



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Programa Ambiental del Caribe
Unidad de Coordinación Regional

Caribbean Environment Programme
Regional Co-ordinating Unit

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Jamaica School Children Help Celebrate United Nations International Year of Biodiversity

Kingston, 16th November, 2010. The painting of 13 year old Lianna Harvey from Campion College in St. Andrew was awarded first prize at the judging of the Jamaica Children's Painting Competition on the Environment, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) on November 11th.

Launched by UNEP-CAR/RCU in commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity on April 22nd, 2010, the competition invited 8 to 14 year olds to submit paintings on the theme: "Protecting the Biodiversity of our Caribbean Sea". There were 104 paintings received from over 17 different schools in Jamaica, including the parishes of Kingston, St. Catherine and St. Andrew. Many students submitted colorful visions of sea creatures and marine mammals, while others chose to illustrate the various actions which are needed to protect the rich biodiversity of plants, animals and their habitat.

Assigned to the difficult task of choosing a winner from among the many creative entries, were judges Dr. Suzanne Davis of the Institute of Jamaica; Natalie Fearon of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA); Miriam Hinds of the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts; and Artists Jacqueline Hussey-Pearson and Kacey Ferguson.

The winning painting is a remarkable environmental essay, using miniature stage sets to depict bird shooting, whale feeding and marine litter on the one hand, and beach clean-up, happy sea turtles and professional divers taking pictures instead of souvenirs on the other hand, in an effective juxtaposition of the dos and don'ts of preserving the marine environment.

Second prize was awarded to 14 year old Asheba Williamson of the Windsor School of Special Education, whose painting visualized the marine environment as a fragile fish tank needing special protection from both without and within. Honorable Mention was given in the 8 to 10 age group category to the painting of Katana Finlason of Immaculate Conception Preparatory School, for her whimsical portrayal of responsible divers swimming among the denizens of the deep.

The winners and their classmates will be invited to an official award ceremony to be held before the end of the year, to be hosted by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of UNEP-CAR/RCU.

Speaking on behalf of CAR-RCU, Mr. Andrade Colmenares remarked: "We want to take this opportunity to thank the parents, teachers, community leaders, friends, colleagues, and all the school children of Jamaica who have participated and promoted this 2010 Painting Competition. The competition has

provided a unique platform for the students to assist us in sharing the message on the importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity, the variety of life on our planet, gives us our food, clothes, fuel, medicine, recreation, spiritual solace and much, much more. When even one species is taken out of the intricate web of life, the results can be catastrophic. The colorful images and imaginative scenarios produced by our students are here to remind us to consider carefully the actions each of us must take individually, in order to tackle collectively the task of preserving all life on Earth.”

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About UNEP’s Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) in 1976 under the framework of its Regional Seas Programme. It was developed on the importance and value of the Wider Caribbean Region’s fragile and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems including an abundant and mainly endemic flora and fauna.

A Caribbean Action Plan was adopted by the Countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and that led to the development and adoption of the Cartagena Convention on 24 March 1983. This Convention is the first regionally binding treaty of its kind that seeks to protect and develop the marine environment of the WCR. Since its entry into force on 11 October 1986, 24 of the 28 WCR countries have become contracting parties.

The Convention is supported by three protocols:

- Protocol concerning Cooperation in combating Oil Spills, which entered into force on October 11, 1986;
- Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), which entered into force on June 18, 2000;
- Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based sources and activities which still awaits three ratifying countries to enter into force.

In addition, each Protocol is served by a Regional Activity Centre. These centers are based in The Netherlands Antilles (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center for the Wider Caribbean, RAC/REMPEITC) for the Oil Spills Protocol; in Guadeloupe (RAC/SPAW) for the SPAW Protocol and in Cuba (Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays) and Trinidad & Tobago (Institute of Marine Affairs) both for the LBS Protocol.

The Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU), established in 1986, serves as the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and is based in Kingston, Jamaica. As they endeavour to protect the Caribbean Sea and sustain our future, we look forward to their continued effort to combat marine pollution by facilitating the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols in the Wider Caribbean Region.