration was made, pleading for the protection of the richness of the Biosphere Reserve. Mr. Perestelo took this opportunity to encourage cities and towns to continue to respect the island’s biodiversity in order to evolve into a perfect model of equilibrium between development and conservation.

WWF/Adena, in the town hall plaza of Ciudad Real, set up a taste-testing table with food made from resources taken from the Picos de Europa and Sierra Nevada National Parks. This information kiosk aimed to increase the public’s awareness of their dependence on biodiversity in this area.

The Biodiversity Foundation of Spain’s Ministry of Environment organized a conference at the Fine Arts Centre in Madrid. The guest of honor was Dr. Jane Goodall, who spoke of the importance of biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change. To view presentation:

Part 1:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJM-deAwUE&mode=related&search=>

Part 2:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgeJuNE02zs&mode=related&search=>

Part 3:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZWHZFOA_Z0&mode=related&search=

SRI LANKA

The Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment celebrated by holding several key events, with high priority placed on creating awareness on biodiversity and climate change among school children and the general public.

Main IBD celebrations were held with the participation of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. An awareness programme was conducted for school children through presentations on biodiversity and climate change given by an eminent expert. The presentations were conducted at the national level in government schools.

Four stamps were issued on marine mollusks, which are considered vulnerable to climate change and an important component of Sri Lanka's biodiversity.

Expert interviews on biodiversity and climate change were broadcast over the radio, with newspaper articles published in local papers throughout the country.

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura organized an event to introduce the biodiversity found around the university to students and the general public. This included excursions conducted around the university garden to show different bird, insect, lower plant and higher plant species, as well as key features of their identification.

TAJIKISTAN

The main event was a seminar on Biodiversity and Climate Change, organized by the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre (NBBC) of Tajikistan. Participants included the national coordinators for the CBD, UNFCCC and other conventions, ministers and government representatives, scientists and researchers, consultants



from the World Bank, UNDP, universities and NGOs. The chairman of the seminar was Mr. Safarov, CBD and CPB National Focal Point and Head of the NBBC. During the seminar the CBD Biodiversity and Climate Change video was shown, and an exhibition of publications and photos on Tajikistan's biodiversity was organized.

On 13 May, the group "Geo-ecology" of the Children's Youth Centre held a Children's Conference on Biodiversity in recognition of IBD. The conference was held under the framework of the programme "Environment for the Future Generation," dedicated to the theme of Biodiversity Conservation according to the Red Book of Planet Earth. Students were asked to role-play and deliver messages on behalf of the species listed in the Red Book, with the best performances awarded prizes.

The NBBC supported the organization of a scientific conference for students involving the biology students of the Tajik State National University. The students presented reports on Tajikistan's flora and valuable biodiversity.

Several activities were organized within the framework of the World Bank project, "Biodiversity Conservation of the Dashtidghum Nature Reserve." These activities included:

- At the regional level, teachers gave "open-house" ecology lessons, with the best lesson awarded a prize
- An inter-school "Olympics" on biology was held in the Khatlon region
- Schools in Dashtidghum participated in the contest, "Nature's Play and Fancy," with selected exhibits displayed at the local Museum of Nature
- Movies on environmental protection shown in Khatlon region schools
- Foresters of the nature reserve received training in biodiversity monitoring.

The main event in the Khatlon region was a roundtable discussion on IBD, organized by the city of Kulyab, the Kulyab Area Inspection for Environmental Protection, with the support of the NBBC. Leaders of environmental agencies, representatives of the young ecologist movement, "Green Patrol," mass media and local authorities participated in the discussion. Issues covered included: information on the CBD and its ratification by Tajikistan, the state of the country's biodiversity, and measures taken by government and local authorities to conserve and protect biodiversity. The roundtable was followed by an excursion to the Botanical Gardens of Kulyab City.

THAILAND

The Biodiversity Division of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning—the national focal point for the CBD—organized a two-day

seminar titled “Biodiversity and Climate Change” on 22–23 May at the Miracle Grand Hotel in Bangkok.

Approximately 600 participants from Government organizations, academic and research institutions, NGOs, businesses and the press participated in the seminar. Presentations included: Biodiversity and Climate Change at the Global and Regional Level; The Three Rio Conventions and Actions against Climate Change Impact; Biodiversity in the Hot Spots of Phetchabun and Phitsanuloke Province; Biodiversity and Thai Traditional Knowledge; Legislation and Traditional



Knowledge; Major Threats to Thailand’s Biodiversity: Particularly Invasive Alien Species and LMOs; and Thailand’s Regulation Concerning Biosafety.

Some of the technical books, booklets and documents concerning biodiversity, the CBD, and climate change, including the Thai language version of GBO 2 and the CBD’s Biodiversity and Climate Change booklet were given to all participants.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Environmental Management Authority held a symposium and exhibition in recognition of IBD. The symposium focused on the ever changing climate and its role in the disappearance of habitats and species. The exhibition was titled, “Vanishing Species—State of Unknowing.”

An exhibit housed at the Asa Wright Nature Centre showcased models of threatened animals, posters and charts on endangered flora and fauna and an array of brochures, booklets and information sheets for visitors.

TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan organized several activities, including an art and article competition for children called “Nature Through a Child’s Eyes,” featuring some 300 pictures and 30 articles submitted by over 200 children. These submissions were exhibited at the show room of the Painter’s Unit.

There were two winning categories, children between five and nine years of age and children from 10–15 years of age. In total, 39 submissions received awards. All partici-



pants were awarded diplomas and gifts by representatives from the Ministry of Nature Protection and the UNDP during the official opening of the exhibition, held at the Exhibition Hall of the Ministry of Culture.

Officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Nature Conservation, the exhibition featured welcoming speeches from the UNDP Permanent Representative in Turkmenistan, Mr. Richard Young, and guest speaker Mrs. Kori Udovicki, Director of UNDP's Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. PowerPoint presentations on biodiversity materials for children followed.



Many mass media journalists were invited and the event received broad coverage.

Posters and T-shirts with the IBD and CBD logo were also prepared. Special calendars, using the artwork from the art competition, were published. These gifts were distributed to participants during the opening of the exhibition.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On the occasion of IBD, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi, Minister of Environment and Water, delivered a speech in which he stated that the country has been able to balance its modern developmental initiatives with environment protection.

UNITED KINGDOM

IBD celebrations took place at the Millennium Seed Bank, Kew Gardens (Wakehurst Place), where the UK Minister for Biodiversity, Mr. Barry Gardiner, led an official ceremony to mark the banking of the Millennium Seed Bank Project's billionth seed.

Mr. David Cooper, CBD Programme Officer, spoke on behalf of Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD. Presentations were also given by Minister Gardiner; Lord Selbourne, Chair of the Kew Trustees; Steve Hopper, Kew Director; and Paul Smith, Head of the Millennium Seed Bank. A recorded message from Gordon Brown, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer and prime minister-in-waiting, was presented. The underlying theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change

was evident throughout all presentations, as were conservation and sustainable use.

Minister Gardiner made two important announcements. First, he announced that guidelines were launched

on 22 May concerning the duty of public authorities to consider biodiversity in all their work. Already enshrined in legislation, these guidelines aim to help local authorities and other public bodies to implement it. Second, the Minister announced a \$20,000,000 donation to the Global Crop Diversity Trust, a foundation for food security, as part of the Department for International Development's aim to fight global poverty and hunger in the world's poorest countries. For more information:

www.croptrust.org/main/
http://www.kew.org/msbp/news/IBD_seed_banked.html
<http://www.kew.org/msbp/news/billionth-seed.html>



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs issued two press releases related to the activities of 22 May:

'Sowing the seeds for the future of food':

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070522d.htm

'Survival of UK plants and wildlife in a changing climate':

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070522a.htm

UKRAINE

Celebrations at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), began with opening remarks by Mr. Volodymyr P. Morenets, Vice-President of the Scientific and Educational Department of NaUKMA; the Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine, Mr. John-Christer Ahlander; and Mr. Kostyantyn M. Sytnyk, Academician at the National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine.

Six presentations followed on various topics, including "Living Heritage of Carl Linnaeus"; "Biodiversity Conservation in Ukraine and Around the World"; "Palynological Investigations in NaUKMA"; "Biodiversity Conservation in the Ukraine: Public Participation and Legal Aspects"; "Applied Aspects of Biodiversity Conservation"; and "The Tree of Life: A Modern View." A discussion session featuring all 82 participants, including representatives from the Institute of

Botany, the Institute of Zoology, NaUKMA lecturers and students, and several NGOs, concluded the day's activities. Other activities included a photo competition on "Biodiversity as Seen through the Student's Eyes," and the distribution of brochures and posters throughout the university campus.

UZBEKISTAN

Mountain kishacks (villages) near the Chatkalsky Reserve celebrated by holding special seminars, under the project "Conservation of Biodiversity of Western Tien-Shan," to develop scenarios, objectives and methods for future IBD celebrations. The Secretariat's IBD materials were translated into the Uzbek language and published with the aid of the State Committee for Nature Protection.

VIET NAM

The Vietnamese Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, through its agency GTZ, and the CBD, as well as other national and international partners organized a conference on "Biodiversity and Climate Change: Links with Poverty and Sustainable Development" on 22–23 May in Hanoi. The conference looked at a variety of activities including:

- Challenges of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss for South East Asian Countries: Links to Poverty and Sustainable Development
- Regional and Local Approaches on Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation / Case Studies
- Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Aspects in National and Sectoral Strategies in Vietnam.

The conference, held in the Melia Hotel, Hanoi, provided a forum for decision makers, researchers, development agencies, non-governmental organizations and the concerned public to exchange expertise and experiences in the regional context, discuss and assess emerging adaptation strategies and to provide a platform for networking and collaboration among relevant actors.

The conference was linked with "Biodiversity Action Day" in Tam Dao National Park on 19 May, affording visitors from all walks of life a direct experience of nature and the opportunity to experience biodiversity conservation and climate change issues in a practical context. Various cultural and artistic performances accompanied the events.

20+10 Schools and Trees for Biodiversity

Children in ten countries around the world celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity by taking part in a special “20+10 Schools and Trees for Biodiversity” activity. In this activity the children took real action themselves to conserve biodiversity (and help meet the 2010 Target) and reduce climate change by contributing to the world Billion Tree campaign.

Children from each of the ten participating schools planted—at the same time around the world—twenty native forest or fruit trees on their school grounds or near by.



Students from Juja Senior School, Nairobi, Kenya



ECO-ASIA high school students, Ulan Bator, Mongolia



Students from Meyuns Elementary School in Palau.

Each school team shared with each other one photo per day over five days, from Monday 7 May to Friday 11 May, illustrating the five main steps of the 20+10 activity: the planning, the planting area, the saplings, the planting activity and the celebration after planting. These pictures were then posted on the Internet:

www.naturdetektive.de/2007/dyn/12388.php

DAY 1: PLANNING



Students from the Educarium School in Ottawa, Canada examine the site plan

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WERE IN:

Canada	Mongolia
Denmark	Palau
Ecuador	Federated States of Micronesia/Yap
Germany	The Russian Federation
Kenya	
Iran	

DAY 2: SURVEYING THE PLANTING AREA



Students from the 9th class of Moscow school # 138, Russian Federation

DAY 3: TAKING STOCK OF THE SAPLINGS



Some of the trees to be planted in Micronesia/YAP

DAY 4: PLANTING THE TREES



Students from Johannes School in Copenhagen, Denmark prepare to plant the trees.



Albert-Einstein School, Quito, Ecuador



Students from Imam Jafar e-Sadegh School, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

DAY 5: CELEBRATING A JOB WELL DONE



Students from the Albert Einstein School in Groß Bieberau, Germany celebrate a job well done!

Indeed a job well done! The CBD Executive Secretary signed special certificates of appreciation for each of the schools. In Palau, the certificate was presented to the school principal by President Tommy E. Remengesau in a ceremony broadcast on national radio and TV.



President Tommy E. Remengesau of Palau (left) presents Certificate of Appreciation to Meyuns Elementary School Principal Alwino Kenty

Countries not Party to the Convention

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Woods Hole Research Centre in Falmouth, Massachusetts held a program of short lectures on 22 May. Centre scientists Mr. Scott Goetz, Ms. Nadine Laporte and Mr. David McGrath discussed the impact of climate change and its effects on biodiversity in different regions of the world—the boreal forest of North America, Africa and the Amazon. Posters profiling the Centre’s work in sites around the world were displayed.

Stetson University College of Law, Florida, organized a live interactive multimedia broadcast to commemorate IBD. The broadcast began with a lecture by Dr. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and past Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC). Panel respondents included, Mr. Royal C. Gardner (Moderator), Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University College of Law; Mr. William Burns, formerly an Associate Professor in the International Environmental Policy Program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and now Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy and Co-Chair of the International Environmental Law Committee of the American Society of International Law; and Ms. Annie Petsonk, coordinator of Environmental Defense’s advocacy efforts on international environmental law, international agreements and institutions, and adjunct professor at George Washington University and University of Maryland law schools.

A presentation was delivered at the Mosaic of Life exposition at the Kentucky State Fair, which was essentially a virtual “eco-tour” exploring endangered species in Kentucky and in Africa. For more information:

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/departments/EnvironmentalEd/images/otherart/EndangeredSpeciesDay.pdf>

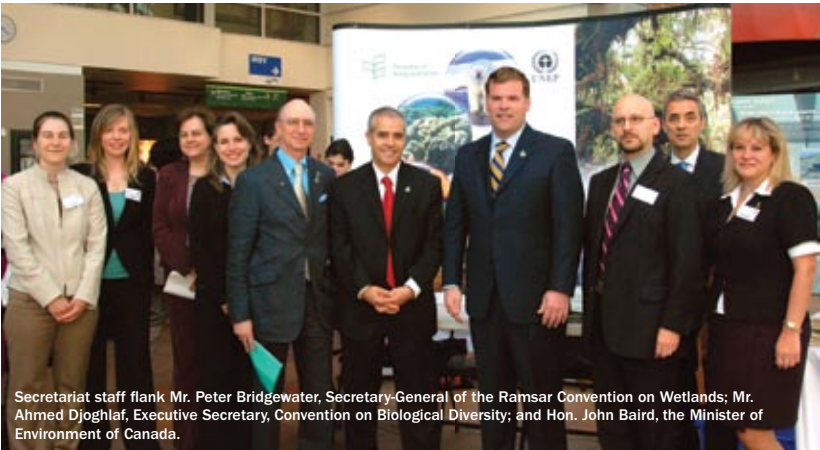
CBD Secretariat Celebrates with Host Government and Partners

CELEBRATION AT THE MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the CBD and the signature of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), two major agreements for sustainable development, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This year's theme underlines the important relationship between the two environmental agreements and supports the International Polar Year.

In partnership with the City of Montreal, the Secretariat organized a celebration at the Montreal Botanical Garden on 22 May that looked at how these two issues have evolved from the Earth Summit and the challenges that lie ahead—Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target and combating the impacts of climate change.

The day's events began with a tree-planting ceremony, where the Montreal Botanical Garden received the rare Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*). Named for the location where it was found and the man who discovered it, the pine is one of the world's rarest species. Dating back to the dinosaurs, today there are fewer than one hundred specimens growing in the wild. To protect it, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) designated its habitat a World Heritage site, and a propagation programme was started to help safeguard this unique treasure.



Secretariat staff flank Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity; and Hon. John Baird, the Minister of Environment of Canada.



Participants in the VIP tree planting ceremony at the Montreal Botanical Garden

H.E. William Fisher, Australian High Commissioner to Canada, offered the tree to the City of Montreal on behalf of the Government of Australia. Ms. Helen Fotopulos, member of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, accepted it, and in turn presented it to the Montreal Botanical Garden. As part of their partnership with the CBD, the Montreal Botanical Garden will feature the Wollemi Pine in its “Biodiversity Garden,” which showcases some of the world’s unique floral biodiversity.

Following this event, attention shifted to the first of the day’s panels. Focusing on biodiversity and climate change policy, the panel examined how biodiversity can help societies cope with the impacts of climate change. Speakers explored how the CBD and the UNFCCC can work together to achieve sustainable development.

Dr. Taïeb Chérif, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, launched the opening session by reading the IBD message from Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General. Mr. Ki-moon urged member states to move rapidly and with more determination at all levels, to urgently achieve the goals of these two landmark instruments for current and future generations. “The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is an essential element of any strategy to adapt to climate change.”

Messages from current and future presidents of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD called for collaboration between the CBD and the UNFCCC.

The President of COP 8 and Minister of Environment for Brazil, Ms. Marina Silva, pledged that Brazil would “foster a virtuous cycle that, aside from protecting biodiversity, will allow us to increase synergies with



Brazil's Minister of Environment, Marina Silva, is introduced prior to delivering her video message.

other Conventions and to contribute to the protection of natural resources and the long-term management of ecosystems and environmental services.”

German Environment Minister, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, host of the next COP meeting, said “nature conservation is climate protection and climate protection is nature conservation.”

In preparation for COP 9 the German government launched a National Campaign for Biodiversity on 22 May. “Today we will establish a ‘nature alliance’ consisting of prominent people from politics, trade and industry, science, civil groups, culture and media, who will help us to convey our messages and inform and motivate the public,” said Mr. Gabriel.

Statements were then delivered by the heads of the CBD and the UNFCCC, focusing on the inter-relationship of biodiversity and climate change.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, said, “Climate change is indeed an energy and security issue but it is also an environmental issue. Biodiversity loss is an environmental issue but it is also an economic, financial, cultural, ethical as well as a security issue.”

“Addressing both requires the mutually supportive implementation of the Rio Conventions for the benefit of life on Earth. We, in the Secretariat of the Convention on life on Earth, shall spare no effort to achieve such a strategic objective.”

Mr. Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, echoed the call for continued cooperation. “The understanding of the relationship between actions to address climate change and biodiversity loss has increased as the UNFCCC and the CBD have advanced work to meet their respective objectives.”

“Stemming biodiversity loss and related biodiversity considerations need to be part of climate change adaptation strategies. Collaboration between the

UNFCCC and the CBD is increasing and the CBD’s active contribution to further work on the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is most valuable,” said Mr. de Boer.

Representatives from the three levels of Canadian government also participated in this panel, including the Minister of Environment of Canada, Hon. John Baird, the Minister of Public Works and



Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Government Services of Canada and Minister Responsible for the Region of Montreal, Hon. Michael Fortier, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Hon. Line Beauchamp, and the Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay.

“Canada’s new government is committed to protecting biodiversity and maintaining the quality of life we all enjoy today, while ensuring a conservation legacy for future generations,” said Canada’s Minister of the Environment, Hon. John Baird. “We are working with national and international partners to protect the earth’s ecosystems for the benefit of all nations.” The Minister also announced a pledge of CAD\$4.5 million dollars in support of biodiversity conservation initiatives.

The Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay, said, “In view of increasing urbanization that affects all continents, cities are being called upon to play a major role in the protection and sustainability of biological diversity.”

Young people from an organization called HabitatNet read a youth declaration, following a brief description of the project by Mr. Dan Bisaccio, Programme Director. HabitatNet enables teachers and students to establish permanent biodiversity monitoring projects around the globe and use telecommunications, via email and websites, to communicate investigations, findings, and questions regarding biodiversity issues and management.

“We are today’s tomorrow. What happens today does not just affect the future, it is the future. There are plants and animals living today that have not yet been discovered, that may never be discovered, because of our carelessness and thoughtless aspirations. We need to allow for the existence of all species on this planet.” So began their call for governments around the world to hear and include the voice of youth into their work to conserve and sustainably use the world’s biological resources. They challenged governments to adopt projects



(from left) Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif and Hon. John Baird confer prior to the tree planting ceremony

The Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay



Youth from HabitatNet challenge governments to adopt programmes aimed at biodiversity conservation

aimed at biodiversity conservation and called for better education as “the key to understanding the importance of conserving biodiversity.”

Following the youth segment, prizes were handed out to the six winners of the CBD art competition on Biodiversity and Climate Change. Winners received their prizes from Mr. Djoghlaif, Ms. Rachel Léger, Director of the Montreal Biodôme, and H.E. Tor B. Næss, Ambassador of Norway.

In homage to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a panel of eminent Canadians who played key roles in the development of the CBD spoke of their visions for the future. Hon. Clifford Lincoln, former Minister of Environment for Quebec, Ms. Elisabeth Dowdeswell, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Mr. Len Good, former Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, all delivered a call for the various multilateral environmental agreements to work together to realize synergies.

The last panel of the day featured messages from partners to the CBD, including multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations.

Ms. Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility, expressed her support, via video message, to the work of the Convention and spoke of the interrelationship of climate change and biodiversity loss and the need to deal with both in a coordinated way.

Representing the Director-General of UNESCO, the director of the New York Office, Ms. Hélène-Marie Gosselin, said UNESCO and the CBD would continue to work together in support of the objectives of both organizations.

Mr. Kemal Derviş, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, stated, “It is clear that much needs to be done to address this major environ-



Three Canadians who played a key role in the development of the CBD (from left) Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, former UNEP Executive Director, Hon. Clifford Lincoln, former Minister of Environment for Quebec, and Mr. Len Good, former GEF CEO

mental challenge facing the world. Both the CBD and the UNFCCC have a central role in driving these timely and urgent agendas forward to ensure that they are at the heart of global efforts to create a sustainable future for all.”

Mr. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, emphasized the impacts of climate change on a variety of migratory species including birds and populations of sea turtles and praised the linkages between the multilateral environmental agreements.

Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, said wetlands are critical to mitigating climate change. “They have an important and underestimated role in both carbon storage and greenhouse gas regulation. Increased interactions between the CBD, UNFCCC and Ramsar Convention can lead only to better outcomes for our newly energized attack on the phenomenon of climate change.”

The Head of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)—Canada, Mr. John Herity, delivered a message of support and stressed the need to mobilize civil society in biodiversity conservation. Ms. Tiina Kurvits, North American Coordinator of



A reception followed the high-level event at the Montreal Botanical Garden



Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention

the Polar Program of UNEP/GRID-Arendal, gave a presentation of the four Arctic flagship species.

Prior to closing remarks by Mr. Djoghlaf, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CBD and MKI Travel and Conference Management. Mr. Ronald Greenwood, president of MKI was present for the signing.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

On 22 May 2006 the Executive Secretary of the CBD extended an invitation to several Canadian universities and research institutions to meet for a roundtable discussion on collaboration with the CBD. An agreement with the Secretariat was signed to join forces in mobilizing the scientific and technical community in support of the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, a meeting was held on 22 May to take stock of the progress achieved.

The focus of the meeting was to share the successes of what has been done to date. For example, the Centre for International Studies and Research (CEDRIE) of the Université de Montréal organized a two-day symposium, 17–18 May, on the implementation of the CBD. Carleton University and Université Laval both put together “biodiversity networks,” to enhance collaboration between researchers, centres and universities on biodiversity conservation efforts.

The meeting ended with the official signing of the Letter of Intent with Université Laval. Mr. Michel Pigeon, Université Laval Chancellor, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the CBD, signed the letter.



Representatives of Canadian universities and the CBD hold roundtable discussion



Université Laval and the CBD sign Letter of Intent

CONFERENCE ON “CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY”

The Secretariat collaborated with Équiterre, a Montreal-based NGO which promotes individual and collective choices that are both environmentally and socially responsible, to organize a public conference on 22 May to celebrate IBD.

The event, “Mission Antarctique: La Terre vue de la mer, Conférence de Jean Lemire sur les changements climatiques et la biodiversité,” featured biologist and filmmaker, Mr. Jean Lemire, who shared his experiences as expedition leader.

In addition to Mr. Lemire, Mr. Gilles Gauthier, Dean of the Faculty of Science at UQAM, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, Executive Secretary of the CBD, and Mr. Sidney Ribaux, cofounder and general coordinator of Équiterre, delivered speeches. The master of ceremony was Mr. Charles Tisseyre, a renowned TV host and science communicator.

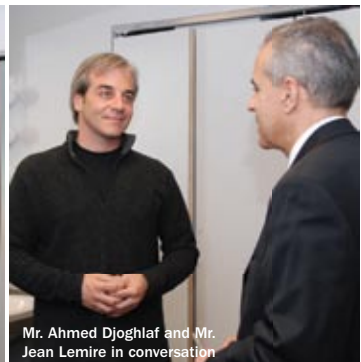
Mr. Gauthier gave a speech on behalf of UQAM, the main partner of the event; Mr. Djoghlafl spoke about the importance of IBD and the reasons behind the choice of this year’s theme, Biodiversity and Climate Change; and, Mr. Ribaux discussed Équiterre, the Kyoto Protocol and its implementation, and the involvement of actors and stakeholders in Quebec.

Mr. Lemire detailed his most recent expedition, which took him to the Antarctic Peninsula for 430 days. Through pictures and video, he showed the magnitude of climate change in this region and the serious impact it is having on Antarctic wildlife.

Organized in partnership with the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Granby Zoo, La Presse newspaper and Radio-Canada, the event was well attended—despite a Montreal public transit strike—with 1115 tickets sold and over one hundred media and VIP passes distributed.



Speakers at the Conference on Climate Change and Biodiversity included Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, CBD Executive Secretary, and biologist and filmmaker, Mr. Jean Lemire (second from right)



Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl and Mr. Jean Lemire in conversation



Winning entries from the Secretariat's first art competition for children and youth are displayed



Winners of the CBD art competition with their rewards

ART COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

For the first time, the Secretariat organized a painting competition for children and youth. On the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change, Montreal schools from both the French and English sectors were invited to participate and over 250 entries were received. Secretariat staff all assisted in the judging of the art works, and three winners per category—primary and secondary level—were selected. The prizes, generously donated by the Muséums Nature Montréal, were awarded during a special ceremony at the IBD celebration at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

The art competition was organized within the context of a broader effort promoting biodiversity education and awareness in the school curriculum among schools in the Montreal area. Over fifty schools have been involved. Staff and volunteers from Montreal universities began visiting schools in January. Tailored presentations on biodiversity and climate change and their interlinkages were designed and presented and the school children engaged in question and answer sessions. An example of the presentation is provided on the CBD website at: www.cbd.int/youth/resources/educators.shtml <http://www.cbd.int/youth/resources/educators.shtml>

The programme received very positive feedback. For example one highly motivated class involved their whole school in the painting competition, visited the secretariat to deliver their paintings and to learn more, made individual commitments to help reduce climate change and sent postcards to the Prime Minister of Canada on the importance of protecting biodiversity. Following the programme one of the university volunteers organized a similar school outreach programme in Lebanon on his return there.

INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PRESS CONFERENCE AND PHOTO EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK

To mark IBD, the Secretariat issued a report on the impacts of climate change on indigenous and local communities (ILCs). Focusing on ILCs in three biomes: the Arctic (including the Sami and Inuit), in mountain ecosystems (such as communities living in the Andes), and in small island developing states; this is the first time that the Secretariat has specifically examined the impact of climate change on ILCs.

The Secretariat partnered with the Division of Public Information in New York to help promote the report and organized a press conference on the margins of the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The panel included representatives from several regions: the Arctic, high altitude (Andes and Hindu-Kush), and small islands (Caribbean and Pacific). Discussions focused on the social and cultural impacts of climate change and resulting biodiversity loss. Following the panel, a broad ranging discussion continued for over an hour, as the international press showed a high level of interest in this event.

To complement the report, the Secretariat also worked with the Division of Public Information to create a photo exhibition on the impact of climate change on indigenous communities. Comprising five panels containing photos and text, the exhibit formed an integral part of the Cultural exhibition at the sixth session of the UNPFII, from 14–25 May 2007 in New York. The exhibition will also travel to the headquarters of UNESCO.

SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES NEW REDESIGNED WEBSITE

The Secretariat unveiled the new redesigned website of the CBD. An essential information exchange tool of the Convention and the clearing-house mechanism, as well as a vibrant tool in promoting public awareness and engaging a wider audience in implementing the objectives of the Convention, the new website features a graphic redesign and a revised navigational structure for easier access to information. The domain name of the Secretariat has also changed (www.cbd.int), to better communicate the global character of the Convention as an international agreement.



Celebrations by Partner Organizations

COUNCIL OF EUROPE—BERN CONVENTION

The Council of Europe announced the formation of a new group of experts on the issue of biodiversity and climate change on 22 May.

COUNTDOWN 2010 (IUCN)

Countdown 2010 (IUCN) encouraged its partners to celebrate IBD by staging activities focusing on this year's theme, Biodiversity and Climate Change. The organization invited partners to take this opportunity to inform the media about Countdown 2010 and their activities within the network, and to send a news release to their media distribution list on 21 May. They also suggested that partners hold events on the Day, such as guided tours of natural sites and the installation of energy efficient light bulbs in the town hall. Countdown 2010 also displayed a link to the Secretariat's IBD webpage on their website.

EQUATOR INITIATIVE

The Equator Initiative (EI), UNDP held three major events.

On 22 May the five winners of the Equator Prize were announced at the UN Press Office, with one of the winners present in New York for a press briefing.

A joint CBD and UNDP/EI press conference focusing on local community involvement in conservation was held. Highlighting the CBD, the press conference addressed the MDGs by stimulating local enterprise and poverty alleviation as well as education. The Maasai representative touched upon the importance of biodiversity and opportunities in ecotourism.

The Equator Initiative also joined with Aveda and Tribal Link for a special celebratory evening for the Equator Prize Winners, and to recognize the critical role that indigenous people play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The event was hosted at the Aveda office in New York.

On 23 May, the EI partnered with Aveda, Tribal Link and the Global Environment Facility—Small Grants Programme, to host an official side event at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The event was a dialogue on indigenous entrepreneurship with indigenous representatives, the private sector, business leaders, academics, donors and policy-makers that are interested and/or involved in indigenous entrepreneurship activities.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (ECNC)

As part of IBD, ECNC launched its first Position Statement on 22 May. The statement briefly highlights the views of ECNC on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Statement can be viewed at:

<http://www.ecnc.nl/jump/page/668/070507.html>

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)—SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME



The GEF/SGP Tunisia celebrated with an exhibition on local varieties and local products in partnership with the Centre of Biotechnology Borj Cedria and the University of Tsukuba, Japan (ARENA). Borj-Cedria Technopark, Tunisia and Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan, collaborated on a side event at the First Workshop on Biotechnology for “One Village, One Product.”

Ten grantees prepared the exhibition, inaugurated by H.E. the Minister of High Education, Scientific Research and Technology at the Cité des Sciences of Tunis. Media covered the event and the exhibition was open to the public throughout the day.

GEO-GTZ

To celebrate the first IBD in Vietnam, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ), supported several events focused on biodiversity and climate change. The main objective was to raise public awareness and to enhance the political attention of the country’s key development issues—in order to initiate concrete steps for better biodiversity conservation and for more effective adaptation to climate change.

On 19 May, a “Biodiversity Action Day” took place in Tam Dao National Park, about 70 kilometres from Hanoi. Over 700 Vietnamese and international participants learned about the biodiversity within the park, as well as the threats facing this unique mountainous rainforest ecosystem. Visitors participated in various activities, including tree planting to decrease carbon emissions, guided forest-tours, art and music events, and some 250 students joined a bicycle tour from Hanoi to the National Park.

The Action Day also incorporated a symposium on “Biodiversity and Climate Change,” on 22–23 May. Some 200 representatives discussed the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss as well as possible adaptation strategies in Vietnam. National and international media covered both events, which were organized in close collaboration with the German Development Service (DED), the CBD Secretariat, WWF and the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE).

For further details:

http://www.biodiversity-day.info/bday07_home.html
www.gtz.de/en/19848.htm

THE INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

The International Coral Reef Initiative helped commemorate IBD by posting a communiqué on their bulletin board on 22 May. The message can be read at: <http://www.icriforum.org/router.cfm?show=List/Thread.cfm?MessageID=2230>

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, joined the SCBD for their celebrations in Montreal and offered remarks on “Biodiversity, Climate Change and the Influence of Wetlands.” To read remarks please see: http://www.ramsar.org/speech/speech_biodiversity_day_2007.htm

UNDP—ROMANIA

UNDP Romania observed IBD through a symposium held at the UN House.

UN Ambassador Soknan Han Jung and Mr. Attila Korodi, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania, opened the event. Two expert speakers, Dr. Mircea Dutu and Dr. Dan Manoleli, presented a quick overview on present and predicted impacts of climate change on all living organisms.

Al Gore’s Academy Award-winning documentary film, “An Inconvenient Truth,” was screened, after which the floor was opened for a question and answer period on climate change and biodiversity.

For more information:

<http://www.undp.ro/pdf/International%20Biodiversity%20Day%202007.pdf>

UNEP—HEADQUARTERS, NAIROBI

The Division of Environmental Law and Conventions engaged public primary school students in a drawing competition, with 80 per cent of the competing schools from slum areas in Nairobi. The drawings, made by children from

Grades 1–4, were displayed in the main lobby of their offices in Nairobi, Kenya from 15–16 May.

On the day, UNEP undertook several activities in the UN complex in Nairobi, involving UN staff, the Kenyan Government, relevant partners and Kenyan youth. The day's celebrations comprised a late-morning function, followed by a tree planting ceremony, lunch for school-children participating in the event and a press conference highlighting the achievement of the one billion tree planting target.



Speakers and dignitaries included, Professor George Saitoti, Kenyan Minister for Education; Professor Wangari Mathai, Nobel Laureate, inspiration and patron of the Billion Tree campaign; Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director; Mr. James Mwangi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Equity Bank; Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP-DELIC); and Mr. Neil Pratt, CBD Senior Environmental Affairs Officer.

Mr. Pratt spoke on behalf of CBD Executive Secretary Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, while Mr. Eric Falt read the message of the UN Secretary General.

The tree planting took place at the recreation centre, with trees planted by Mr. Saitoti, Ms. Mathai, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Mwangi, and Mr. Pratt. Ms. Mathai, Mr. Dennis Garrity, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre, and Mr. Steiner addressed the press conference, focusing on the achievement of the target of one billion trees pledged.



Winners of the essay and drawing competitions, held in Nairobi public schools, received their awards. The essay competition focused on “How to develop without destroying biodiversity in Africa?” and the drawing competition was on this year’s theme, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Preparation and publication of the IBD brochure on biodiversity and climate change in Kiswahili were completed and distributed. UNEP-DELCO prepared a cartoon booklet for children titled “Why Plant Trees?” Copies of the SCBD folder on biodiversity and climate change were also distributed.



A banner announcing “International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2007” was hung over major roads in the city. This, together with production of the booklets, was funded through corporate sponsorship, in particular that of Equity Bank. This corporate sponsorship enabled the production of T-shirts and field jackets on the IBD theme, distributed to some participants and school children.

UNEP—REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) held a joint press conference with the National Authority for the Environment (ANAM), that included ANAM’s focal point for biological diversity; disseminated information material from the CBD on the importance of IBD; placed a message on their website, including a link to the CBD website; and submitted an article within the Tierramerica Network (27 newspapers throughout Latin America).

UNEP—WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE (WCMC)

Produced by National Geographic, UNEP-WCMC, ESRI and leading conservation organizations, the Conservation Geoportal is a free online catalogue to discover, view and share conservation maps and data. It was created to help catalogue, evaluate and distribute the wealth of maps and geographic information system data scattered across thousands of organizations and individuals worldwide.

To mark IBD, UNEP-WCMC published metadata on many of its key datasets and interactive map services on the Conservation Geoportal. Freely available to everyone, users can now find, view and gather biodiversity and ecosystem data from UNEP-WCMC online, together with that of other organizations.

The WCMC also worked with GRID-Arendal to produce and launch on 22 May, a pamphlet titled “Beyond Polar Bears,” which highlights the impact of climate change on other Arctic species.

UNESCO—WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION (WHC)

The World Heritage Convention issued a press release on how the WHC contributes to the global biodiversity conservation agenda.

“Having been identified as a cross-cutting theme for global biodiversity conservation initiatives at the Fifth World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa (2003) the World Heritage Convention, one of the five international conventions addressing biodiversity needs, serves as an instrumental action-orientated mechanism for the protection of the world’s most valuable natural resources and heritage. The Convention’s work relates directly to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and provides a valuable opportunity to galvanize national and international attention regarding biodiversity conservation priorities, thus contributing to achieving its 2010 biodiversity target.”

Worldwide Media Coverage of IBD

This year's celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity garnered greater and more widespread media attention than ever before. Almost every country reported television and radio coverage leading up to, and including, IBD. Over 100 newspaper and magazine articles were documented from all corners of the globe. Major national and international newspapers emphasized the importance of tackling the combined threats of biodiversity loss and climate change together, in order to successfully adapt to the challenges of the coming decades.

An interesting highlight of this year's celebrations was the promotion of IBD by the general public through Internet blogs. People from all around the world posted blogs on 22 May with information about IBD, biodiversity and climate change. A list of more than 50 blog sites was compiled.

The success of this year's IBD celebrations is an indication that public awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues is increasing, and that the issue of preserving biodiversity and combating climate change is becoming much more of a global priority for people than ever before.

Due in part to this ever-increasing awareness, IBD will become even more important in future years for emphasizing the importance of biological diversity and its conservation for the survival of all life on Earth.



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413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9

Tel. +1 514-288-2220 Fax: +1 514-288-6588

secretariat@cbd.int
www.cbd.int



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