

## International Year for Biodiversity 2010 Report of Barbados' Programme of Activities

The Natural Heritage Department
Ministry of Environment
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BARBADOS

In Barbados the focal point responsibilities for the Barbados National Park Plan and the Convention on Biological Diversity are located within the Natural Heritage Department (NHD). One of the objectives of the Barbados National Park Plan (BNPP) is "to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area including terrestrial and marine." With the recent relocation of the above-mentioned focal point responsibilities, the celebration of the international Year of Biological Diversity 2010 occurred at an opportune time.

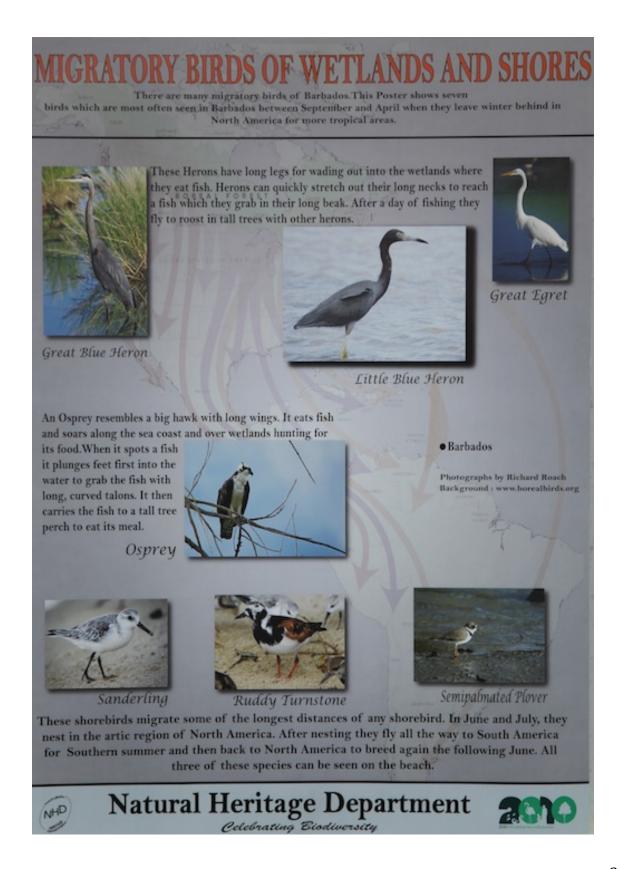
We at the Natural heritage Department are of the view that unless the every day people- farmers, school teachers, the butcher, the barber, the youth and the senior citizens are aware of their surroundings and by extension of their environment, the built, Natural and Cultural, then and awareness of Biodiversity will be slow, and the conservation of Biological Diversity, distant. For these reasons we pursued our mandate through a series of partnerships, which involves specialist in the field of Agriculture, biology Coastal Zone management, to complement our in house skills on Environmental Management, Tourism, Conservation, Heritage and Sustainable Development.

Our celebrations in 2010, which focused outdoor way of life, paid particular attention to next generations, and the already established environmental date for celebration.

The department palaces great emphasis on providing the opportunity for students to engage in the outdoors, through site visits, tree planting, and associated plant care sport and observations where ever possible.

The department has set out to establish a series of posters, which will

identify, and present of ten aspects of the Biological, Cultural and Heritage diversity of Barbados. February 2010 saw the lunch of this series, with the **Migratory Birds of Wetlands and Shores**, in celebration of World Wetland day





The second poster **Coastal Plants of Barbados** -Plants to know and Grow- was published in June.

In February –the driest period- we set up an out door classroom at Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge, where the students from three primary schools were taken on a tour of the site, after the classroom working secession.

As part of a large project which increasing survival prospects for migratory shorebirds on the island, BirdLife International got the lease on an abandoned shooting swamp at Woodbourne. The wetland is situated on the flank of the St. Philip Shooting Swamps OBA. Two former hunters were instrumental in securing the lease and financing the initial restoration of Woodbourne Shorebird Refuse (WSR). Restoration work started in May and the swamp was ready for the southbound migration of 2009.

Currently managed by Mr. Wayne Burke, the Natural Heritage Department has partnered with the Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge to increase awareness of migratory birds specifically and the conservation of biodiversity in general.







To mark International Day for Biological Diversity, the department took pupils from Class three and four of two Primary School, Holy Innocents and Wesley Hall, to the Soil Conservation Unit, which is located in the National Park. The soil conservation Unit is one of the principal departments with responsibility for combating land degradation in Barbados. In addition to the use of gabion structures the unit also has an extensive plant care programme, including propagation, and research. This tour provided an opportunity to introduce the pupils to the care and science of plants.



The presentations focused attention on the relationship between Poverty Alleviation and the cultivation of fruit trees. The ways households could reduce their food bill by growing they need or increase income by growing and offering for sale fruits. The nutrition content of fruits was also discussed.





The contribution trees make to development was also demonstrated. Trees hold soil together; help with water drainage among other things, which all help in development of the country. If soil is eroded, it impacts the country both in direct and indirect economical and developmental terms.

Students were shown how and why tree grafting is done; of great importance was the fact that grated trees bear fruit sooner than trees planted from seeds. This is beneficial as the fruit can be harvested earlier thereby reducing food bills earlier or by generating income sooner. They were also told that the chances of grafted trees bearing fruit are better than that of trees planted from seeds.

Grafting was also shown to help with a country's development, as it is a way to control and address disease and pest problems, which can have devastating impact o agriculture.

In the area of forestry, they were shown how the Unit helps nature especially with indigenous trees such as the breadfruit tree, which does not grow from seeds, but from cuttings.

The Soil Conservation Unit works to ensure that trees are available to be planted and cultivated by Barbadians, as part of the tour; students were shown how this is achieved.



Tree Planting at Wesley Hall Infants School on Tuesday June 15th 2010



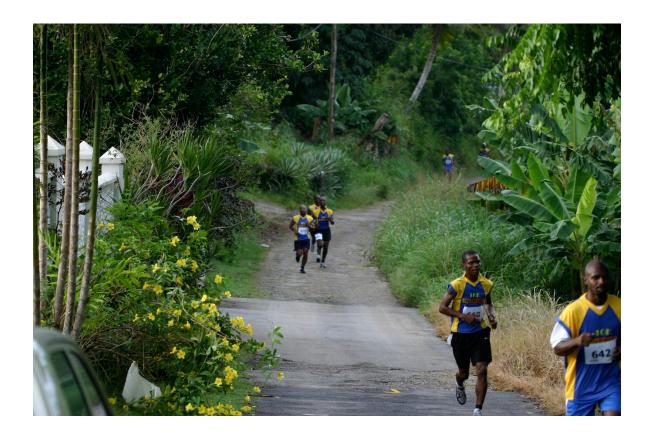
Tyree Planting at Holy Innocents Primary School on June 15 1010



## The de Heart uh Barbados® 10K run and 5 K walk CELEBRATING LIFE ON EARTH 2010

This annual event is held during environment month - June- as part of our annual celebrations. The event is now in its ninth year, with local (Barbados), and regional (the Caribbean) participation. There are special community prizes, in order to encourage participation. The regional component assists with the setting an acceptable standard while encouraging regional integration. All overseas competitors are housed in the community. In the first year the number of walkers and runners were 40 and 50, respectively. In 2010 the year of International Biodiversity, our biodiversity programme was the race sponsor, 140 participants tool part in the 5K walk, while and 98 runners took on the 10K course.







As part of Barbados' contribution to the World Green Wave the Natural Heritage Department, expanded its fruit orchard, this task was carried out by UNESCO Youth Path, Beautify Barbados, and staff of the department.





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