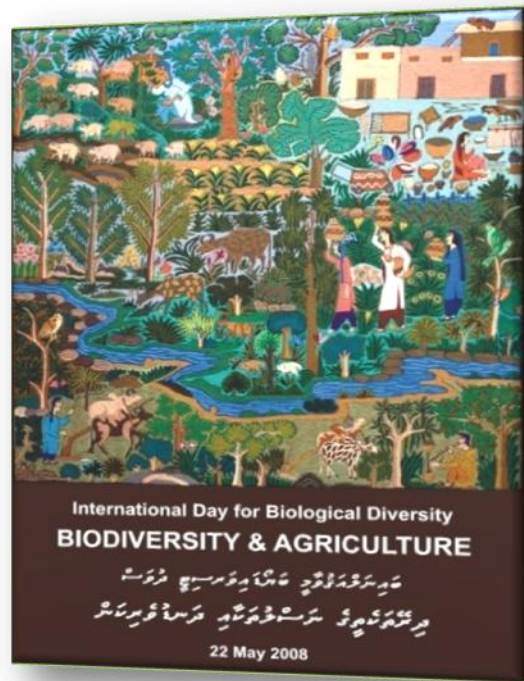


MALDIVES CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2008

Maldives being a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), has been celebrating Biodiversity day since 2002. The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation. Also to highlight the threats faced by all living things due to human actions.

The activities linked with the theme of Biodiversity day this year, "biodiversity and agriculture" were specially targeted to school children who will in future play an important role in taking steps to conserve the biological diversity of our country and also to create public awareness on biodiversity issues.



Biodiversity Day Poster

The activities carried out to celebrate Biodiversity are as follows:

1. Meeting to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity 2008

A special meeting to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity was organized by the Environment Research Centre on the morning of 22 May 2008 in collaboration with Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources. The meeting was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Mr. Abdullahi Majeed. In his speech, the Deputy Minister spoke about the critical importance of biodiversity conservation for human well-being, food security and protection of the rich biodiversity of the country. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Mr. Mohamed Zuhair as well.



Deputy Minister addressing the participants of the meeting

Posters and publications by Environment Research Centre and Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources were released at this meeting, these include;

Mangroves of the Maldives poster

A poster with images, scientific, common and local names of all the thirteen (13) species of mangroves found in the Maldives produced under the “Huraa Mangrove Park” project was released by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr. Abdullahi Majeed. A poster of different birds found in the wetlands and mangroves of the Maldives was also released at the meeting.



Deputy Minister Releasing the Poster

Trees and Shrubs of Maldives

A book on trees and shrubs of the Maldives developed under the Forestry Project was released by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources. This book contains information on the identity, ecology and use of over 100 species of trees and shrubs found in the Maldives.



Deputy Minister Releasing the Book

2- Nursery tour

A special information session on biodiversity and agriculture was held at Male' Nursery for school children on 22 May 2008. The fun filled yet educational session was a success as the participants showed keen interest in all activities and games related to agriculture and biodiversity of the Maldives. Resource personnel from Environment Research Centre and Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources covered topics on organic fertilizers, sustainable agriculture, and importance of biodiversity for agriculture and conservation of biodiversity.



School Children inside the Nursery

3-CBD lesson plans

Lesson plans and teacher's resource booklet produced by CBD was distributed to all the 230 schools in the Maldives. A special period on biodiversity and agriculture was conducted at each school based on these lesson plans.

4- Media Coverage

The local Television, Radio and Dailies covered the day's events. Television Maldives broadcasted special reports regarding the day.

5. Special Thanks

Environment Research Centre wishes to thank the entire staff of Environment Research Centre and Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and marine Resources for making this day a success.

