

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

2 November – The Airbus Corporate Foundation launched a three-year programme that brings together Airbus employees from around the world for two expeditions a year. Employees have the opportunity to work on a project for biodiversity conservation in India. Five employees from Airbus in Toulouse, France, recently returned from a three-week expedition in India as part of the biodiversity programme launched by the Airbus Corporate Foundation, in partnership with Raleigh, the Indian Government, the UN Development Programme and several non-governmental organizations. www.indiaonline.com/Markets/News/Airbus-Corporate-Foundation-launches-innovative-programme-for-biodiversity-conservation/4982062855

3 November, Mangalore, India – The Yenepoya School, in keeping with the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), organized a two-day library fest and an inter-school biodiversity quiz competition. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangalore/School-to-hold-libraryfest/articleshow/6867545.cms>

3 November, United Kingdom – An exhibition that connects people with the natural world, 'Behind the Dawn', was organized at the Moray Art Centre, in association with the University of Edinburgh, to help mark the IYB. Bringing together art, music, poetry and science, organizers hope the exhibition will create a positive outlook on biodiversity. www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/6455/

3 November, United Kingdom – The winning entries from the 2010 British Wildlife Photography Awards are on display at Nunnington Hall, near Helmsley. The awards, established in 2009, celebrate the talents of both amateur and professional photographers. This year included a special category to mark the IYB. www.yorkpress.co.uk/leisure/exhibitions/8491770.British_Wildlife_Photography_Awards_exhibition_at_Nunnington_Hall/

4 November, United Kingdom – The National Waterfront Museum (NWM) in Swansea is celebrating IYB with a show developed by the NWM and the Royal Society. The travelling exhibition aims to illustrate why the natural world is both fundamental to life on earth and at risk of being irreparably damaged by human activity. The exhibition shows how biodiversity sustains our needs for everything from food and air to soil and furniture, adding to productive species identification and research efforts by National Museum Wales scientists in the IYB. www.culture24.org.uk/science+%26+nature/environment/art312192

5 November, Trinidad and Tobago – Corpus Christi College and Holy Faith Convent Couva came away with top honours in the two categories of the Third Annual Eco-Song Competition hosted by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA). Twelve contestants, representing 10 schools, faced off against each other in performances that spanned a variety of musical genres including soca, chutney soca, calypso and rapso. The theme for the competition was *Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is Our Life*, in keeping with the international observance of the IYB. <http://guardian.co.tt/features/entertainment/2010/11/22/corpus-christi-holy-faith-top-eco-song-competition>

5 November, Canada – The Canada Pavilion, the Government of Canada's travelling exhibit, was featured at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from 5 to 14 November. The theme was Canada's biodiversity, in honour of the IYB. Visitors can learn more about programmes and services related to biodiversity and participate in several interactive games. <http://dcnonl.com/nw/22538/gc>

6 November, Ireland – An article reflecting on the IYB and steps one can take to help better biodiversity was published in the *Irish Times*. www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/magazine/2010/11/06/1224282747191.html

7 November, Malta – To celebrate the IYB, schools are given an action guide with 30 activities teachers can carry out with students. These activities comprise lessons and games teachers can use to bring to life different aspects of the environment. Activities focus on a wide range of issues, ranging from climate change to waste management and pollution. www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20101107/environment/schoolchildren-for-biodiversity

10 November – The global travel and tourism industry should be viewed and treated as the “Gatekeeper of the World” as it strives to safeguard this vast resource for our children and grandchildren, was the key message from World Travel Market Chairman Fiona Jeffery as she opened the event’s World Responsible Tourism. With 2010 named the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations, now is the time to build on consumer awareness and the progress made so far in understanding and protecting biodiversity. www.travelio.net/travel-industry-is-the-gatekeeper-of-the-world.html

11 November, Jakarta, Indonesia – To mark the IYB, the UN and its international partners plan to kick off the 1st Science Film Festival Indonesia on Monday. The two-week film festival, which takes place simultaneously in Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand, is showing 28 international films about science-related themes. www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/11/12/un-hold-film-festival-children.html

12 November, United Kingdom – Environment Minister Jane Davidson, speaking at an event marking IYB, said that if we are to properly protect our environment, people need to understand what biodiversity is and why it matters to them. www.egovmonitor.com/node/39396

13 November, Dominican Republic – As part of the IYB the Natural History Museum held a photo exhibition, Fauna Dominicana, to celebrate the first year of “The Last Survivors” project – a project aimed at raising awareness of the last surviving Caribbean endemic land mammals, as

well as focusing attention on these valuable but highly threatened species.

www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2010/11/13/37618/Natural-History-Museum-exhibits-Fauna-Dominicana

14 November, Pakistan – The World Science Day for Peace and Development included, among other things, speeches on the importance of biodiversity, and the importance of disseminating this information amongst the youth of Pakistan.

www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Islamabad/14-Nov-2010/World-Science-Day-for-Peace-observed

14 November, Australia – A new flower, the Tasman Peninsula Billy Button, was discovered in Tasmania. The plant, first discovered 180 years ago, was wrongly believed to be a species of Billy Button daisy. The Tasman Peninsula Billy Button is believed to be rare and is largely restricted to the area from Devil's Kitchen to just south of Waterfall Bay. Dr Rozefelds, deputy director of collections and research at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, said correctly identifying the daisy was like solving a centuries-old mystery. "In the International Year of Biodiversity, it's a very significant find."

www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/11/14/185981_tasmania-news.html

16 November, Doha, Qatar – Delegates attending INTERPOL's General Assembly in Doha voted unanimously in favor of a resolution encouraging greater global policing efforts to stem environmental crimes. Environmental crime encompasses activities ranging from illegal trade in wildlife, timber and marine species, to transborder movements of hazardous waste, and the illicit exploitation of natural resources. CITES Secretary-General John Scanlon praised INTERPOL for preparing such a resolution during the IYB. www.ens-newswire.com/ens/nov2010/2010-11-16-03.html

18 November, Madrid, Spain – Unilever and Coop Switzerland's efforts to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity serve as positive examples and can help push biodiversity up the agenda of the food industry, said the Union for Ethical BiTrade (UEBT) following the first Biodiversity Awards for the food industry. The UEBT Executive Director told FoodNavigator.com that topics such as organic and fair trade are better known, but "biodiversity does not jump at you." He noted that awareness and entries were boosted by the IYB.

www.foodnavigator.com/Financial-Industry/Biodiversity-award-winners-show-food-industry-what-s-possible

19 November – The IYB logo was featured as the final question for the TV game show Jeopardy during the 2010 College Championships. www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8OBZXC_ISI#t=7m29s

21 November, St. Petersburg, Russia – A campaign to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022 was part of the agenda at the highest level political meeting to ever discuss a single species. The International Tiger Forum is being staged in response to a calamitous 97% decline in tigers in the wild over a century. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and the President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, were behind the four-day event. One of the aims was to secure \$350m (£220m) for tiger conservation. The Forum – which is taking place during the IYB and the Chinese year of the tiger – also included the unveiling of an international consortium to combat

wildlife crime and pledges to tighten protection by the 13 countries where tigers live.
www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/nov/21/tiger-conservation-russia-world-bank

22 November, Canada – The Government of Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada announced the conservation of valuable habitat in the Southern Laurentians in the Province of Quebec.
www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2010/22/c6252.html

23 November, Botswana – Biodiversity conservation was celebrated at the 2010 Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) Annual Gala Dinner Dance. The event, which had IYB as its theme, included former Mozambican President and Chairman of the Forum for Former African Heads of State, Joaquim Chissano, who said, "To use biodiversity in a sustainable manner means to use natural resources at a rate that the earth can renew them, it's a way to ensure that we meet the demand of both present and future generations."
www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=1&aid=6472&dir=2010/November/Monday15

23 November, India – WWF-India held its 'Panda Festival of the Environment' featuring competitions, workshops, hikes on nature trails and film screenings.
www.indiaonline.com/Markets/News/WWF-India-offers-Panda-festival-of-Environment/4999265579

23 November, New Zealand – Some 360 people, including nine main speakers from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, attended the New Zealand Ecological Society annual conference. The theme of the conference recognised and celebrated the IYB.
www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/137532/biodiversity-theme-conference

24 November, Scotland – Speaking at UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference, Scottish Environment Minister Cunningham said, "2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, a time when we need to reflect on what has been achieved so far and focus on the big challenges ahead that we need to meet. New UN and EU targets bring new challenges. We need a huge change in thinking - away from simply repairing damage to biodiversity, and towards addressing the pressures and building healthy landscapes for the benefit of all."
www.egovmonitor.com/node/39545

28 November, Mumbai, India – Jai Hind College in Mumbai organized a two-day national seminar titled "Planet Earth: Take Care.....Take Charge." The purpose of the seminar was to highlight the impact of biodiversity depletion and to suggest ways to conserve it.
<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=broadcast&broadcastid=209777>