

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
a threat to biodiversity

SPECIAL EVENTS IN CITIES

*Below are summaries of IDB
2009 activities planned by
members of the Global
Partnership on Cities and
Biodiversity and cities
around the world*



1. City of Bonn (ICLEI/LAB)

May 22nd will be amidst Bonn's Museum Mile Festival (May 21-24). The Museum Koenig will have special events focussing on Charles Darwin and the development of species. The "Haus der Natur" and the "Path of Biodiversity" will invite the public to enjoy and learn about biodiversity.

The City of Bonn is proud of the municipal forests with their richness in species. In order to conserve native species, the local energy provider Stadtwerke Bonn and the Environmental Department of the City invited users of renewable energies and their families to plant beeches (the native tree species of middle Europe) in Bonn-Derletal. More than 50 families took part in the event in April and will return often to see their tree grow.

Wangari Muta Maathai inspired Deutsche Post DHL and Schools in Bonn to organize a training workshop during which 80 students were trained to become environmental ambassadors. On April 25, the day of the tree, they planted 1.000 trees in the municipal forest of Bonn, the first of 10.000 in Bonn– the kick off for Bonn's Promise to contribute to Plant for the Planets target of 1 Million new trees in Germany

Other events on Biodiversity in Bonn:

The Bonn based UNEP/CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) will have an Event on the Year of the Gorilla, scheduled for May 21 with Ian Redmond (ambassador of the Year of the Gorilla).



2. City of Curitiba (ICLEI/LAB)

Curitiba City Government will celebrate The Green Wave and commemorate the International Biodiversity Day, under the theme Invasive alien species. The event will take place on May 22nd in the afternoon, at Barigui Park. It is jointly organized by the Secretariats of Environment, Education and International Relations, with the collaboration of Society for Wild Life Research and Environmental Education and Horus Institute.

The objective of the event is to disseminate knowledge about invasive alien flora and fauna species, in order to avoid their introduction in the urban environment. The presence of invasive alien species in areas of native forests is one of the main causes of global biodiversity loss, along with the destruction of habitats and ecosystems¹. Invasive alien species alter the physiognomy and function of natural ecosystems, occasioning the loss of space and genetic decline of native populations.



Barigui Park Programme includes:

- 2:00 pm Reception of children from the Municipal Schools
- 2:15 pm Opening
- 2:30 pm Delivering of environmental conservation certificates to three landowners that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in their urban lands
- 3:00 pm Story telling and tree planting by the children. End of the program for the children
- 3:30 pm Seminar about Invasive alien species (for landowners, municipal environmental technicians and other municipal servants)
- Lecture 1: Concept and impact of Invasive alien species in urban ecosystems (Rafael Zenni, Horus Institute)
- Lecture 2: Main practices to avoid the dissemination of Invasive alien species (Christopher Blum, Chauá Society)
- Case study: Substitution of Invasive alien species with Native Species (Land owner, to be determined)
- 5:30 Closing of the event

3. City of Montreal

The City of Montreal is inviting the general public and particularly children and youth to the Museum Nature institutions, where the city's first educational activities on invasive alien species will be taking place. A kiosk will provide visitors with information on invasive alien species and IDB.

Also on 22 May, in parks around the city, experts and horticulturists will be raising awareness about invasive alien species and inviting the public to avoid bringing alien species close to municipal parks. And for the whole month of May, or 'Mount-Royal Month', activities for the general public will be held on the mountain, including, on 22 May, bird watching and inventorying.



4. Aichi Prefecture and City of Nagoya (ICLEI/LAB)

Aichi-Nagoya COP 10 CBD Promotion Committee

The Committee will hold enjoyable outdoor event for citizens to show the importance of biological diversity and promote the COP 10 on October 2010 intensively. Concurrently, in commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, it will host a seminar, focused on “Invasive Alien Species”.

Aichi Prefecture

From now on, Aichi Prefecture will actively propel tree planting campaigns. As a kick-off event, it will hold a tree planting ceremony at the EXPO 2005 Aichi Commemorative Park, the EXPO's site. “The 2005 World Exposition Aichi, Japan” was held under the theme of “Nature's Wisdom” in Aichi Prefecture. This EXPO has been regarded as the first world exposition, which earnestly addressed the environmental issues. Some elementary schools within Aichi Prefecture will plant trees at 10 a.m. so that the spirit of the “Green Wave” proposed by the SCBD is put in practice.

City of Nagoya

Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo and Botanical Gardens will hold a few programs related to biological diversity that citizens can participate and experience the wonder of nature. These programs consist of a zoo tour guided by the master and botanical garden exploring tours that participants directly feel the link to living things and understand the importance of biological diversity. Concurrently, a digital photo class, in which parent-children learn photographing technique and actually take photos of flora and fauna



5. Singapore

Singapore will be holding a series of events to celebrate IDB:

- 1) Prof Peter Ng will be giving a talk on invasive alien species.
- 2) There will be a nature photography exhibition held at Sungei Buloh Nature Reserve.
- 3) The National Parks Board of Singapore is pleased to announce that 17 schools (including three international schools, the German European School, American International School, and Global Indian International School) will be participating in the Green Wave Initiative. NParks is working closely with each school on the Green Wave Initiative and the celebration of the IDB. As part of NParks' support, each participating school will receive a tree (of their choice) from a list of native trees.





7. Municipality of Walvis Bay (ICLEI/LAB)

Walvis Bay has drafted a press release to celebrate International Biodiversity Day 2009. The press release aims to raise public awareness of the biodiversity management and mainstreaming activities within the City of Walvis Bay. The press release will feature on the municipal website and a number of internal and external newspapers.

The press release also promotes Walvis Bay's involvement in ICLEI's LAB Program and several of the tangible outcomes from their participation in LAB, including the production of their Biodiversity Report as well as their planned Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) and biodiversity initiatives.

6. Brussels (ICLEI/LAB)

Brussels will celebrate International Biodiversity Day on Tuesday 19th April, on a Belgian level, together with the federal Belgian level and the 3 regions of Belgium (the Brussels, Flemish and Walloon Region). The event is organised in collaboration with the National Focal Point of the CBD and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

On the 11th June, a scientific symposium is organized (by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform) to present recent Belgian research on invasive alien species. For the Brussels Capital Region, the results of a study on invasive parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), which are presenting exploding populations in Brussels, will be presented, with a focus on possible actions to eliminate or at least reduce the populations.

A press conference has also been organised for the 19th of June, which will be held in the National Botanic Garden of Belgium (near to Brussels), in which each Belgian region and the federal government will present their policies and actions on invasive alien species.

Brussels will also present their project regarding new nature-related legislation, which addresses invasive species, as well as their invasive species management and awareness-raising activities.

On the same day, Brussels Environment is organizing a practical workshop for public green managers, which will present invasive species in Brussels and explain the dangers of these species, and management techniques to eliminate or reduce those species.



8. São Paulo City (ICLEI/LAB)

To celebrate the International Biodiversity Day, São Paulo City will launch their LAB Biodiversity Report at the Modern Art Museum of São Paulo on 22 May.

São Paulo City will also present their participation in the LAB Program as part of the celebration.

9. Durban (ICLEI/LAB)

eThekwini Municipality is planning the following activities for its International Biodiversity Day celebrations:

Alien Plant exhibition

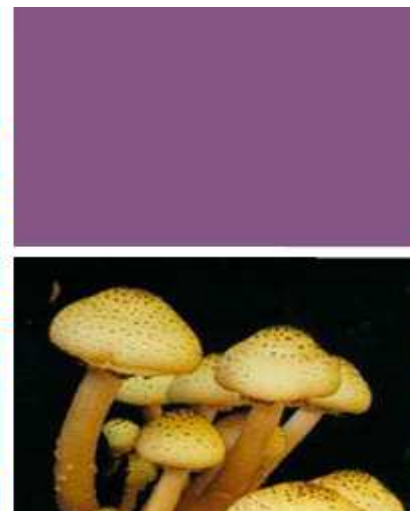
This will be prepared in conjunction with Wildlife and Environment Society South Africa (WESSA), and will be displayed in the foyer of the City Engineers Building (eThekwini Municipality), where the Environmental Management Department is located. The exhibition will be displayed for a week and will aim to raise awareness amongst city officials about the threat of alien invasive plants to biodiversity.

Launch of Green Roof Pilot Project

The Environmental Management Department will launch its Green Roof Pilot Project, which forms part of the eThekwini Municipality's Municipal Climate Protection Programme.

The outcomes of this launch will be as follows:

- To raise awareness of biodiversity and climate change issues amongst city officials. The event will be attended by the City Mayor, the City Manager and numerous heads of department and city officials.
- To highlight the work that is being done by the Municipality to increase biodiversity and to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- To share the benefits of green roofs with those who attend the launch. Apart from the positive role that green roofs play in increasing inner city biodiversity, they also perform climate change adaptation and mitigation functions. Green Roofs reduce urban storm water runoff and distribute runoff over a longer period of time, thus reducing storm surges and infrastructural damage. Water that washes over Green Roofs is absorbed by the soil and by the plant's root system. This is especially important in urban areas where hard surfaces cause rain water to flow quickly over the surface and can cause flooding, placing a significant load on the stormwater system of the city. Green Roofs also ameliorate the impacts of climate change by reducing air temperature through the absorption of heat and through evapotranspiration. They also reduce the temperature inside buildings and hence reduce their energy consumption via reduced use of air conditioners. This will contribute towards climate change mitigation and is critical given the energy challenges currently facing our country.
- As a pilot project, it is intended that the pilot project will be the catalyst for a city wide roll out of similar projects.
- A media release through the Municipality's Communications Department, will also serve to highlight the above issues to a much broader spectrum of ratepayers, businesses, politicians and others.



10. City of Cape Town (ICLEI/LAB)

Amongst other things, the City of Cape Town has planned a week long celebration of International Biodiversity Day for their YES Biodiversity Week celebration from 18 – 22 May.

It aims to include many schools and thousands of learners in this week long Youth Environmental School Programme (YES) Biodiversity Week celebrations.



11. Municipality of Amsterdam (ICLEI/LAB)

Amsterdam plans to celebrate the 22nd of May by releasing a special city map with facts about biodiversity. The city plans to make the map available on their website.

In addition, Amsterdam intends to distribute a press release, and their alderman, Marijke Vos, who is also a member of the national taskforce on biodiversity, will be available for interviews on the subject.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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