

“I am Biodiversity”

St. Vincent and the Grenadines celebrate this year’s International Day for Biological Diversity with a series of activities. These activities are under the theme “I am Biodiversity”. It is aimed to sensitize the general public on issues of biodiversity in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to get the general public more involved in the concept portrayed by the theme.

The activities, in which some have already started, will conclude on May 22nd. These activities include:

1. Series of Radio Programmes.
2. ENO tree planting initiative.
3. Photo competition.
4. Posters displaying islands’ endemic species.
5. Series of Videos.
6. Newspaper articles.
7. Expo.

Series of Radio Programmes

The series of activities is geared towards promoting awareness on the topic of biodiversity; its importance and how Vincentians can become involve in protecting and conserving their islands biodiversity for sustainability. The programmes will be fully interactive in which the public can call in and make a comment, contribution or simply to ask a question. With this initiative, the goal is to mainstream biodiversity.

ENO tree planting initiative

Environment Online- ENO tree planting day which is on the same day as International Day for Biological Diversity and as part of celebrating their 10 years of tree planting they have organized a “treelympics” contest. Collaborations have been acquired with different agencies to facilitate this event in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Therefore various schools will register and participate in the contest. This initiative is twofold; the students will become aware and involved in biodiversity protection and conservation and synergies will be created between UNCBD and UNCCD projects (NBSAP) and (NAP) currently ongoing.

Photo competition

It will be a national competition divided into four different categories; in which students from the primary, secondary and tertiary level education and the general public (outside of categories 1-3)

can enter. The competition is designed to be fun and educational where upon taking a photo of any aspect of the countries' biodiversity, a brief description of the value of the image to the countries' biodiversity must be attached before the submission of the photo with the registration form. Prizes will consist of a range of digital cameras. And a special prize will be given to any individual entering the competition who snaps a photograph of an endemic or endangered species in its natural habitat.

Series of Videos

These videos are a mechanism tool which will be used for public awareness in the areas of conservation and sustainable use of the countries' biodiversity, and viable livelihoods that can be created.

Newspaper articles

These articles would be under the theme "I am biodiversity" which will feature information on the countries' endemic species; those under threat of extinction and those of biological importance.

Exposition

For this event, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment will collaborate with other ministerial agencies such as the Fisheries Division, Forestry Department and other statutory and private stakeholders to deliver a rich display of the countries' biodiversity.

On the International Day for Biological Diversity, the expo will be the main event in which a wide variety of the countries' biodiversity will be well represented and displayed. Different stakeholders will team up to portray different flora and fauna. The event will be educational, informational, interactive and enjoyable. The activities will vary from face to face interaction, live display of a variety of flora and fauna, video interaction, booklets, etc.

On the day of the expo, the tree planting activities will be taking place simultaneously involving different schools in different communities across the country and a radio programme. Also, the winners of the photo competition will be announced at the exposition.