

Denmark celebrated in 2005, for the first time, the International Biodiversity Day. Free visits and guided tours to the Zoological Museum and the Botanical Garden in Copenhagen took place on May 22, coupled with several computer-based demonstrations of the role of scientific research and collections on public awareness and education. The value of making biodiversity data freely and openly available using the web was also shown. We also had an active campaign with the local press to highlight the role and importance of biodiversity in Denmark.

These activities were jointly organized by DanBIF – Danish Biodiversity Information Facility (www.danbif.dk, National Node of GBIF – Global Biodiversity Information Facility), GBIF Secretariat, the European Environment Agency and the Natural History Museum of Denmark.

The DanBIF Secretariat contributed by disseminating knowledge about Biodiversity Day and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment via the DanBIF website and the website for the Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism of Denmark, as well as via email to Danish biological research institutions. It also drew attention to the Biodiversity Day by contacting the Danish natural history museums, zoological gardens and aquaria, to inspire them to organize events and publicity.

Based on the 2005 positive and auspicious celebration, plans to organize the celebration of BD Day next year are already being considered.

A newspaper article on the activities (written in Danish) is available at:
<http://www.berlingske.dk/indland/artikel:aid=577900/>