

**Celebrations of the State of Kuwait to mark the  
2009 International Day for Biological Diversity under the theme  
"Biodiversity and invasive alien species"**

The State of Kuwait celebrated, as usual, the International Day for Biological Diversity, which is part of the State's implementation of its obligations towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Environment Public Authority (EPA) in Kuwait, in its capacity as the CBD primary focal point, fully supported and participated in the activities being organized for the observance of this year's celebration of IDB under the emblem

**“Biodiversity and invasive alien species”**

given that the theme is of international concerns, particularly because of the significant effects of invasive alien species on the extinction of species and the loss of global biological diversity, hence leading to economic, cultural, environmental and social loss, as well as significant harm to human health. During the period from 27 April to 5 June 2009, the EPA celebrated IDB 2009 as follows:

**Awareness lectures at schools of the Ministry of Education:** Professionals from the Biodiversity Division of the Living Resources Department of EPA gave five lectures at public schools covering the concepts of biodiversity and invasive alien species, and the reasons behind the spread of the latter and its implications on the society, using examples of national and global facts and presenting ways to reduce and prevent the spread of this phenomenon.

**Celebrations organized on 21/05/2009 by the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries (PAAF):** EPA contributed to the celebrations organized by PAAF on the occasion with a statement by the Director-General and a lecture delivered by the Head of the Biodiversity Division. EPA also participated in the exhibition organized by PAAF with various manuals and posters on the conservation of biodiversity and endangered species, as well as with the contribution of professionals from the Living Resources Department who answered visitors' questions and needs.

**Daily newspapers** reported on the celebrations of IDB and published information on the theme "biodiversity and invasive alien species", their causes and effects, including examples and ways to reduce and prevent the spread of the phenomenon.

**Kuwait Radio** broadcasted three consecutive workshops on the topic "Biodiversity and invasive alien species" as part of a programme entitled "life in spectrum of colours" prepared and presented by Mr. Moussa El-Kheshti and directed by Engineer Badr Al-Tararwa. This programme is dedicated to raise public awareness on the environment and biodiversity, and particularly intended for the younger generation.

The **magazine** "Our Environment", a monthly journal on specialized environmental topics issued by EPA, published news on the theme "biodiversity and invasive alien species" in the July and August 2009 issues.