

## REPORT

### On the celebrations of the International Day for Biodiversity 2007 “Biodiversity and Climate Change” in the Republic of Tajikistan

Through the initiative of the Secretariat of the CBD, the International Day for Biodiversity is widely celebrated all over the world, including the Republic of Tajikistan. The theme of this year’s International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) was, of course “Biodiversity and Climate Change”. Accordingly, Tajikistan had undertaken a number of celebratory activities devoted to this meaningful for all countries occasion.

Such celebrations in the Republic, devoted to the International Day for Biodiversity 2007, were organized by the governmental bodies as well as by the NGOs and social organizations.

1. The main event in the Republic was the **Seminar on the IDB 2007 “Biodiversity and Climate Change”**. It was organized by the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan (NBBC) on 22 May 2007 in the Republic’s capital Dushanbe. The Seminar was jointly attended by the National Coordinators for the CBD, UNFCCC, AARHUS Convention and others, including the members of ministries and governmental departments, scientists, international consultants of World Bank, UNDP, Universities, NGOs and other interested stakeholders. The Chairman Mr. Safarov - CBD and CPB National Focal Point for the Republic of Tajikistan, the Head of the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center – congratulated and expressed gratitude in his speech to all present for their active participation in this initiative and read the Message from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity. It was noted that our country is taking a number of important measures towards strengthening the system of the Specially-Protected Areas (SPAs), conservation of genetic resources, as well as the creation of the governmental bodies dealing directly with these issues. One of such institutions is the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Republic of Tajikistan which coordinates the matters related to biodiversity conservation. To address these issues a number of projects are under way to conserve biodiversity and its adaptation to climate change. However, our mission is complicated by the lack of resources to conduct the environmental projects, to access the latest scientific research data and by the absence of legal platform to conserve the endangered species of country’s biodiversity. That’s why there is an urgent need for both, the government and international donors, to undertake and directly support activities to promote research on biodiversity conservation and climate change. During the Seminar a video was shown on biodiversity and climate change (kindly provided by the Secretariat of the CBD) – one of the main threats presenting a real danger for all life on Earth. Also, an exhibition of publications and photos reflecting Tajikistan’s biodiversity was organized.



2. A number of activities were held for the youth – students of the country’s schools, colleges, etc.



For example, Children’s Conference on Biodiversity dedicated to the IBD 2007 was organized on 13 may 2007 in the park by the group “Geo-ecology” of the Children’s Youth Center led by Ms. G. K. Melnikova, by the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center with participation of the students of Dushanbe’s secondary schools.

The Conference was held under the framework of the programme “Environment for the future generations” dedicated to the theme “Biodiversity conservation according to the Red Book of Planet Earth”. For this Conference the students role-played and delivered messages on behalf of the species listed in the Red Book. At the end of the Conference the best performances were acknowledged by prizes. It was concluded by the exhibition of children’s art and photos.

3. Scientific Conference for Students dedicated to the IBD 2007 was organized with the support of National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Republic of Tajikistan and involved the biology students of the Tajik State National University. They presented scientific reports on Tajikistan’s flora and its valuable biodiversity.



In conclusion, most active participants were awarded bonuses for the most profound research.

4. A special programme of activities within the framework of The World Bank project, entitled “Biodiversity Conservation of the Dashtidghum Nature Reserve”, was developed for several regions of the country. These activities were also carried out in conjunction with the celebration of the IBD 2007 and were primarily aimed at communication, education and raising public awareness. The activities included the following:



- At a regional level, teachers in schools gave “open-house” lessons on ecology. The teachers who gave the best lessons were awarded special certificates and prizes.
- An inter-school “olympics” (competition) on biology was held in the Khatlon region. Winners were awarded prizes.
- Schools in Dashtidghum (Khatlon region) participated in the creative

contest "Nature's Play and Fancy". At the end of the contest, exhibits were selected for the local Museum of Nature of the Dashtidghum Nature Reserve.

- Movies on environmental protection were shown in schools of the Khatlon region.
- Foresters of the Dashtidghum Nature Reserve received training in biodiversity monitoring. The purpose of this training was to show new ways of sustainable use for forests and conservation of biodiversity as a mechanism for the implementation of the country's first Management Plan for the Dashtidghum Nature Reserve.

Activities such as these encourage the population to become more environmentally conscious. They are one of the most important means of drawing students' attention to environmental issues and raising their awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation, as well as informing them of the issues of climate change, flora and fauna of the countries around the world.

5. The most significant event held in the Khatlon region was the Roundtable discussion on Biodiversity Day 2007, which was organized in the city of Kulyab by the Kulyab Area Inspection for the Environmental Protection with the support of the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Republic of Tajikistan. Leaders of environmental agencies of all the regions of the Kulyab area, representatives of the young ecologists' movement "Green Patrol", mass media, as well as local authorities participated in the said Roundtable. The following issues were covered: the background to the conclusion of the CBD and its ratification by the Republic of Tajikistan, the state of the country's biodiversity, measures taken by the government and local authorities to conserve and protect its unique and valuable biological resources. At the end of the Roundtable, there was an excursion to the Botanical Gardens of the Kulyab city.



A seminar was organized in the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in connection with the celebration of the World Environment Day on 5 June, 2007, in the Republic of Tajikistan. A wide range of government officials, representatives of environmental agencies, UNDP, OSCE, various NGOs and national mass media participated in this seminar.

The National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center is also filming a documentary on the biodiversity of the Republic of Tajikistan.

All the above-listed activities were timed to coincide with the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2007, which was widely celebrated by the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Republic of Tajikistan, the "Noosfera" association, environmental agencies, national universities, various NGOs and other entities.

In the future, the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center and I, personally, intend to organize similar events and fully support such important and much-needed initiatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and provide reports of the activities.

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