

REPORT ON GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY
JULY 2010

1 July, Geneva, Switzerland – The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) celebrated the 35th anniversary of its entry into force. “While not a single one of some 34,000 CITES-listed species has become extinct as a result of international trade until now, growing pressures on biological resources make regulating global wildlife trade even more relevant today than it was in 1975 when countries brought this unprecedented global treaty into force”, said CITES Secretary-General John Scanlon. “The International Year of Biodiversity offers an opportunity to both reflect upon the past successes and mobilize efforts to address current and future challenges.”

www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=630&ArticleID=6636&l=en

2 July, New York – As a contribution to The IYB, a high-level lunch-time panel discussion on “harnessing the gender dimensions of biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change to achieve environment protection and sustainable development” was organized by the CBD with the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

6 July, United Kingdom – Sir David Attenborough pledged his support for the Henderson Island World Heritage Site at an event hosted by Henry Bellingham, Minister for the Overseas Territories, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The evening celebrated the success of a recent research expedition to Henderson Island, supported by the UK Government's Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). The programme enabled the establishment of a rodent eradication operation. Minister Bellingham noted, “...I am delighted that in the UN International Year of Biodiversity the UK Government is supporting the important work to protect the endemic seabirds which nest on Henderson.”

6 July, Samoa – ‘Climate Solutions: Invest in Biodiversity’ was the theme of the 13th gathering of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation that opened in Samoa. In opening the meeting, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for Samoa, Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, asked that participants not only focus on climate change but also recognise the importance of other environment concerns such as biodiversity conservation.

<http://solomontimes.com/news.aspx?nwID=53367>

6 July, Calgary, Canada – The Canada Pavilion, the Government of Canada's travelling exhibit, will be featured at the Calgary Stampede from 8-18 July. The theme of this year's Pavilion is

Canada's biodiversity, recognizing that 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Visitors learnt about programs and services related to biodiversity and participated in several interactive games.

6 July, Hanoi, Vietnam – Vietnamese and Chinese students studying at the universities of Hanoi and Hai Phong started a friendship cycling tour from Hanoi to Nanning, China. The students will cycle through the northern provinces of Bac Ninh, Bac Giang and Lang Son and are expected to arrive in Nanning on July 15. The 1,000km trip is aimed at promoting environmental protection. The tour is jointly organized by the Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (VACNE) and China Radio International (CRI) to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Vietnam-China Year of Friendship and the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

<http://english.vovnews.vn/Home/Youngsters-start-VietnamChina-cycling-tour/20107/117207.vov>

6 July, Papua New Guinea – Timed to coincide with the UN-declared IYB, Conservation International and the National Geographic Society recently announced their findings from a 2008 research expedition to Indonesia's Foja Mountains. A veritable menagerie of new species was found, including a new kangaroo, a frog that changes its nose size, and a multicolored pigeon. The area, located in the Papua province of the island of New Guinea, has long been known for its rich biodiversity. <http://asia.cnet.com/photogallery/0,3800005208,62201179,00.htm>

7 July, Russia – Russia announced that it will, by 2020, establish nine new nature reserves and 13 national parks, covering a total area of over 3.8 million ha. Russia is also introducing marine buffer zones of over 1 million ha. The decision, based on an analysis of WWF in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the MAVA Foundation, was carried out between 2006 and 2008 and is aimed at fulfilling Russia's commitment under the CBD to establish effective protected area systems. www.sciencecentric.com/news/10070751-russia-create-new-national-parks-reserves-nearly-size-switzerland.html

8 July, United Nations, New York – Actor and conservation activist Edward Norton was designated United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity by the Secretary-General. In his new role, Mr. Norton said he will work with the CBD to spotlight the “crisis of biodiversity” and ensure that world leaders take appropriate measures to protect the environment. One of his top priorities as Goodwill Ambassador will be to increase “people’s focus on the fact that human well-being is intertwined fundamentally with biodiversity.” www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35270&Cr=biodiversity&Cr1

8 July, Canada Parks Day – Organized by the Canadian Parks Council, special activities were held at parks throughout Canada – regional, provincial, territorial, and national. This year, the Day will recognize the IYB as well as the 125th anniversary of the creation of Banff National Park, Canada’s first national park. www.eesti.ca/?op=article&articleid=28813&lang=en

11 July, Nigeria – An initiative was launched by the Government of Nigeria, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to help alleviate issues affecting biodiversity in Nigeria’s Niger Delta region. The UNDP Nigeria Team Leader for the Environment, Muyiwa Odele, said, “It is timely, especially as 2010 has been designated as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), with the objectives of raising awareness on the

importance of conserving biodiversity for human well-being and promote the understanding of the economic value of biodiversity.”

www.independentngonline.com/DailyIndependent/Article.aspx?id=16858

11 July, Syria: The CBD National Focal Point presents the Executive Secretary with commemorative stamps issued on the occasion of the International Year of Biodiversity.

15 July, Iraq – Iraq sent a list to the Secretariat of IYB-related activities performed during the first half of 2010.

16 July, Montreal, Canada – To celebrate the IYB, Montreal’s Biosphère is inviting families and people of all ages to discover "BioKits," a series of biodiversity exploration guides. The BioKits, developed by the Biosphère, encourage people to use all five senses when looking at the biodiversity of their city.

http://pr-canada.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=229386&Itemid=58

16 July Koronadal City, Philippines – To help mark the IYB, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Office XII spearheaded a massive tree planting in the Municipality of Tupi in South Cotabato in coordination with the local government unit. Some 500 seedlings of narra and nabol trees were planted in Sitio Glandang of Barangay Kablon in Tupi town by local officials, students and teachers of the General Paulino Santos Memorial Institute in Tupi, including workers of Dole Stanfilco, a private company operating in the area. The planting site is nestled within the 8,370 hectare Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape, a protected area straddling the South Cotabato and Sarangani provinces.

www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&fi=p100720.htm&no=52

19 July, Yemen – Yemen won its first Equator Prize, which is awarded for outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation of biodiversity. The prize went to the Rosh Marine Protected Area community from Socotra Island, one of 25 initiatives from the Equatorial belt countries awarded this year. Rosh was nominated for the prize by UNDP-GEF Socotra Governance and Biodiversity Project. [//yemenonline.info/news-1439.html](http://yemenonline.info/news-1439.html)

19 July, Bali, Indonesia – Hundreds of scientists from around the world gathered in Bali, where Vice President Boediono opened the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Conference, the longest-running event of its kind in the world. Attendees at the conference will discuss issues related to tropical biology and conservation, including ways for local biologists and politicians to work together to protect the country’s rich biodiversity. www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/biodiversity-conference-highlights-indonesias-resources/386707

19-25 July, United Kingdom – The IYB logo was clearly visible on the Airbus 380 as it participated in the Farnborough 2010 international air show. The complete video can be viewed at <http://videos.airbus.com/video/iLyROoaf8eVN.html>. Videos of the Airbus with the IYB logo clearly visible were shown on Chinese English-language television on 20 July, and on the BBC on 19 July. A photo of the Airbus with the IYB logo was also published in the *Financial Times*. The Airbus tent next to the static displays hosted an exhibit of photographs taken by school

children to highlight the IYB. www.etravelblackboard.com/showarticle.asp?id=106428&nav=2. In addition to the myriad of events hosted by Airbus, the Future Day event held during the Air show was attended by over 3000 school children celebrating the Green Wave and the International Year of Biodiversity.

20 July, South Africa – Researchers are planning a 17-day expedition to document animal and plant species in South Africa's biodiversity hotspots, according to the University of Johannesburg. The goal is to barcode 20,000 specimens by April 2011 and a further 40,000 specimens by April 2013. The expedition, which departs on 20 September, is headed by a Toyota environment outreach group and the International Barcode of Life, and form part of the IYB.

21 July, Canada – The Government of Canada announced funding for a new environmental project on Spear Lake near Russell, Manitoba. In total, \$6,842 in federal funding will support local action to reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and protect wildlife and natural habitat. <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Government-Canada-Invests-Community-Environmental-Project-Near-Russell-Manitoba-1293607.htm>

21 July, Namibia – At the opening of a vulture rehabilitation centre, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism, Uahekua Herunga, said vultures are part of the ecosystem and are helpful to farmers and should thus be preserved. “The year 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and it is encouraging to see developments such as this one, even in time of global economic downturn. This, to me, demonstrates a commitment to biodiversity conservation and I wish you all success with this venture in future,” he concluded, before he released a vulture that was being nursed at the centre into the wild. www.newera.com.na/article.php?articleid=12081

21 July, United Kingdom – A University of Manchester scientist is offering the public the chance to name two new species of spider, which have been fossilised in amber for millions of years. There is also the opportunity to name a new species of lacebug (Hemiptera) and a new species of lacewing (Neuroptera), for the price of a donation of £5,000 or more to Dr. David Penney's research. Dr Penney hopes the naming project will raise funds and increase awareness of the IYB. www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/display/?id=5960

21 July, Argentina – In honour of the IYB, Argentina issued commemorative stamps with a photo of a Jaguar, accompanied with a post card of the Parana rain forest and a pamphlet containing background information on the different regions of Argentina and its rich diversity of life. Copies have been sent to the Secretariat and will be displayed in the IYB museum.

22 July, Austria – Austria submitted its IYB plans to the CBD Secretariat. The campaign, launched in January 2009 by Nikolaus Berlakovich, Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, constitutes the biggest nature campaign ever conducted in Austria. Twenty-one key species are in the forefront of the campaign – 20 endangered umbrella-species and a human being, to demonstrate the close interlinkages between humans and nature,

all under the slogan “Life is Diversity – Diversity is Life.” Celebration details at: www.cbd.int/2010/countries/

22 July, Egypt – Egypt’s Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) presented a report to the Secretariat highlighting its first six months of IYB celebrations: In partnership with the Arab countries, NCS participated in a two-day workshop in January on the updating and revision of the strategic plan of the Convention for the post 2010 period. NCS announced a national competition for students of primary, preparatory and secondary schools under the title, *What Nature Means to You*. The competition explored students’ knowledge about nature through drawings, for the early stages of primary education, preparing DVDs/CDs about nature for the more advanced stages of preparatory and secondary education. Additionally, another competition was announced for all to write successful stories about dealing with nature. Results were announced on World Environment Day in June. Complete details of the celebrations can be found at: www.cbd.int/2010/countries/

22 July, Saint Lucia – Saint Lucia announced the issuance of commemorative stamps marking the IYB. Copies of the stamps will be made available for inclusion in the Secretariat’s Museum of Nature and Culture.

22 July, United Kingdom – To celebrate the IYB, The North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty team set up a ‘fast-track’ small grants system, inviting grant applications for small, local biodiversity projects within the North Devon Coast from its Sustainable Development Fund. www.bidefordpeople.co.uk/groups/countrysideandwildlife/North-Devon-AONB-Invites-Applications-Local/story-5860734-detail/story.html

22 July, Australia – The Underwater Secrets (encounters with biodiversity) exhibition is a joint project between Southern Cross University (SCU) visual arts students and Professor Peter Harrison, director of Marine Studies at SCU, and an internationally respected authority on coral reefs and whales. Coinciding with the IYB, the students were invited to make work that engaged with issues that threaten the biodiversity of coral reefs. www.echonews.com.au/story/2010/07/22/art-meets-science-in-underwater-exhibition/

22 July, Namibia – The Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA) Project, together with other stakeholders in the Erongo region, will address the biodiversity challenges in Africa with a Coastal Biodiversity Weekend on 30 and 31 July 2010. www.economist.com.na/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21973:nacoma-addresses-biodiversity-challenges&catid=578:general-news&Itemid=60

23 July, Poland – The Secretariat received postcards with a IYB commemorative stamp issued by Poland. They will be on display in the IYB museum and can be viewed at: www.cbd.int/2010/countries/

24 July, United Kingdom – Butterfly enthusiasts and conservationists participated in a nationwide survey, from 24 July to 1 August, of Lepidoptera populations in the UK. According to the Big Butterfly Count website, "The survey is being launched during 2010 to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. Butterflies react very quickly to change in their environment

which makes them excellent biodiversity indicators. Butterfly declines are an early warning for other wildlife losses." www.bigbutterflycount.org

25 July, Bahrain – Bahrain provided the Secretariat with its six month report of IYB celebrations. Complete details of their activities can be found at www.cbd.int/2010/countries/

27 July, Japan – Misia, Japanese singer and honorary UN ambassador, spoke to CNNGo about her aim to promote biodiversity around the world and to raise awareness of child poverty in Africa. Read more: www.cnn.go.com/tokyo/life/misia-sings-out-world-%E2%80%93-interview%E3%80%80-387166

27 July, India – The Indian government's efforts to create a new paradigm for sustainable development of tourism in India have resulted in several 'environment friendly initiatives', said Tourism Minister Kumari Selja. Addressing a two-day National Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India, the Minister noted, "Given that the year 2010 is being celebrated as the International Year of Biodiversity, India as a member of the 14-country Marrakech International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development contributed widely in enabling the transition to a 'United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development' and subsequent fostering of 'Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC).'" <http://sify.com/finance/government-committed-to-promoting-sustainable-tourism-minister-news-default-kh1q4dgciiic.html>

27 July, Florida, United States of America – Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom held a one-day celebration of the IYB. To celebrate the event and to raise awareness, many activities were planned, such as animal meet-and-greets featuring diverse animal species, a 'match the species to the habitat' game, 'biodiversity bingo,' presentations on seed diversity, and a display on sea life diversity. www.diszine.com/content/disneys-animal-kingdom-to-celebrate-the-international-year-of-biodiversity

27 July, Brasilia, Brazil – Eight natural areas of outstanding global heritage value were considered for inscription on the United Nations' World Heritage List by a 21-nation panel that met in Brasilia. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova opened the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting by noting, "I am convinced this committee can blaze new trails. Sites can be testing grounds for innovative protective measures that closely involve communities and can be 'real laboratories of sustainable development in practice.' This is a "message that UNESCO is promoting throughout this International Year of Biodiversity." www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2010/2010-07-28-01.html

29 July, Ethiopia – Ethiopia submitted its IYB plans to the Secretariat. Details of the celebrations can be found at www.cbd.int/2010/countries/

29 July, United Kingdom –During a Lord's debate on biodiversity, focusing on how the government should halt biodiversity loss and allocate funds for such work, the Bishop of Blackburn, Rt Rev Nicholas Reade, discussed the importance of churchyards, of engaging with young people and activities undertaken by the Church of England in support of IYB. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100728-0002.htm#10072821000829

29 July, Pakistan – The Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation at Shah Abdul Latif University submitted its IYB E-talk newsletter reporting on their IYB celebrations. Details at: www.cbd.int/2010/countries

30 July, United Kingdom – A “stunning” black and orange butterfly, previously thought extinct in East Sussex and Kent, was spotted in large numbers following a major campaign to save the species as part of the IYB. Experts used new plants to tempt the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary back to Abbots Wood in East Sussex and Tudeley Woods in Kent, where sightings of the unusual butterfly had declined steeply in recent years. www.culture24.org.uk/science+%2526+nature/environment/art81652