



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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3 February 2009

NOTIFICATION

The Green Wave 2009

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Green Wave, a global biodiversity education project for children and youth, was officially launched by Germany during the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), 22 May 2008. Over sixty student groups participated from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa and the United States of America.

While the majority of *The Green Wave* 2008 activities were held on the International Day, additional supportive events were held after 22 May. For example, Airbus committed its support to CBD Secretariat's biodiversity outreach activities, in particular to *The Green Wave* at the Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, England; the city of Curitiba, Brazil, launched their support for the project with a city-wide event in which 175 municipal schools and 630 students planted over 300 seedlings with ceremonies in nine different places spaced over time to characterize a wave; and special *Green Wave* tree planting ceremonies were hosted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in the Philippines and by the mayor of Oslo, Norway.

The Green Wave has grown significantly in the past year and will continue to support the CBD's communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) programme of work.

The project teaches children and youth about the importance of biodiversity for our well-being and that of our planet, and the urgent need to act together to protect biodiversity and halt its loss.

In response to the keen interest in the project by groups other than schools, several changes will be made on *The Green Wave* website. Non-school groups, including governments, public outreach organizations, volunteer organizations, research institutions, media agencies and businesses, will be able to register online and actively participate in the project. Furthermore, in order to enhance the global reach of the project and to facilitate greater participation, the website has been translated into French and Spanish. These new language versions are now available.

To: All CBD National Focal Points



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
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At the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2009 under the theme “Invasive Alien Species”, I strongly encourage Parties and governments to seize this opportunity to promote, support and celebrate *The Green Wave* with the children and youth of their countries. I recommend Parties to work collaboratively with their Ministries of Education in bringing the project to all schools, for example, by translating the attached bulletin and distributing it to schools in their countries. Furthermore, I invite Parties to keep the CBD Secretariat informed of their activities.

For more information about getting involved in *The Green Wave*, please visit the website greenwave.cbd.int, or contact greenwave@cbd.int.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Dear *Green Wave* participants and supporters,

Welcome to *The Green Wave* 2009. We're excited for more biodiversity learning, tree planting and celebrating, and hope you are too. Here's a short note on the recent and planned developments for *The Green Wave*.

1. Website updates
2. Summary of 2008 activities
3. Partners
4. 2009 preview

1. Website updates

You told us you wanted more language options and more opportunities to connect with other participants and supporters. We're listening and making improvements.

Here's a sneak preview of exciting new changes to come on *The Green Wave* website:

- New resources on climate change and biodiversity
...now available
- Three language options on the website – English, French and Spanish.
...coming 1 February
- New “join us” registration features allowing (1) schools *and* other supporters such as botanical gardens, organizations, media agencies, governments, companies and others to join, and (2) schools and supporters to identify the types of partners they're seeking.
...coming 15 February
- New 2009 map showing all participating schools and supporters *before* 22 May. This interactive map will allow you to click on icons and read a brief note on what each group is planning, what kind of partners they're seeking, and how to contact them. (Don't worry, there will still be a virtual “green wave” as the seeds of all the schools “grow” into trees on 22 May at 20:10 local time.)
...coming 1 March

2. Summary of 2008 activities

On 22 May, over sixty student groups participated from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the



Philippines, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States of America. Most posted stories and photographs on *The Green Wave* website.

The Green Wave was officially launched by the Minister of Environment of Germany, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, in Bonn, Germany during the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) on the International Day for Biological Diversity. He was joined by the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, the Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Diekmann, and the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Dr. Beate Jessel, in the Hofgarten park. These adults, together with a local kindergarten class, planted the inaugural tree, a beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

Meanwhile, at the Nairobi National Museum of Kenya near the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, there was another *Green Wave* celebration taking place. Several indigenous tree species were planted, including a Tamarind tree (*Vangueria madagascariensis*). UNEP's Executive Director, Achim Steiner sent a video message to participants at the Bonn conference on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity and the launch of *The Green Wave*.

All of *The Green Wave* trees planted on 22 May contribute to UNEP's Plant for the Planet – Billion Tree Campaign.

The Green Wave events continued beyond 22 May. Here's a sample.

- 🌱 In June, over 700 enthusiastic children from 106 countries launched *The Green Wave* 2009 with a giant “human wave” at the UNEP Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment in Stavanger Norway.
- 🌱 In July, at the Farnborough Airshow in Farnborough, England, the aerospace manufacturer Airbus committed to supporting *The Green Wave*...and gave *The Green Wave* its logo.
- 🌱 In August, everyone went on holiday!
- 🌱 In September, on Brazilian Tree Day Curitiba, Brazil held a city-wide event 175 municipal schools and 630 students planted over 300 seedlings of five different native trees with ceremonies in nine different places spaced over time to characterize a wave.
- 🌱 Also in September, ambassadors of European Union (EU) countries and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) took a break from their diplomatic duties to plant Apitong (*Dipterocarpus grandiflorus*) trees in Mount Makiling, Philippines. The tree planting activity was part of the celebrations for the third anniversary of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and marked the Centre's support for *The Green Wave*.
- 🌱 In October, Malaysian participants of *The Green Wave* attended First Asian Eco Camp in Korea and presented their extensive tree-planting activities, including those for *The Green Wave*.
- 🌱 In November, presentations on *The Green Wave* were given at several primary, secondary and tertiary schools in Montreal, Canada.
- 🌱 In December, special *Green Wave* holiday greeting cards were emailed to all participants and supporters.

3. Partners

Did you know that *The Green Wave* has attracted interest and supportive involvement of lots of diverse groups? Some examples are organizations including the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, businesses including Airbus and Select Jewelry, and national ministries of education and environment in Algeria, Germany, Palau, the Philippines and Seychelles, UN agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Small Grants Programme, broadcasting agencies including the Greek Broadcasting Corporation, NGOs and botanical gardens in Colombia and Mexico.

4. 2009 preview

With new partners, *The Green Wave* 2009 is shaping up to be an exciting year. Be sure to look for information about *The Green Wave* in print, online, television and radio media in the upcoming months. If you have an idea on where to promote *The Green Wave* be sure to send us your suggestions.

Keep checking the website for updates, resources and activities.

Happy learning and planning!

With kind regards,
The Green Wave team