International Day for Biological Diversity—22 May

The United Nations proclaimed 22 May the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. On this day, governments and citizens from around the world take time to discover the biodiversity that surrounds them, and celebrate some of the successful activities that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. IDB is part of the Programme of Work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

Every year a different theme is designated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To help highlight the key issues pertinent to the given theme, the Secretariat publishes outreach materials and encourages all Parties and relevant partners to use these free resources as a means of promoting awareness of these crucial issues.

Past, present and future International Days for Biological Diversity:

2013—Water and Biodiversity
2012—Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
2011—Forest Biodiversity
2010—Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation
2009—Invasive Alien Species
2008—Biodiversity and Agriculture
2007—Biodiversity and Climate Change
2006—Protect Biodiversity in Drylands
2005—Biodiversity: Life Insurance for our Changing World
2004—Biodiversity: Food, Water and Health for All
2003—Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation—Challenges for Sustainable Development
2002—Forest Biodiversity

UNEP

Convention on Biological Diversity

www.cbd.int/idb

The Green Wave

THE GREEN WAVE
One school, one tree, one gift to nature

A global project coordinated by the CBD Secretariat to promote biodiversity education and awareness among children and youth, *The Green Wave* supports national, international and global tree planting initiatives such as the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign. Each year on 22 May participants plant a tree at 10:00 am local time, creating a 'green wave' starting in the far east and travelling west around the world. Throughout the day, students upload photos and text to *The Green Wave* website to share their stories. An interactive map goes live at 20:10 local time, creating a second, virtual, green wave.

From some 40 celebrations in 2008, *The Green Wave* brought together about 600 groups of children and youth from schools and clubs in 73 countries in 2009 and over 2500 groups from 75 countries in 2010, for a total of hundreds of thousands of participants. Over the years, *The Green Wave* has built strong partnerships with, for example, the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility, several local and national governments, NGOs, businesses and youth organizations. In 2010, Jean Lemire, Canadian yachtsman, biologist and filmmaker, was named Ambassador for *The Green Wave*.

What can I do?

- Learn about biodiversity and environmental issues in your area and in your country. You need to know before you can act. The internet is full of ideas and 'green practices', or ask your local environmental organisation

- Volunteer in environmental actions, safeguarding biodiversity starts with you and your community

- Participate in activities on the IDB—support conservation efforts, or join in celebrations organised by local or national governments

- Organise your own activities

- Organise tours of an area for protection

- Develop learning modules and materials about species

- Promote sustainable agriculture or sustainable consumption

Learn More

The Green Wave ▸ http://greenwave.cbd.int

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity ▸ www.cbd.int/2011-2020

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity on Facebook
▸ www.facebook.com/UNBiodiversity

Communication, Education and Public Awareness ▸ www.cbd.int/cepa

List of environmental dates (Wikipedia)
▸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_dates

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