

**REPORT ON GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY
JUNE 2010**

1 June, Rome, Italy – Thousands of people joined Bioversity International and its partners to mark the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) at Rome’s Auditorium Parco della Musica. The event, which took place over four days, focused on the role of agricultural biodiversity and its crucial role for human survival. Over 80 speakers participated. In addition, the event included a concert, film competition, city garden, an interactive exhibit and a “talking tree.”

3 June, Beijing, China – The State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of the Government of Nepal signed a memorandum of understanding on environment and biodiversity conservation. This marks the first time that these two countries have together promoted cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation, management of forest resources and protection of wildlife.

www.sciencecentric.com/news/10061006-china-nepal-reach-historic-biodiversity-agreement.html

3 June, Salisbury, United Kingdom – Children marking the IYB by taking part in the New Forest National Park’s Bioblitz recorded their sightings of a variety of species, including the rare Merveille du Jour moth. The data will be used to inform the National Park Authority’s work on how best to look after the New Forest wildlife.

www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/8195779.Rare_moth_found_at_children_s_day/

4-5 June, Oujda, Morocco – The Young Scientists Association of the Science Faculty at Mohammed Premier University organized ‘Science Days’ to help mark World Environment Day <http://ma.chm-cbd.net/events/les-journees-scientifiques-sous-le-theme-des>

5 June, Kigali, Rwanda – As part of IYB celebrations, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Executive Secretary celebrated World Environment Day in Rwanda. Through various events, presentations, and celebrations, Rwanda, with its exceptional array of biodiversity, showcased the important strides that the country has taken on environmental protection.

5 June, Geneva, Switzerland – The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with the Geneva office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), observed World Environment Day. Marking the day were a series of events and displays that highlighted numerous environmental issues, including biodiversity. These events coincided with a roundtable discussion at WIPO on the interaction between intellectual property and environmental issues, including the important question of biodiversity.

5 June, Kathmandu, Nepal – As part of IYB celebrations, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), celebrated World Environment Day at the centre's headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. The ICIMOD observed the day with several national activities. A competition among the school children on 'promoting herbal gardens within their school' helped educate school children about the importance of herbal plants and of conserving associated traditional knowledge. A complete report can be found at: www.cbd.int/2010/country/?country=np.

5 June, India – To help raise awareness of the IYB, India Post issued a set of two commemorative stamps in different denominations on biodiversity. www.indiapost.gov.in/Stamps2010.html

7 June, United Kingdom – The Royal Entomological Society, together with some 30 partners ranging from specialist entomological societies to national organizations concerned with many aspects of wildlife, agriculture and natural recreation, organized a National Insect Week 21-27 June as part of the IYB. Museums and libraries across the UK hosted talks, held workshops, and organized displays and fun activities to give people of all ages the opportunity to learn more about the creatures we share our planet with. www.culture24.org.uk/science+%2526+nature/art79378

7 June, Paris, France – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved 13 new biosphere reserves for enhanced protection. Ethiopia and Zimbabwe added their first biosphere reserves to the network of reserves created by the UN to halt biodiversity loss and promote sustainable development. One of the two new Ethiopian reserves protects the place of origin of the plant *Coffea Arabica*, believed to be the first species of coffee ever cultivated. The decision to include the reserves in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe was taken by the International Coordination Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, at its annual session at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

8 June, Tacloban City, Philippines – June was Philippine Environment Month, an opportunity to foster public awareness about the urgent need to preserve the environment. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 8 organized lectures on biodiversity, development and poverty alleviation; climate change; and the IYB. These lectures were held at the Regional Office and at various schools and partner agencies in the region. www.pia.gov.ph/default.asp?m=12&r=&y=&mo=&fi=p100608.htm&no=73

9 June, Belfast, Northern Ireland – Over 150 business leaders from a range of ocean industries, including shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, mining and offshore renewable energy, participated in the World Ocean Council's inaugural Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) in Belfast. With the theme, "Reducing Risk, Increasing Sustainability: Solutions through Collaboration," the SOS covered a range of ocean stewardship issues including marine spatial planning, the Arctic, biodiversity, marine debris, and sound in the marine environment. In recognition of the International Year of the Seafarer, a special session of the summit highlighted the need for the ocean industries to focus greater attention on safety and environmental education for maritime professionals. <http://logisticsweek.com/ocean/2010/06/sustainable-ocean-summit-advances-%E2%80%9Ccorporate-ocean-responsibility%E2%80%9D-2/>

11 June, Edmonton, Canada – Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), on behalf of Canada's Environment Minister, Jim Prentice, announced funding from the EcoAction Community Funding Program for a new environmental project in Edmonton. Some \$29,000 in federal funding will go towards supporting local action to reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and protect wildlife and natural habitat. "As part of the International Year of Biodiversity, residents can play a part by protecting the biodiversity in their own community," said Minister Merrifield. www.marketwire.com/press-release/Government-Canada-Invests-Community-Environmental-Project-Edmonton-Alberta-1274926.htm

11 June, Dong Hoi, Viet Nam – Viet Nam's first sea and island festival took place in Quang Binh Province's Dong Hoi City, and helped mark the IYB, World Environment Day and World Ocean Day. The week-long event included a fair promoting the sea-based economy, meetings to commemorate the World Environment Day and the World Ocean Day, a sand painting contest for students, a photo exhibition on oceans and islands and many other activities. www.vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/Travel/Travellers-Notes/200440/First-sea-and-island-festival-opens-in-Dong-Hoi.html

11 June, Rabat, Morocco – The Department of Environment, under the theme of "Millions of Species – One Planet – One Common Future," organized a round table discussion on the role NGOs play in biodiversity protection. <http://ma.chm-cbd.net/events/table-ronde-sur-le-role-des-ong-dans-la>

13 June, Edmonton, Canada – To mark the IYB, the Edmonton Valley Zoo organized the event *Creatures in Crisis: A Focus on Biodiversity*, a chance for visitors to, among other things, learn about the Zoo's Species Survival Program and what can be done to help animals on the edge of extinction in a fun and interactive way. www.canadaviews.ca/2010/06/11/shine-a-light-on-creatures-in-crisis/

13 June, Ontario, Canada – Young naturalists learned the importance of biodiversity at a youth summit featuring keynote speaker Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canadian astronaut, neurologist and photographer. Dr. Bondar spoke about the health of the planet and how protecting it fits with the IYB to a group of teens, aged 14 to 17, from across the province to attend the Youth Summit for Biodiversity hosted by Ontario Nature, at Camp Cedar Glen.

14 June, Dublin, Ireland – The Executive Secretary delivered a key note address during the Fourth Global Gardens Congress organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. As part of its IYB celebrations, the Dublin Botanical Garden mounted a biodiversity panel which was displayed in different locations around Ireland to help raise awareness on the countries' biological treasures.

14 June, Philippines – To help celebrate the IYB, the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines and the Davao Gulf Management Council unveiled a complete mapping of the marine biodiversity of the Davao Gulf that will protect the remaining 20 per cent of the Gulf's coral reefs. A comprehensive Environmental Sensitivity Index mapping exercise was recently conducted to assess the Gulf's sensitivity to oil spills, soil leaching and other environmental disturbances. www.mb.com.ph/articles/261967/mapping-exercise-protect-coral-reefs

15 June, Yokohama, Japan – In the framework of the IYB, and as a contribution to the debates leading to the CBD COP 10 to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, co-hosted a public debate on biodiversity conservation in human influenced areas, including production forests. www.itto.int/workshop_detail/id=2341

16 June, Nuremberg, Germany – The Executive Secretary delivered a keynote address during the SusCon 2010 on Business and Biodiversity meeting.

16 June, New Zealand – A photo competition is being held to mark the IYB. The Department of Conservation is calling for photographs that depict New Zealand's biodiversity, such as native plants, animals, fungi or other wildlife. <http://topnews.us/content/222298-photo-competition-mark-2010-international-year-biodiversity>

17 June, Oujda, Morocco – The High Commission for Waters and Forests and Combating Desertification celebrated World Day to Combat Desertification by organizing a meeting under the theme “Sustainable Management of Sylvi-Pastoral Areas of the Oriental and its Contribution to Biodiversity Conservation.” The goal was to assess the achievements to date and to promote future actions at the national and regional levels. <http://ma.chm-cbd.net/events/celebration-de-la-journee-mondiale-de-la>

18 June, Tokyo, Japan – The legendary scent of ambergris - which has been all but lost to perfume lovers - has been recovered from a specimen held in a Tokyo museum and will be released at an upcoming exhibition to mark the IYB. The scent will be released at the upcoming "Great Mammals Exhibition: Inhabitants of the Seas," which opens at the museum in Tokyo's Ueno district on 10 July. www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/museum-scent-company-bring-ambergris-back-to-life-2004355.html

19 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – The Executive Secretary helped inaugurate IYB celebrations in Malaysia.

19 June, Singapore – As part of the IYB celebrations in Singapore, the National Parks Board launched the Sungei Buloh Masterplan Public Exhibition at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Those attending the launch included Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, Pehin Dato Haji Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Brunei Darussalam, Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer National Parks Board and Professor Leo Tan, Chairman Garden City Fund.

19 June, Canada – Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, announced on behalf of Canada's Environment Minister, Jim Prentice, funding from the EcoAction Community Funding Program for two projects. In total, \$16,830 in federal funding will help community members reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and protect wildlife and natural habitat. "Because 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity... I am particularly proud to announce community funding which will help enhance an eco-sensitive area in the Okanagan," said Minister Day. www.marketwire.com/press-release/Government-of-Canada-Invests-in-Community-Environmental-Projects-in-the-Okanagan-1278616.htm

19 June, Washington, USA – GO-Science hosted the first in a series of three free IYB Explorer programs at Goose Creek State Park. Participants engaged in simulation activities in the outdoor classroom and investigated native species as well as invasive species along the boardwalk at the park. www.reflector.com/features/creative-living-june-19-38884

20 June, Banteay Kdei Temple, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia – Cambodia celebrated the IYB with over 1000 participants and several senior Ministers, including Yim Chhay Ly, Deputy Prime Minister, who reiterated Cambodia's commitment to the IYB and to the work of the CBD. The Executive Secretary delivered a statement to the attendees and praised their strong efforts and thanked Cambodia's youth for their support to *The Green Wave* campaign. The complete statement can be read at: www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2010/sp-2010-06-20-cambodia-en.pdf

21 June, Calgary, Canada – The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced the protection of 10 exceptional natural areas – ‘Gifts to Canadians in celebration of our nation's 143rd birthday.’ The gifts, one in each province, have been secured to safeguard natural habitat for many species at risk and cover some 12.5 square kilometres. "In this International Year of Biodiversity we are delighted to be able to offer these birthday gifts to Canadians," said John Lounds, NCC President and CEO. "These conservation success stories will result in the protection of landscapes that represent the truly diverse nature of Canada." www.digitaljournal.com/pr/60247

21 June, London, United Kingdom – The Green Economy Coalition, a London-based non-profit consortium, called on G-20 Heads of State to integrate the value of biodiversity into their national accounts, to combat its effect on the environment. The statement called on the G-20 to spare no effort towards advancing its agenda to support an ambitious, fair and legally binding post-2012 Global Climate policy framework. The consortium believes that proper valuation of biodiversity should be mainstreamed into all G-20 finance, economic, trade, business and labor ministries. The consortium appealed to G-20 Heads of State to consider the recommendations of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, which will present its final report to COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. <http://news.peacefmonline.com/news/201006/50017.php>

21 June, United Kingdom – The centre of Bradford became one big colourful carnival as two parades joined forces. The Lord Mayor's carnival parade, which marked the IYB through the iconic image of the tiger, attracted more than 1,000 adults and children. www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/localnews/Parades-join-forces-to-turn.6374515.jp

21 June, London, United Kingdom – Visitors can add a unique blend of music, honey and beehives to their things to do in London list as the city gears up for the City of London Festival. The events will include honey tastings, poetry readings, music and a talk by the Bishop of London. The festival is part of the IYB and will see the installation of numerous beehives across the city. www.londonpass.com/London_Tourist_Attraction_News/Things_to_do_in_London_City_of_London_Festival/19848196

21 June, Jerusalem, Israel – An exhibition titled *The Deep*, at Jerusalem's Bloomfield Science Museum, focuses on the other-worldly forms of life that exist in conditions of “perpetual

darkness, bone-chilling cold, crushing pressure and jaw-dropping geology,” and that attests to the “infinite mystery of our planet’s last true frontier.”

21 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Malaysia officially launched stamps for the IYB at the National Seminar on Biodiversity 2010.

23 June, Madrid, Spain – This year’s World Tourism Day 2010 took place under the theme “Tourism and Biodiversity.” Highlighting tourism’s role in conserving biodiversity, WTD also raises awareness of how continued biodiversity loss hampers efforts to meet other Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to poverty, hunger, and health.

www.eturbonews.com/16889/tourism-contributes-millennium-development-goals

25 June, United Kingdom – Of the 55,000 species thought to exist in Britain, the vast majorities are only known to a few expert taxonomists, and most have only Latin names to describe them.. That's why, to mark the IYB, the Guardian, Natural England and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History teamed up to ask the public to name some of the less well-known and lesser-loved animals and plants that inhabit the UK.

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jun/25/name-a-species-competition-introduction

25-26 June, Muskoka, Canada – Leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) again emphasized the critical importance of biodiversity to human well-being, sustainable development and poverty eradication, and highlighted the serious threat posed by the current rate of biodiversity loss.

Specifically, the G-8 leaders noted in the Muskoka Declaration, Recovery and New Beginning, that, “In 2010, the UN International Year of Biodiversity, we regret that the international community is not on track to meeting its 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity globally. We recognize that the current rate of loss is a serious threat, since biologically diverse and resilient ecosystems are critical to human well being, sustainable development and poverty eradication. We underline our support for Japan as it prepares to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity this October and in particular we underline the importance of adopting an ambitious and achievable post-2010 framework. We recognize the need to strengthen the science-policy interface in this area, and in this regard we welcome the agreement to establish an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.”

27 June-1 July, Nouakchott, Mauritania – The 5th Coastal and Marine Forum in West Africa - Biodiversity, our security in a changing world, included the inauguration of the Biodiversity Village, marking the launch of the IYB. www.prcmarine.org

27 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Aeon Malaysia, the Aeon 1% Club and the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, jointly organized the 2010 Aeon Eco Essay Competition. Open to all secondary students between the ages of 13 to 17, the students were required to submit an essay on the theme of “Biodiversity Crisis – What We Can Do to Save Our Environment”. Of the 535 entries submitted, 50 were shortlisted to be read by a panel of judges comprising Associate Professor Dr. Osman Mohd Tahir, University Putra Malaysia; Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Fariz Mohamed, University Kebangsaan Malaysia; and Anita Ariffin from

the Education Ministry. Ten finalists were chosen based on their originality and writing skills.
<http://thestar.com.my/education/story.asp?file=/2010/6/27/education/6454566&sec=education>

28 June, Dublin, Ireland – Travellers planning a trip to Ireland this summer will have the opportunity to learn more about their destination during National Heritage Week. More than 1,000 shows, open days, talks and other activities are set to take place in all of Ireland's counties between 21-29 August. Arranged as part of the IYB celebrations, the event includes falconry displays at Glenveagh National Park in Donegal and a butterfly walk in Santry Demesne, Dublin.
http://news.opodo.co.uk/NewsDetails/20100628/Ireland_prepares_for_National_Heritage_Week

28 June, United Kingdom – The Natural History Museum organized a Youth Summit on Biodiversity. The summit catered to 200 a-level students aimed to raise awareness and answer the four Ws of biodiversity – What is it? Why is it important? What can we do to make a difference? Where can we find biodiversity?