

## Celebration of the International Biodiversity Day in Hungary

Last year Hungary celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity for the first time and decided to make a tradition of this illustrious day. This year the Ministry of Environment and Water invited primary and secondary school students to share their ideas about the diversity of our planet and the objectives of the CBD and express their thoughts and use their creativity through a montage/poster contest. The posters had to be prepared by groups of students (at least two persons) because in our opinion the 'brainstorming' and discussions within a group can help to raise better ideas. For the montage-posters students could use all kind of techniques and materials (photos, drawings, textile, embossed plants, barks, shells, etc.). The poster size was recommended to be A1. The contest was organised in 3 different age groups and the winners received valuable prizes. The first price winners got tickets for a 3-hour special railway tour with professional guides in the Széchenyi-hill of Budapest, where they can measure water, soil and air quality in the specially equipped railway carriages and identify plants and animals in the different habitat types throughout the tour. In addition to this, the members of the first, second and third price winner teams got useful biodiversity-related books and subscriptions for biodiversity-related magazines. The libraries of the schools also received valuable and recently published books.

The poster contest was a great success and we received very positive feedback from the participants and the general public as well.

The announcement of the result and the opening ceremony of the temporary exhibition of the best posters took place in the Hungarian Natural History Museum on 22 May 2005. The exhibition of the best posters will be on view until the end of the academy year (mid-end of June). The Museum is found to be a perfect place for such an exhibition because many students visit the museum in the last month of the academy year and therefore it is a great possibility for awareness-raising.

In addition to the exhibition, digital photos were taken of each poster and soon they will be presented in the gallery of Hungary's Clearing-House Mechanism (<http://biodiv.kvvm.hu> > CBD at National Level > Events).