



MEDIA FACTSHEET

NPARKS' SUPPORT OF GREEN WAVE AND INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

For the second year, National Parks Board (NParks) is supporting The Green Wave, a global biodiversity campaign of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that contributes to the Convention's Programme of Work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness. Targeted at children and youths around the world, this campaign serves to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and to work towards the 2010 biodiversity target of reducing biodiversity loss. The Green Wave is celebrated annually on 22 May as part of the worldwide celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity.

Students in the participating schools all over the world will plant and/or water a tree at 10:00am local time, creating a 'green wave' that goes around the world. An interactive map with stories and photos about the celebratory activities will go live on *The Green Wave* website (<http://greenwave.cbd.int>) at 20:10 local time, thereby forming a second 'green wave'.

To encourage Singapore schools to participate in Green Wave, NParks, through the Garden City Fund, has provided a tree to each school for planting on 21 May. The trees were sponsored by Takashimaya Singapore Limited and Mitsui Chemicals Group.

Objectives

In supporting The Green Wave campaign, NParks and Garden City Fund aim to achieve the following goals:

- To provide a platform for schools in Singapore to showcase and share their gardening and conservation efforts
- To strengthen awareness and education on biodiversity

- To promote and facilitate environmental-related programmes and activities about biodiversity
- To encourage and build a network among schools to connect locally as well as with other participants around the world through a joint effort

This is also one of NParks' key celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity.

Participating Schools

This year, 91 schools will be participating in Green Wave, up from just 17 schools in 2009.

The 91 schools include: 41 primary schools; 37 secondary schools; 5 junior colleges/pre-university institutes; 3 polytechnics; 4 international schools and 1 kindergarten. Schools are encouraged to organise their own events and activities in celebration of IDB, such as exhibitions, skits and outdoor learning.

The list of participating schools can be found in Annex A.

Tree Planting

The 91 participating schools will plant a total of 195 native trees. The number of trees planted in 2009 was 53.

A detailed list of the 10 native tree species accompanied by short descriptions can be found in Annex B.

Other NParks events supporting International Day for Biological Diversity

(1) Screening of Documentary "Singapore Hornbill Project - Return of the King"

- Singapore Youth Science Festival Students' Seminar @ St Andrews' Junior College, Cultural Centre on 21 May, 10am
- Public screening@ Pulau Ubin, Ubin-HSBC Volunteer Hub, 22 & 23 May, 10am

The documentary "Singapore Hornbill Project - Return of the King" is about the endeavour of a team of dedicated researchers, passionate citizen scientists, bird lovers and like-minded sponsors who spent more than 6 years studying the ecology and breeding behaviour of the Oriental Pied Hornbill. This hornbill was thought to be extinct in Singapore as it had not been seen for more than 150 years but it was rediscovered in 1994. The population of the Oriental Pied Hornbill in Singapore has now increased to more than 50, mainly due to the research team's efforts in providing suitable artificial nest boxes and improving the habitats for the birds to breed. This 40-minute documentary feature is a work of passion, which highlights the trials and tribulations of past years of research work to bring the King of the forest back to Singapore.

(2) Tree Planting at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital on Sat, 22 May, 8-10.30am

In the spirit of International Day for Biological Diversity, staff of Khoo Teck Puat Hospital will be planting 30 trees on road dividers around the hospital.

(3) BiodiverCity Photo Exhibition on Sat, 22 May

Covering over 360 square metres in area, this is one of the largest nature photography exhibitions organised by NParks in downtown Orchard (open space outside Mandarin Gallery). Themed "BiodiverCity" to raise awareness of the rich biodiversity in Singapore, the exhibition will display 55 print photographs selected from 2,200 entries submitted for a photography competition earlier organised by NParks and the Photographic Society of Singapore.

Minister for National Development, Mr Mah Bow Tan will officially launch the exhibition on 22 May, 10.30am.

(4) Talk on Singapore's very own Coral Nursery at School of Arts' Integrated Humanities and Social Sciences Camp 2010 on Mon, 24 May

An NParks officer will be sharing about Singapore's coral nursery with students and teachers of the School of Arts at their Integrated Humanities and Social Sciences Camp 2010.

(5) CIB Schools Arts 2010 Prize Presentation on Mon, 24 May

The CIB Schools Arts Competition is a spin-off from the Community In Bloom* programme by NParks, which invites students to unleash their artistic and innovative ideas on promoting gardening and nature appreciation. 44 Primary and Secondary schools have submitted their ideas via paintings, sculptures or animation pieces, which focus on the varied plants and animals that live in the natural habitats in Singapore.

The prize presentation will be held on 24 May, 2pm at Woodlands Regional Library. The "Know 10 Trees" Stamp Series by NParks and SingPost will also be launched at the event. "Know 10 Trees" is initiated by NParks to get more people to learn about 10 common trees in Singapore, and better appreciate the tall green giants that clean the air and beautify the island. The 10 trees featured in the movement are trees that are commonly found in Singapore, with distinctive features that would be easily recognised.

** Community In Bloom(CIB) is a programme by NParks, which aims to promote a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts by the community. It is a programme based on collaborative partnership with both public and private sector organizations, and volunteer groups to promote gardening among residents, students and workers. NParks provides guidance and advice to community groups as part of this island-wide community gardening initiative.*

Annex A – List of Participating Schools in Green Wave

No.	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
1	Macpherson Primary School	Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School
2	West Grove Primary School	Raffles Institution
3	Innova Primary School	Commonwealth Secondary School
4	St Gabriel's Primary School	St Margaret's Secondary School
5	Shuqun Primary School	Clementi Town Secondary School
6	Yio Chu Kang Primary School	Queenstown Secondary School
7	Peiyong Primary School	Kranji Secondary School
8	Southview Primary School	Tanjong Katong Girls School
9	Si Ling Primary School	MacPherson Secondary School
10	Radin Mas Primary School	Nan Hua High School
11	Yuhua Primary School	Ngee Ann Secondary School
12	Greendale Primary School	Geylang Methodist School (Sec)
13	Dazhong Primary School	Bedok View Secondary School
14	Lianhua Primary School	Queensway Secondary School
15	Jurong Primary School	New Town Secondary School
16	Lakeside Primary School	Choa Chu Kang Secondary School
17	Yew Tee Primary School	West Spring Secondary School
18	Zhonghua Primary School	Bedok Green Secondary School
19	Greenridge Primary School	Yishun Secondary School
20	Telok Kurau Primary School	Boon Lay Secondary School
21	CHIJ Katong Primary School	Greenridge Secondary School
22	Bukit Timah Primary School	Naval Base Secondary School
23	Chongzheng Primary School	Yuhua Secondary School
24	Holy Innocents' Primary School	Jurongville Secondary School
25	Canberra Primary School	Fuhua Secondary School
26	Rivervale Primary School	Coral Secondary School
27	Anchor Green Primary School	Regent Secondary School
28	Rosyth School	Bedok South Secondary School
29	Damai Primary Sch	Northlight School
30	Canossa Convent Primary School	Singapore Chinese Girls' School
31	North View Primary School	Assumption Pathway School
32	Nanyang Primary School	Unity Secondary School
33	Ngee Ann Primary School	North Vista Secondary School
34	Park View Primary School	Peirce Secondary School
35	West View Primary School	Beatty Secondary School
36	Wellington Primary School	Bukit Panjang Government High School
37	Punggol Primary School	Tanjong Katong Secondary School
38	Bukit View Primary School	

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39	Pioneer Primary School		
40	Zhangde Primary School		
41	Teck Whye Primary School		

	Junior Colleges/Pre-U Institutions
1	St. Andrew's Junior College
2	Tampines Junior College
3	Millenia Institute
4	Anglo-Chinese Junior College
5	Pioneer Junior College
	Polytechnics
1	Ngee Ann Poly
2	Singapore Poly
3	Republic Poly
	International Schools
1	Singapore American School
2	NPS International School
3	United World College SEA (Dover)
4	UNITED WORLD COLLEGE EAST LTD
	Kindergarten
1	Sarada Kindergarten

Total: 91 schools

Annex B - List of Trees Planted in Green Wave

1 *Pouteria obovata* (Sea Gutta)

The Sea Gutta is a small to medium (5 – 18 m) evergreen seashore tree. The conical crown often appears flecked with golden colour due to the coppery brown undersides of the leaves. This lends a nice contrast to the dark green upper sides. The leaves are traditionally used in treatment for stomachache and chest pains. Sea Gutta can be found on our wild shores, natural cliffs, rocky and sandy shores as well as secondary forests near the coast. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Vulnerable)

2 *Calophyllum soulattri* (Malang-malang, Bintangor bunut)

A small to medium (≈10m) evergreen coastal tree, the Malang-malang is an attractive example of a tree native to our region. The resin and the bark of the tree have various traditional medicinal uses. The leaves have a very delicate venation pattern, hence the Greek name *calophyllum* which means 'beautiful leaf' (*kalos* = beautiful, *phullon* = leaf). The tree also has white flowers that are borne in clusters. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Critically endangered)

3 *Gnetum gnemon* (Belinjau, Meninjau)

Belinjau is a small to medium size evergreen tree that can reach between 10 –15m in height. The tree is slender with a straight stem which is characteristically marked by 'rings' that indicate the position of older branches that have fallen off. *Emping belinjau* is a Malay snack that is made by pounding the kernels of the fruits into a disc, drying it in the sun and then salting it or covering it in caramel. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Critically endangered)

4 *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Malayan Eaglewood Tree, Kayu Gaharu)

A. malaccensis can grow up to 30m and is known for its fragrant wood, which is known as *kayu gaharu*. This resinous wood is sought for medicine, incense and perfume. It is recognized by its smooth grey bark that strips easily and from the leaves that have very fine transverse veins (like parallel lines). The major threat to wild populations is unregulated and often illegal harvest and trade. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Vulnerable)

5 *Podocarpus polystachyus* (Sea Teak)

A coastal tree (up to 25m tall) with a broadly-conical or dome-shaped crown, the Sea Teak makes a shapely though slow growing tree. Being a gymnosperm, it bears cones instead of flowers. Male plants produce clusters of cream-coloured cones while female plants produce cones that are shaped like elongated cups. Medicinal uses include using the leaves for treatment of rheumatism and painful joints. The wood is known for its durability and it is used for buildings, carts and a variety of household tools. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Critically endangered)

6 *Garcinia atroviridis* (Asam Gelugor)

Asam Gelugor can grow up to 25m in height and has a narrowly cylindrical or conical crown. It is traditionally grown for its round fruits, that are cut into slices, dried in the sun and used in place of tamarind or *asam* pulp in the making of curries and for dressing of fish. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Critically endangered)

7 *Pometia pinnata* (Kasai)

A small to large evergreen tree (10-30m), the Kasai is a colourful tree and is distinguished by an open, coarse-leafed crown, bright red young leaves and round fruits. Its inflorescences (flowers) are up to 60cm long and gives the crown more 'texture' when they are in bloom. The fruits are edible and bark extracts are used medicinally to treat coughs, ulcers, stomach and tooth pain, and for mouth and skin diseases.

(Singapore Red Data Book status: Endangered)

8 *Cratoxylum cochinchinese* (Kayu Arang, Kemutong)

A small, colourful tree that grows up to 10 m, the Kayu Arang has leaves that turn from deep purple to pinkish brown as they age. Its bark is flaky and grayish brown in colour, with an inner bark that is yellowish-orange in colour. Its flowers occur in a drooping arrangement and give way to woody capsules. These capsules break into 3 parts and release small, brownish winged seeds.

(Singapore Red Data Book status: Endangered)

9 *Alstonia spathulata* (Pulai Basong, Marsh Pulai)

A close relative of the Common Pulai (*Alstonia angustiloba*), the Pulai Basong commonly grows in lowland swampy forest where it grows to a height of around 15 m. In the forest it can attain heights of 30 m or more. It is characterized by a deeply fluted, pale grey trunk and a pagoda shaped crown. It has exceptionally light wood, particularly in the roots and this has been used to make pith-helmets and as floats for fishing nets. (Singapore Red Data Book status: Vulnerable)

10 *Gardenia tubifera* (Water Gardenia)

A small to medium tree that grows up to 20 m, the Water Gardenia is grown for its lightly fragrant flowers that change colour from cream-white to orange yellow as they age on the tree. Its common name is derived its habit of growing near river banks and in low land forests. Its scientific name *tubifera* or tube-bearing comes from the flowers which have an elongated 0.5 to 2 cm long calyx tube.