

Canada's Report to the CBD on the International Year of Biodiversity

INTRODUCTION

The International Year of Biodiversity was a time to celebrate, reflect upon, and renew Canada's commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Across Canada, federal, provincial and territorial governments, businesses, cities, conservation organizations and citizens participated in a wide range of activities to promote awareness of biodiversity and encourage actions to conserve it. Throughout 2010 biodiversity was profiled and celebrated in green schools, on stages, in art displays, in company and community events.

While there is still much work to be done to reduce biodiversity loss, 2010 provided an opportunity to reach out to the many groups and individuals who can make a difference, to create new partnerships, recognize the many accomplishments and plan for the future. On the heels of International Year of Biodiversity, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2011-2020 as the UN Decade on Biodiversity. In Canada and internationally, efforts to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources in a sustainable manner will continue to grow.

The following report profiles the many events, reports (including the first assessment of Canada's biodiversity from an ecosystem perspective), programs, websites and communications and education initiatives undertaken by Canadians to promote and celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity.

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EVENTS

May 13-15, 2009

4th Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (UNU) International meeting

The Montreal RCE-UNU welcomed 150 delegates from 35 countries at Environment Canada's Biosphère for the 4th Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (UNU) and international meeting. A world class panel on Education for Sustainable Development and emerging issues, including biodiversity, was presented. Speakers were Riccardo Petrella, Secretary General, the International Committee for a Global Water Contract; Initiator of the University of the Common Good, David Ainsworth, Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and Philippe Le Prestre, Director of Hydro-Québec Institute for Environment, Development and Society. http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=108&ddlID=870

May 10-14, 2009

5th World Environmental Education Congress

The government of Canada hosted a Canadian Pavillion at this event in Montreal on the theme of Biodiversity. Eight federal departments were on site to inform some 3 000 visitors on various aspects of biodiversity.

<http://www.environmental-education.org/en/congresses/116-5dweec-montreal-2009.html>

July 5-9, 2009

The Second International Youth Symposium for Biodiversity

The focus of the Symposium, held in Ottawa, was: to celebrate and share the work that youth are doing at home regarding local biodiversity efforts; to experience Canadian biodiversity with a full scale Bio-Blitz (A Biological Survey with local scientists and naturalists); to develop methods to implement the Global Youth's Accord for Biodiversity that was created by nine (9) nations during the First Youth Symposium in Mexico in 2005; and to foster youth engagement activities to enhance their understanding of global stewardship, and a shared sense of understanding and commitment to the global community through acting locally and thinking globally.

<http://www.biodiversitymatters.org/history.html>

October, 2009

Official Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity in Canada

The logo and messages for the 2010 United Nations International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) were unveiled at Montreal City Hall in a ceremony co-organized by the Ville de Montreal and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The slogan and logo for the year, made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada, were unveiled at the ceremony, attended by representatives of three levels of government and the diplomatic corps. The launch was hosted by Mayor Gerald Tremblay of Montreal, with the participation of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Quebec, Madame Line Beauchamp, Jean Langlais, Director of Environment Canada's Biosphere museum, and the diplomatic corps accredited in Montreal.

<http://www.cbd.int>

January 1, 2010**Terra Nostra Québec**

This program featured photographic reflections of Quebec's biodiversity. It was launched in January 2010 to coincide with the start of the International Year of Biodiversity.

<http://www.terranostraquebec.net/ephemeride>

January 18–22, 2010**La biodiversité sens dessus dessous**

The 2010 Eco Council event "La biodiversité sens dessus dessous" was held at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. La biodiversité à sa juste valeur : réflexions éthique et économique, a symposium held on January 21, provided a special opportunity to disseminate information on the importance of biodiversity, including ethical and economic considerations.

<http://evenementecoconseil.uqac.ca/?q=node/102>

January 21, 2010**The Ark: 2010 launch, International Year of Biodiversity**

Held in collaboration with Université du Québec à Montréal's educational sciences faculty, this memorable cultural and scientific evening, presided over by Laure Waridel, featured an opening address by Lucie Sauvé, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Education, and a presentation of *The Ark*.

January 22, 2010**Célébrons la biodiversité : pour un modèle novateur**

L'Arsenal teamed up with the Programme de soutien à l'école montréalaise, the Montréal Biodôme and "GUEPE" for the Célébrons la biodiversité project. This innovative project provided 700 Montreal youth from disadvantaged areas the opportunity to explore the many facets and issues surrounding the protection of biodiversity from a scientific and artistic perspective, including by attending a presentation of *The Ark*. The event was sponsored by the UN and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Jan-Feb 2010**Nordic Adventures at the Biosphère**

Environment Canada's Biosphère featured Nordic Adventures - a rally for Arctic Biodiversity as part of the Fêtes des Neiges programming in the City of Montreal. The rally included mini-scientific arctic base camps and rides.

January 26–February 6, 2010**Paradis Perdu**

Paradis perdu, a program at the crossroads of theatre, cinema and the performing arts, was created by Dominic Champagne, Jean Lemire and Daniel Bélanger. The storyline of the show focused on the recreation of the world as a beautiful garden where humanity could live in harmony with nature. The show was produced in collaboration between Théâtre il va sans dire and Place des Arts.

Trans Canada Trail partners with Environment Canada in promoting International Year of Biodiversity

The Trans Canada Trail is the world's longest network of trails. When completed, the Trail will stretch 22,500 kilometres from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans, linking 1000 communities and 34 million Canadians. In partnership with Environment Canada, a "Biokit" will be developed to guide a biodiversity journey on the Trail. Also in collaboration with Environment Canada, video clips of the Trail were featured in the Hinterland Who's Who biodiversity series.

http://www.tctrail.ca/Biodiversity_2010.php

February 10 - 12, 2010

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)- Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show

At FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show municipal leaders, decision makers and experts exchanged ideas and solutions towards creating a stronger and more sustainable community development. The theme of the 2010 Conference was "Growing the Green Economy: Practical Solutions for Sustainable Communities".

Environment Canada and Parks Canada had an exhibit at the trade show promoting the International Year of Biodiversity.

http://www.fcm.ca/English/View.asp?x=1203&utm_source=sccredirect&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=sccredirect

Feb 16-19, 2010

Royal Botanical Gardens - Living Plants, Livable Communities: Exploring Sustainable Horticulture for the 21st Century

The Symposium featured a diverse array of presentations and interactive participation, seeking to understand and promote sustainability in the design, management and use of built landscapes. The symposium explored what sustainable horticulture is and what it can do for Canadian society. With support from Environment Canada Melanie Sifton delivered a keynote presentation on the Sustainable Sites Initiative. A special public lecture was delivered by Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon of the Balsilie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Ontario: "Gardening for Resilience: Climate Change and Horticulture Through Mid-Century".

February 15, 2010

Launch of the Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS)

The QCBS represents a source of research and training excellence in biodiversity science for the academic community, government, and public of Québec. By bringing over 70 researchers together, the QCBS facilitates and enhances the training of hundreds of highly qualified professionals for Québec's future.

<http://qcbs.ca/>

February 25 - 27, 2010

9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

Winnipeg, Manitoba hosted an important gathering devoted to landscape and wildlife conservation in western Canada. The Conference brought together decision-makers, researchers and community and grass-roots groups along with farmers, ranchers, Aboriginal groups and other private citizens who have an abiding interest in sustaining prairie land, water, plants and animals. The conference theme, Patterns of Change, reflects the goal of this event. Divergent prairie interest groups explored ideas and approaches to sustain land owners and users, as well as the rich natural heritage that is the endowment of all prairie landscape dwellers.

<http://www.pcesc.ca/>

March 11 -12, 2010

The Institut Hydro-Québec en environnement, développement et société (Institut EDS) held its sixth student symposium at Université Laval on the theme the International Year of Biodiversity. Students were given an opportunity to share the results of their biodiversity-related research.

<http://www.ihqeds.ulaval.ca/6ecolloqueetudiant.html>

March 14 - 18, 2010

IKANAWTIKET: Youth ARISES 2010

Thirty Aboriginal Youth from the Native Council of Nova Scotia, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council came together in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia for Youth ARISES 2010. Participants learned about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) process, which the Government of Canada uses to assess, protect, and recover species at risk. <http://www.mapcmaars.ca/theblog/2010/05/>

March 17 – 21, 2010

Toronto Sportsmen's Show

The 2010 Toronto Sportsmen's Show was a five-day show for outdoor enthusiasts including anglers and hunters was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The show included more than 400 exhibitors and had an attendance of over 120,000. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources booth celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity and featured the Our World, Ontario video. Visitors were given biodiversity information and bookmarks.

<http://www.torontosportshow.ca/>

March 23-24, 2010

Life Sustaining Life: Lecture and Panel Discussion with Dr David Schindler

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Trent University held two sold-out public events exploring the link between humans and biodiversity. The event, "Life Sustaining Life: Lecture and Panel Discussion with Dr David Schindler" took place at Peterborough's Trent University.

http://www.trentu.ca/newsevents/newsreleases_100317schindler.php

March 24 - 26, 2010

Globe 2010

GLOBE 2010 was the 11th event in one of the world's largest and longest-running series dedicated to the business of the environment. Business leaders, corporate executives, NGOs, and government policymakers from around the world met in Vancouver to explore: corporate sustainability, climate change, carbon management, clean energy, sustainable finance, and greener cities. Special subthemes for GLOBE 2010 included: clean technology, water, sustainable retail, and Auto FutureTech: The future of the auto industry.

<http://www.globeseries.com/>

April 2010

Yukon Biodiversity Month

Many Yukoners celebrated biodiversity month by participating in National Wildlife Week, Earth Day and Celebration of Swans events. Biodiversity Awards were given to Joseph (Joe) Johnson and Jim Hawkings to recognize their efforts to promote biodiversity awareness and stewardship in the Yukon. Joseph (Joe) Johnson was a Southern Tutchone leader who advocated not only for First Nation people and their rights but for the environment and its importance to all Yukoners. James (Jim) Hawkings was recognized for his contributions to our knowledge of Yukon birds and conservation efforts throughout the territory.

<http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/biodiversity.php>

April 5 - 11, 2010

National Wildlife Week

To celebrate National Wildlife Week, April 4 – 10, 2010 and the International Year of Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Federation held its 1st Annual Walk for Wildlife. The Walk for Wildlife began on Sunday, April 4 and concluded on May 22, International Day of Biodiversity. The goal of the event was to log enough kilometres to go across Canada and create national awareness about wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

<http://nwwblog.cwf-fcf.org/>

April 8, 2010

Ontario Nature's Green Tea Event

Ontario Nature celebrated The International Year of Biodiversity with acclaimed Canadian writers and naturalists, Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson. Ms. Atwood and Mr. Gibson reminded us of the once-rich diversity of life in our city, and talked about our generation's opportunity to protect the wild species and wild spaces that are essential to our own health and survival. The event was presented by Ontario Nature in partnership with the Granite Club Nature Series and the Toronto Field Naturalists.

http://www.ontarionature.org/give/other_ways_to_give/green_tea.php

April 13-15, 2010

Nature's Titans Championship at the Biosphère

(part of the Fête des enfants – Montreal)

A fun-filled Nature's Titans Championship, starring children in various sporting challenges to discover the richness of biodiversity through a number of activities! To celebrate plant and animal life by presenting the "2010 delegation" of the strongest, fastest and most agile Titans of biodiversity! In a setting worthy of the riches of biodiversity and sports, several fun-filled activities were offered, including an obstacle course, a fishing game, and games of skill. The Biosphère received 21 000 visitors during three days of activities.

April 20–22, 2010

Millennium Summit

The 4th Montreal Millennium Summit, held at the Palais des congrès brought together more than 3000 participants from governments, civil society, academia and major humanitarian organizations to explore the impact of climate change on the millennium development goals. The event provided those working to eradicate poverty from Canada and elsewhere a forum to exchange knowledge, engage in discussion and inspire the public to take action.

<http://www.sommetmillenaire.ca/>

April 27-28, 2010

Sommet sur la biodiversité et le verdissement de Montréal

The Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal held a biodiversity and greening summit in Montréal, to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. The event was organized by the Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal in partnership with the City of Montréal, with funding from the Agence de la santé et services sociaux de Montréal and the Green Municipal Fund as part of Action 21 of the Government of Quebec's 2006–2012 climate change action plan. The summit addressed urban issues related to greening, natural environments, green spaces and parks. The summit provided specific solutions and rallied Montréal players to support green actions and to protect biodiversity on the Island of Montreal.

<http://www.cremtl.qc.ca/sommet-biodiversite-montreal/>

May 5, 2010

First Forum on Ecosystem Services in Québec

The Québec Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, held the first forum on ecosystem services in. The event gathered 400 participants.

http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/inter_en.htm

May 6-8, 2010

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

The 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO was held in Québec City. The AGM explored the linkages between biodiversity and cultural diversity, and the potential for strengthening synergies between them, to recognize the two international years being celebrated in 2010: International Year of Biodiversity and International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures. The keynote speaker, Hubert Reeves, world-renowned Canadian astrophysicist and poplizer of science, provided his unique perspective on the linkages between biodiversity and cultural diversity.

<http://www.unesco.ca/en/commission/ccfu/50thAnnualGeneralMeeting.aspx>

May 3 - 9, 2010

Wings over the Rockies Festival

Wings Over The Rockies celebrated the biodiversity of the wetlands of the upper Columbia Valley, British Columbia. The seven day festival was filled with 70 events about the world of birds and their ecosystems. The 2010 festival featured Dr. Faisal Moola, Director of Terrestrial Conservation and Science at the David Suzuki Foundation and adjunct professor of Forest Conservation at the University of Toronto.

<http://www.wingsovertherockies.org/>

May 7-8, 2010

24 heures de science (24 hours of Science)

Science pour Tous, an NGO gathering 250 science and technology institutions, dedicated its 5th edition of **24 heures de science (24 hours of Science)** to the theme of biodiversity. 220 events took place all over Québec during 24 hours, from noon May 7th to noon May 8th, 2010. Environment Canada's BioKits were used by some twenty NGOs to celebrate biodiversity in their parks, cities, natural areas and to identify actions to be taken to preserve local biodiversity. Many other events such as field activities, museum exhibitions, conferences, etc. were offered to the public.

<http://www.science24heures.com/medias/index.php>

May 15, 2010

CWF and Chalk Art Festival Celebrate Biodiversity

The Canadian Wildlife Federation and the 1000 Islands International Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival celebrated biodiversity with award-winning children's book creator Wallace Edwards in downtown Gananoque, Ontario. Edwards is well known for his creative and colourful animal portraits, and in 2010, the Canadian Wildlife Federation reproduced one of his paintings on a conservation education poster in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.

<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/about-cwf/media-centre/releases/cwf-and-chalk-art-festival-celebrate-biodiversity.htmlb>

May 17, 2010

Launch of State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 Report

The Ontario Biodiversity Council & Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources issued a news release and held a reception for media and guests to mark the release of Ontario's report on the state of biodiversity in the province based on 29 indicators.

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/index.php/reports>

May 17, 2010

Launch of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy Progress Report 2005 - 2010

The Ontario Biodiversity Council & Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources issued a news release and reception for media and guests to mark the release of Ontario's progress report reflecting actions completed from Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2005 – Protecting What Sustains Us.

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/index.php/reports>

May 18, 2010

Presentation by Pavan Sukhdev

Pavan Sukhdev, author of the *Report on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*, delivered a series of presentations at various locations in Montréal, Quebec, including the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, McGill University and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

May 19-22, 2010

Annual Conference, the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM)

The theme of the conference “diversity, sustainability and environment” explored cultural and practical diversity for environmental learning. Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, provided welcoming remarks for the event. The EECOM 2010 National Conference was being hosted by Simon Fraser University (SFU) in partnership with l'Association québécoise pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement (AQPERE), Interpretation Canada, GreenLearning Canada and the Environmental Educators' Provincial Specialist Association (EPPSA) of the BC Teachers' Federation, and in collaboration with Metro Vancouver.

<http://www.educ.sfu.ca/eecom2010/>

May 20, 2010

Burin Peninsula Environmental Reform Committee (BPERC), Marystown

BPERC celebrated biodiversity in partnership with its local public health department and grade 7 students from Jamieson Academy in Burin, Sacred Heart Academy in Marystown and Christ the King school in Rushoon. BPERC held four workshop sessions that contributed to Eastern Health's annual Grade 7 Health Fair. At the end of each session, the students participated in an activity that helped them to understand what they can do to protect biodiversity.

<http://www.greenburin.ca/>

May 20, 2010

Urban Biodiversity Conference

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources hosted an Urban Biodiversity Conference at the Royal Ontario Museum in honour of the International Year of Biodiversity. The Conference brought together urban planners, architects and environmentalists to challenge the way we think about biodiversity, cities and how we live our lives.

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/2ColumnSubPage/290630.html>

May 21-23, 2010

Wilderness Soles - Running in Support of Land Conservation

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust (NSNT) participated in the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon in Halifax. Supporters participated in various runs and walks including the youth run dressed as species at risk. These characters engaged participants and spectators by talking with them directly about biodiversity and the International Day of Biodiversity.

May 22, 2010 International Day for Biological Diversity

Canadian Museum of Nature: Grand Reopening

The Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada's national museum of natural history, unveiled its renewed historic public exhibitions site in downtown Ottawa on the International Day for Biological Diversity. The six-year refit of the building was funded by the Government of Canada. Five signature exhibitions depicting Canada's unique natural environment were developed with generous corporate and individual support. The stunning result is a major national historic site transformed into a 21st-century national museum of the natural sciences. A weekend long public celebration was held May 22 to 24, to launch the new Canadian Museum of Nature.

<http://nature.ca/>

Nature Fest, Ottawa

As part of the grand reopening celebrations for the Canadian Museum of Nature, interpreters from 13 members of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada convened to present Nature Fest, held May 22-23. Visitors were treated to interactive booths with hands-on activities focused on themes about Canada's biodiversity and natural history.

Presentation by Hubert Reeves

A presentation by Hubert Reeves on biodiversity was organized by the Institut québécois de la biodiversité and sponsored by the Université de Montréal, the Ligue ROC, Nature Sauvage and Québec Science.

<http://www.hubertreeves.info/index.html>

Falls Brook Centre, Knowlesville

The Falls Brook Centre (FBC) hosted a community volunteer tree-planting and biodiversity appreciation event in Knowlesville, at the FBC demonstration site. Beyond planting trees on the FBC restoration site, visitors participated in guided walks of the Acadian forest to explore trees, new plants, mosses and fungi. There was a puppet show about biodiversity and the dangers of monocultures, created and performed by a team of FBC international interns.

<http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/>

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) – Northwest Territories Chapter Outreach

A photo competition was organized focusing on local and international biodiversity. Top photos were awarded and showcased on CPAWS' website. A biodiversity information package was distributed to local environmental non-government organizations and to teachers. A community barbeque was held where local biologists and authors delivered short presentations and readings on the topic of northern biodiversity in the NWT, including highlights from a proposed East Arm National Park.

<http://www.cpaws.org/chapters/nwt/>

Association des francophones du Nunavut, Iqaluit

As part of the International Day for Biodiversity, the Association des francophones du Nunavut held a green fair and a conference on biodiversity. Visitors could purchase jewellery made from recycled materials, created by the students of the Trois Soleils school, and secondhand clothing, with profits donated to charity. The conference component promoted awareness of biodiversity.

<http://www.franconunavut.ca/>

Alberta Wilderness Association, Calgary

Leading up to May 22nd, the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) promoted the importance of cultivating native species to protect Alberta's natural biodiversity and to support sustainable development. Through this initiative, families collected seeds and/or seedlings from their local nursery and planted them on May 22nd. Participants were encouraged to register their participation on the Alberta Wilderness Association Green Wave site. The three native plants recommended were the Saskatoon, Potentilla and Wild Blue Flax.

<http://albertawilderness.ca/>

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, North Vancouver

To celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation took water quality and stream invertebrate samples in the Heywood Park and MacKay Creek corridor of North Vancouver. The local homeless population was invited to help with the sampling and learn about the water quality issues where they currently dwell. Pacific Streamkeepers also attended parks planning sessions with the City of North Vancouver to ensure that local biodiversity is considered within the new Master Plan for Heywood Park and MacKay Creek corridor.

<http://www.pskf.ca/>

Living Prairie Museum, Winnipeg

Through a series of hands-on workshops and presentations, Living Prairie Museum (LPM) staff provided inner-city youth 12 and under with knowledge and tools needed to create unique butterfly gardens using native prairie plants. Presentations and workshops focused primarily on the ecological importance of using native plants and explored the essential relationship between these plants and the wildlife that depend on them. LPM staff introduced proper planting habits, guided children through the design process, and facilitated planting of the gardens.

The workshops were held in the weeks leading up to International Biodiversity Day and the gardens were planted the week after IBD.

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/naturalist/livingprairie/>

Oak Hammock Marsh

The Oak Hammock March hosted wildlife surveys and tours to explore the diversity of local wetlands.

<http://www.oakhammockmarsh.ca/>

Northwatch

Northwatch hosted a forum to explore measures to protect biodiversity during mineral exploration. The event included an “eco-fair” component with participating organizations presenting displays and information tables, and a “roundtable” component, which included speakers and a discussion period. A range of perspectives and experiences were presented as the forum explored both mineral exploration practices and their impacts and public expectations around the safeguarding of biodiversity during mineral exploration.

<http://www.web.ca/~nwatch/>

Ontario International Day for Biodiversity Events – Sustainable Development

The Ontario Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) and partners helped to organize and/or promote more than 18 Ontario events with a sustainable development and/or restoration theme in celebration of International Day of Biodiversity and IYB. Almost 4,300 people took part in various events such as creating a pollinator patch, educational activities, workshops, building community gardens, and more. Partners included the Toronto Zoo, Carolinian Canada Coalition, Ontario Horticultural Association, Humber Arboretum & Centre for Urban Ecology, Alderville First Nation, and more.

http://www.biodiversityeducation.ca/bean/past_events.php/sust_dev_2010

Ontario International Day for Biodiversity Events – Garlic Mustard

The Ontario Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) and partners helped to organize and/or promote more than 37 Ontario events to inform and eradicate the invasive species Garlic Mustard and to celebrate International Day of Biodiversity and IYB. Almost 600 people took part in events. Partners included the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Evergreen, Credit Valley Conservation, University of Ottawa, and more.

http://www.biodiversityeducation.ca/bean/past_events.php/garlic_mustard_2010

Regroupement des conseils régionaux de l'environnement, Montréal

As part of the Travel and Outdoor Festival (May 14–16), the Regroupement des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec (RNCREQ) used the Ecological Solar House as an environmental centre discuss a number of important environmental issues including biodiversity. Literature was provided by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Environment Canada's Biosphère, and RNCREQ. A conference on the RNCREQ's renewable energy guide for cottages and resorts was held. The Biosphère presented its outdoor exhibition on the theme of biodiversity and showed its closed-loop short film *Man and His World*. The film illustrates the riches and splendours of Canadian biodiversity and the importance of preserving it.

<http://www.rncreq.org/>

Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association

The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA) actively promoted the Green Wave Tree Planting Initiative to school groups and community members, and encouraged them to plant a tree for May 22nd. BBEMA handed out native trees at local schools, tradeshow, daycares and the mall.

BBEMA also hosted a Bug Biodiversity Day. This was a celebration of some of the world's smallest, but most important and exciting creatures. Families spent the day engaged in the world of insects (especially pollinators) and understanding their important role in supplying food sources for people and wildlife.

<http://www.bbema.ca/bbema/info.php?id=1>

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

During the second week of May, Prairie Conservation Action Plan partnered with the Friends of Wascana Marsh's Wings Over Wascana (WOW). This annual outdoor nature festival educates local urban residents of all ages about the biodiversity within Regina's Wascana Marsh and the prairie that surrounds the city. On the WOW Education Day, Grades 4-6 students from Regina and surrounding area explored Wascana Marsh to learn about wetlands, wildlife and biodiversity through a variety of nature awareness hands-on activities including bird watching, pond dipping, guided hikes, eco-games, field sketching and a special presentation from Wayne Lynch. On the WOW Public Day, urban residents of all ages participated in similar activities to the Education Day.

www.wascanamarsh.ca/wow10.htm

Friends of McIntyre Creek, Whitehorse

Friends of McIntyre Creek volunteer Tami Hamilton used the wetland model at McIntyre Marsh to teach the public about the importance of wetlands to biodiversity, and threats to wetland biodiversity. Participants were led on an interpretive walk about the many migratory bird species found at McIntyre Marsh. Threats to McIntyre creek from proposed roads and housing developments, and why this important urban wildlife habitat is crucial for maintaining biodiversity in the Yukon's capital city were also covered.

<http://friendsofmcintyrecreek.blogspot.com/>

May 29-30, 2010

Run for Biodiversity

USC Canada held the Run for Biodiversity to raise funds for their Seeds of Survival program which helps farmers grow more food for their families in ways that are kind to the environment and enhance biodiversity. In 11 previous years, the Run for Biodiversity raised close to \$40,000.

<http://usc-canada.org/run-for-biodiversity/>

Summer 2010

Vacances Année Biodiversité 2010

A selection of scientific vacation packages for youth aged 7 to 18 was offered to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity.

<http://www.vacances-scientifiques.com/Vacances-Annee-Biodiversite-2010.html>

May 31 – June 5, 2010

Joint Conference - Biodiversity 2010 and Beyond – Science and Collections

The international Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) and the Canadian Botanical Association (CBA/ABC) held a joint annual conference. The theme of the conference “Biodiversity 2010 and Beyond” celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity and brought together natural history collection professionals and botanists.

<http://www.spnhc-cba2010.org/home.html>

May 30 - June 5, 2010

Canadian Environment Week - Embracing Life on Earth

Every year, Canadian Environment Week takes place the first week of June to coincide with World Environment Day. The theme for the 2010 Canadian Environment Week “Embracing Life on Earth” brought attention to the International Year of Biodiversity. Activities and events took place across the country. A Facebook page was created to promote local events.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/sce-cew/default.asp?lang=En&n=56886AF1-1>

June 5, 2010

Saint Mary's University BioBlitz

The BioBlitz promoted scientific research and public education to increase understanding of Nova Scotia's biodiversity. Teams of scientists and students worked to locate and identify as many species as possible within 24-hours. The results are used to assess the health of the local environment. SMU worked in partnership with scientists, educators and environmental organizations from across the region to run this unique event.

<http://www.smu.ca/bioblitz/bioblitz.html>

June 6, 2010

The Biodiversity BASH!

A Biodiversity Bash was held at the John Janzen Nature Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. The bash included crafts, hands on science experiments, balloon animals, garter snake feeding, and expert talks. Outdoor activities included nature walks, pond Dipping and creating a life size food chain.

June 8, 2010

Nature Trust of BC Wild Festival for Youth

This outdoor event for schools helped demonstrate the value of biodiversity with a variety of different activities such as hikes, bird house building and painting and nature show.

<http://www.gettoknow.ca/events/festival/>

June 8, 2010

Annual Stewardship Forum Theme: IYB

Stewardship Network of Ontario (SNO) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources held their Annual Stewardship Forum at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. There were 57 people in attendance including a line up of speakers and members of the SNO Leadership Team. The theme of the 2010 forum was International Year of Biodiversity. This annual event affords SNO the opportunity to report back to the community on activities.

<http://www.stewardshipcentre.on.ca/>

June 8, 2010

World Oceans Day

At the Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Minister Gail Shea announced the Hecate Strait/Queen Charlotte Sound glass sponge reef and the Laurentian Channel as Areas of Interest for future Marine Protected Area designation. She also announced the creation of three new National Wildlife Areas on behalf of the Minister of the Environment -- Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area, the Akpait National Wildlife Area, and the Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area. Information booths were set up to display information about Canada's federal marine protected area programs.

On Parliament Hill, Fisheries and Oceans Canada co-hosted a reception called Healthy Oceans, Healthy Business for Members of Parliament, World Wildlife Fund officials, senators, selected senior government officials, ocean industry representatives and other oceans stakeholders, as well as media. Minister Gail Shea, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gerald Butts, president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund-Canada, and Matt Burns, Vice President of NaiKun Wind Energy Group Inc. delivered addresses that focused on the importance of maintaining healthy oceans through smart management, in order to develop healthy, sustainable ocean industries.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's regional offices coordinated World Oceans Day events throughout Canada, during which oceans conservation and sustainable development initiatives were profiled.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/events-evenements/oceansday-journeesocéans/index-eng.htm>

June 8 - 13, 2010

Rivers to Oceans Week

During Rivers to Oceans Week 2010 the Canadian Wildlife Federation urged Canadians to Dare to Care about biodiversity and encouraged Canadians to watch their Rivers to Oceans water ecology videos.

<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/what-we-do/issues/water/2010/splash.html>

June 8 - 10, 2010

International Congress on Biological and Cultural Diversity

The International Conference on Cultural and Biological Diversity was held in Montreal, Canada. The conference was jointly organized by UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and the University of Montreal. The conference brought together civil society, representatives of indigenous and local populations, policy makers, scientists and intergovernmental and development cooperation agencies to exchange knowledge and practices linking biological and cultural diversity. Participants developed a joint Declaration.

http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=8318&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

June 9 -10, 2010

Symposium on Québec's Marine Protected Areas, organized by CPAWS with support from MDDEP

CPAWS Quebec and the Tawich Marine Conservation Project launched their first Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) symposium. The event celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity and World Oceans Day (June 8), and provided a forum for interaction among marine conservation stakeholders in Quebec, including government agencies, industry, users of marine areas, academic researchers, First Nations communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

<http://www.symposiumamp.ca/programme/>

July 3 - 7, 2010

24th International Congress for Conservation Biology: Conservation for a Changing Planet

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The Society for Conservation Biology International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) brought together students and conservation professionals from every sector concerned with the science and practice of conserving biological diversity, including the biological and social sciences, management, policy and planning. Participants presented and discussed new research and developments in conservation science and practice. The congress featured concurrent sessions, workshops, short courses and field trips.

<http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2010/?CFID=6099953&CFTOKEN=29920454>

July 17, 2010

Canada's Parks Day

Canada's Parks Day 2010 celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity. Canada's Parks Day is a national event, showcasing parks and historic sites, in every province and territory in Canada. Thousands of people participated in fun, educational, family-oriented events in parks and historic sites across the country. Many activities highlighted the important role that parks play in maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems, protecting critical habitat for species-at-risk and contributing to human health and well-being.

<http://www.parksday.ca/eng/index.html>

July 22-August 1, 2010

Expo de Saint-Hyacinthe

To celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Expo of Saint-Hyacinthe selected the theme "An agriculture in mutation: caretaker of biodiversity". Different types of turtles native to Quebec were among living species exhibited at the event. Culture and horticulture were especially highlighted. Children were invited to live the "Grow a flower yourself" experience.

<http://www.expo-agricole.com/saint-hyacinthe-english/at-the-farm.html>

July 25 - 29, 2010

Coastal Zone Canada 2010

The Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Coastal Zone Canada Association, hosted Coastal Zone Canada 2010 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The conference brought together scientists, engineers, regulatory agencies and planners to bring attention to the importance of integrated coastal and ocean management. In addition to the technical sessions, panel discussions and keynote addresses, the conference had several successful field trips that took a first-hand look at some of the remarkable features of Prince Edward Island's beautiful coastline. The Charlottetown Declaration – "Calling All Canadians to Heal our Coasts and Oceans" was created to voice a call for urgent action to improve the state of the oceans, our coasts and great lakes.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/czc2010/>

September 17-19, 2010

The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) 2010 Conference

To celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the theme of RCEN's 2010 Conference was "Conserving Biodiversity Pays: The Values of Ecosystem Services". The event took place in Montreal, QC. Speakers at the event explored important questions related to biodiversity and the values of ecosystem services, examples of successful interventions that have led to the survival of species and habitats, and priority areas where practices, policies, strategies, and programs must be developed.

<http://www.cen-rce.org/AGA/2010/index.html>

September 21 – 25, 2010

International Plowing Match

The International Plowing Match, a 5-day event, in St Thomas, Ontario, highlighted Ontario's rich agricultural sector and history. The event included more than 500 exhibitors and 80,000 attendees. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had a Biodiversity display area spreading the message of International Year of Biodiversity

<http://www.ipm2010.com/>

September 27-28, 2010

Natural Channels Conference

The Ontario Biodiversity Council, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Natural Channels Conference held the 4th International Natural Channel Systems Conference. Concurrent sessions examined: connections between stream corridors to watershed health and biodiversity; applications to highly constrained areas and what is new in NCS management; and many more topics of interest about biodiversity.

October 4, 2010

Entreprises et biodiversité

This conference aimed at finding new opportunities, including financial and strategic benefits, available to businesses that take biodiversity into consideration. The conference explored new types of partnerships and business relationships that businesses can implement with both public institutions and community partners. The conference provided participants with access to proven business expertise, best practices, and specific examples presented by biodiversity leaders in Quebec.

<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/capsules/index-en.htm>

October 6-8, 2010

Colloque « Biodiversité et développement en Outaouais : vers des choix durables »

This event sponsored by the Quebec Ministry of Natural resources gathered a variety of actors involved in the development of the Outaouais region to a two-day session of reflection, discussion and action on ways to foster the conservation of biodiversity. The objective of the session was to create awareness among participants on biodiversity and the protection of species at risk, to facilitate networking with the different stakeholders and to initiate coordinated action towards the preservation of regional biodiversity.

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/activite/biodiversite/index.htm>

October 7- 10, 2010

Canada Pavilion, Maritime Fall Fair

This pavilion was set up in Halifax and provided visitors with activities and information on Biodiversity, the Canada Pavilions Theme for 2010. BioKits posters and information were provided to over 20,000 visitors.

<https://maritimefallfair.tradecentrelimited.com/en/home/default.aspx>

October 13-17, 2010

Planet in Focus Film Festival

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources proudly sponsored the Festival, as 'biodiversity programming sponsor' together with a number of sponsors. Biodiversity messaging included the Our World, Ontario video and other biodiversity materials were shared with attendees and through the Festival's youth and educational programming.

<http://www.planetinfoocus.org/festival/2010-festival-highlights>

October 17, 2010

Science Funfest

Science Funfest is an open event that took place at Natural Resources Canada's Ottawa Complex. It is an opportunity for children and anyone interested in science to engage in presentations and gain hands on science experience by participating in activities that will showcase the importance of science in a fun and interactive way. Environment Canada had a booth showcasing Biodiversity information including BioKits, Hinterland Who's Who, and five live animals to show the diversity of wildlife in Canada. This booth received over 10,000 visitors.

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=11445557-1>

October 22-23, 2010

Earth in Mind: Education for Biodiversity Symposium

This two-day symposium on biodiversity education brought together over 100 delegates to examine resources and best practices for formal and informal biodiversity programming, and took place across three venues: the Toronto Zoo, Royal Ontario Museum, and Royal Botanical Gardens. Partner organizations included the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto Zoo, Royal Ontario Museum, Royal Botanical Gardens, and Ontario Power Generation.

www.biodiversityeducation.ca

October 28 -29, 2010

**Association des biologistes du Québec conference on biodiversity
Conserver la biodiversité, c'est investir dans l'avenir ; l'aménagement au service de la conservation**

The annual congress of the Association of Quebec Biologists in 2010 took place under the theme "Conserving biodiversity, an investment in the future". Participants reflected on and discussed, in plenary and workshops, the state of knowledge and practices with regard to land development, restoration and compensation with a view to ensure biodiversity conservation.

<http://www.abq.qc.ca/site/congresAnnuel.html>

November 4-6, 2010

La nature a-t-elle sa place en éducation? Pour une pédagogie de la biodiversité!

This seminar targeted towards professionals from the education sphere offered more than 20 workshops and exhibitions providing tools for education on biodiversity and collective engagement.

<http://www.education-nature.qc.ca/accueil.htm>

November 10-12

Science Teachers' Association of Ontario Conference

This annual conference of science teachers across Ontario included over 1700 delegates. Workshops were themed around diversity of learning. The Ontario Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) presented a workshop and exhibited during the 3 days of the conference. BEAN and the Toronto Catholic District School Board were key partners in this event.

www.stao.ca

November 5 – 14, 2010

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The Royal Winter Fair is the largest combined indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition in the world. With more than 340,000 participants and visitors, the Fair was a strategic venue to share biodiversity messages with dozens of school groups and other visitors. The bookmarks, fact sheets, and Our World, Ontario video were all distributed at the Government of Ontario booth. The Ministry of Natural Resources was the lead organization of the Fair.

<http://www.royalfair.org/>

November 16, 2010

Roundtable on Ontario's Ecological Footprint

As part of the State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 report, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources worked with the Global Footprint Network to calculate the province's ecological footprint and biocapacity. The Roundtable shared the results of the ecological footprint analysis, examined the associated risks to Ontario's biodiversity and economy, and initiated discussions on ways to reduce the ecological footprint. The Roundtable event was organized by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

<http://www.eco.on.ca/eng/>

November 17 – 19, 2010**A.D. Latornell Symposium**

The 2010 A.D. Latornell Symposium was themed Biodiversity: Connecting people, land and water. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) proudly sponsored the Symposium. The OMNR and the Ontario Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) had an information booth at the 3 day workshop, attended by more than 1,000 delegates. BEAN presented a workshop on adult education and biodiversity. The event was organized by the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium Steering Committee, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and BEAN.

<http://www.latornell.ca>

November 18–19, 2010**Arctic Biodiversity Symposium**

The Canadian Museum of Nature hosted the Arctic Biodiversity Symposium in Ottawa, Canada, in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. The aim of the symposium was to frame current understanding of the fast-changing state of Arctic biodiversity. Leading scientists addressed topics under the themes of Climate Change in the Arctic, Effects of Climate Change on Traditional Uses of Biodiversity, Impact on Arctic Ecology and Technological Tools for the Future of Biodiversity Research. In addition, the Council of Canadian Academies' report on the State and Trends of Biodiversity Science in Canada was released.

<http://nature.ca/symposium/>

December 6, 2010**Closing of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity in Canada**

A Canadian reception to mark the closing of the International Year of Biodiversity was held in Montreal, Canada on December 6, 2010. Participants included representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Ottawa and Montreal and senior staff from the City of Montreal. Statements were made by: the Consul General of Japan in Montreal (representative of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties); the Director General of the Quebec Region of Environment Canada; Director of International Organization, Ministry of International Relations, Province of Quebec; Senior Vice President for The Americas region, Japan Airlines; Senior staff from AIRBUS; Director of the Environment, General Council of Moselle; Mayor of the City of Montreal and the CBD Executive Secretary. A special video on the closure of the International Year of Biodiversity was shown, highlighting the efforts made by the global community to celebrate the important Year. A mural to celebrate the Biodiversity Year, created by four artists from the Quebec region, was also presented.

<http://www.cbd.int>

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

2010 Arctic Highlights Report

As part of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and a 2010 Arctic Highlights Report was released by the Arctic Council as a contribution to the United Nations 2010 Biodiversity Target and the International Biodiversity Year in 2010. The report is based on the suite of indicators developed by the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme.

<http://www.caff.is/aba>

The Biodiversity Best Practices Handbook – Case Studies from the Canadian Non-Government Sector

The Biodiversity Best Practices Handbook features 12 stories of environmental non-governmental organizations in Canada who are leading inspiring and innovative projects to increase or protect biodiversity in their communities.

www.cen-rce.org/IYB2010/pdf/RCEN_bio_best_practices_2009.pdf

Caring for Canada's Biodiversity

Caring for Canada's Biodiversity contains updated highlights of Canada's 4th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This report includes examples of actions being taken by a broad spectrum of Canadian society including all levels of government, Aboriginal peoples, business, non-government organizations, educational and research institutions and youth. Together these actions make a significant contribution to the achievement of Canada's biodiversity outcomes. The report was released on October 15, 2010.

<http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F7EB059-1&wsdoc=AF9F9BE1-73CC-43E6-970F-96AA7C9F84A4>

Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010 – biodiversity from an ecosystem perspective

This 2010 assessment is a collaborative project of the Canadian federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The assessment was designed and prepared under the guidance of a federal-provincial-territorial steering committee, and is published by the Canadian Councils of Resource Ministers. It forms part of Canada's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Authors and reviewers include hundreds of experts from across Canada. The report, released on October 15, 2010, is the first assessment of Canada's biodiversity from an ecosystem perspective. It presents 22 key findings derived from technical background reports.

<http://www.biodivcanada.ca/ecosystems>

Canadian Business and Biodiversity Case Studies Compendium Volume 1, 2010

The Canadian Business and Biodiversity Case Studies highlight Canadian business involvement in biodiversity conservation through business best practice across a range of sectors. They showcase examples of Canadian leadership in biodiversity conservation. The case studies will be used to encourage other businesses to be involved in biodiversity conservation. 17 businesses representing 9 business sectors participated in this first compendium of case studies.

<http://www.businessbiodiversity.ca/resources.cfm>

Cities and Biodiversity Case Study Series

The Cities and Biodiversity Case Study Series serves as a collection of municipal best practices in urban biodiversity management and protection, and highlights local governments' contribution to sustainable use of biodiversity. The Series features eleven case studies that serve as a tool for other local governments interested in engaging in biodiversity actions, stakeholders that work with local governments, and all parties interested in biodiversity work at a local level.

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=12044>

National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas

The *National Framework* provides strategic direction for establishment of a national network of marine protected areas that conforms to international best practices and integrates conservation objectives identified through Integrated Oceans Management and other marine spatial planning processes. The document outlines the overarching vision, goals, and guiding principles for the national network, as well as an eight step planning process for bioregional marine protected area networks.

The National Framework was posted online for a period of public review from December 6, 2010 to February 25, 2011. "An analysis of comments received is currently underway. The National Framework will be revised as necessary before it is submitted for final approval by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers.

Lead organization & partners: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (lead), Parks Canada, Environment Canada, governments of coastal provinces and territories

<http://www.isdm-gdsi.gc.ca/oceans/publications/dmpaf-eczpm/form-eng.asp>

Nature at Work: Why Biodiversity is Important to you March 31, 2011

This brochure produced by Environment Canada offers Canadians a snapshot of Biodiversity in Canada and the importance of it to our everyday lives. Highlighting some of the initiatives that are taking place the brochure also calls Canadians to action by offering activities and practical advice.

www.ec.gc.ca

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy Progress Report 2005 – 2010

This report was released on May 17, 2010 by the Ontario Biodiversity Council and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. It reports on Ontario's progress and actions completed from Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2005 – Protecting What Sustains Us.

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/index.php/reports>

Ontario's Ecological Footprint

Contributing to the State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 report, the Global Footprint Network evaluated Ontario's Ecological footprint. The report, Province of Ontario – Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Analysis, was released by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Global Footprint Network and Ontario Biodiversity Council on May 17, 2010.

Release of the Northwest Territories (NWT) Report on Biodiversity

The NWT State of the Environment Report – 2010 Special Biodiversity Edition was released on May 19, 2010 by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Report celebrates 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and presents the latest findings on the status and trends of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, the status of traditional knowledge, trends in sustainable use of biodiversity, and trends in threats to biodiversity in the Northwest Territories.

[www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/.../10-05-20TD53-16\(5\).pdf](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/.../10-05-20TD53-16(5).pdf)

Spotlight on Marine Protected Areas in Canada

This report highlights the marine protected area efforts of provincial, territorial and federal agencies as of June 2010. The report includes basic statistics about the number of marine protected areas in Canada, what they have been put in place to protect, the area of Canada's marine environment that is under protection, and the IUCN categories of the marine protected areas. Fisheries and Oceans Canada led the report, with partners including Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Canadian Council on Ecological Areas; and the governments of Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/marineareas-zonesmarines/mpa-zpm/spotlight-pleinsfeux/index-eng.htm>

State and Trends of Biodiversity Science in Canada

The Expert Panel on Biodiversity Science of the Canadian Council of Academies developed an evidence-based report, Canadian Taxonomy: Exploring Biodiversity, Creating Opportunity. The report explores the state of Canadian taxonomy in three areas: taxonomic expertise, the state of biodiversity collections, and Canada's strength in data sharing. The report was publicly launched on November 18th, 2010 at the Canadian Museum of Nature's Arctic Biodiversity Symposium.

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/biodiversity.aspx>

The State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 Report

This report was released on May 17, 2010 by the Ontario Biodiversity Council and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. It reports on the state of biodiversity in the province based on 29 indicators.

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/index.php/reports>

PROGRAMS

Back to our roots (Sept 2010 – May 2011)

Back to Our Roots, is an activity prepared by Environment Canada's Biosphere in conjunction with the Programme de soutien des écoles montréalaises. The program was launched in September 2010 and will run to May 2011. This 90 minutes activity allowed students to learn about biodiversity found in their own backyard. In a scavenger hunt through the gardens surrounding the Ecological House, students discovered garden critters that actually help our gardens grow. In the EcoLab, students learned about pollinators, their role in nature, problems they are facing and just how important they are to us. Lastly, through a matching game, students learned about composting - and how Nature is the world's best recycler. They discovered the different flora and fauna that help in this natural process and how to compost at home. Partners in this activity included Environment Canada's Biosphère, the Château Ramezay and Alternatives.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

May 22nd – June 2011

Beautiful Biodiversity Public Art Display

In the Northwest Territories, the International Year of Biodiversity was celebrated with vivid colours, a beautified construction site and a public art display.

In the spring of 2010, hundreds of school children participated in two painting extravaganzas hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories. On the International Day of Biological Diversity, families attended an event organised by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. In June, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans coordinated a Rivers to Oceans education day for school children. At both events, ENR staff introduced the concept of biodiversity and its importance, and encouraged children to make choices to preserve it.

To help illustrate the concept, hundreds of wooden silhouettes, representing the biological diversity of the territory, were hand-painted and decorated by the children. Partnering with a local construction company, the brightly coloured fish, birds and insects were mounted on a covered sidewalk beside a construction site. A hand painted mural, complete with trees and sun, provided a home for these "animals" in their natural environment.

Located in downtown Yellowknife, this display is there for all residents to enjoy and to learn from, spreading the biodiversity message on an even larger scale. The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Public Education) partnered with the following organizations in this initiative:

Clarke Builders (supplied the space on their construction site downtown Yellowknife)
Ecole Sir John Franklin High School (tech students cut out the wooden silhouettes).
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (hosted International Day of Biodiversity)
Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (hosted Rivers to Oceans Day)

Because We Are Not Alone

A new program "Because We Are Not Alone" was launched by Environment Canada's Biosphere in 2010. Through this dynamic role-playing game, students discover how biodiversity can link people who may otherwise appear to be very distant from each other. Whether they play the role of an Asian fisherman or a European tourist, the players have to come together and find a common ground when faced with issues pertaining to biodiversity. The program can be delivered at the Biosphère or in-class.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

Biodiversity Playlist presented by the National Film Board of Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the National Film Board and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, presented a biodiversity playlist of films to get people thinking about the connections between us and other species.
<http://www.nfb.ca/playlist/biodiversity/>

Canada's Waterscapes—Yours to Enjoy, Explore and Protect

A travelling exhibition that reveals Canada's diverse, complex and beautiful aquatic ecosystems toured museums and venues across Canada during 2010. The exhibition was produced by the Canadian Museum of Nature and its partners: Parks Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, RBC Blue Water Project, and Canadian Water Network.
<http://www.nature.ca>

The Circle of Life

The Circle of Life, a 90 minute biodiversity themed activity designed for groups of children aged 7 to 11, was launched by Environment Canada's Biosphere in 2010. The objective of this activity was for students to understand that every organism is linked to other species and to the ecosystem in which it lives. The activity is separated into three parts. In one activity, students learn to appreciate, through the role playing game "Survival", the interactions between species, their habitat, and outside factors. Through the hands-on activity, "Feathers and Feet", using 5 different bird specimens, students explore the different adaptations that birds have evolved to survive in different niches. Finally, through a photo rally students explore the beauty and wonder of Canadian biodiversity.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

Eco Action

Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program provides financial support to community-based, non-profit organizations for projects that have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. The Program encourages action focused projects that will protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment, and build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future. In recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity, priority funding consideration was given to projects that addressed biodiversity.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1>

The Green Roofs and Indoor Garden

As part of its 15th anniversary celebrations, the Biosphère installed two green roofs and created an indoor garden that reproduces three Canadian ecosystems. A visit to these new installations allows visitors to learn more about the environment and technologies for green housing.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere>

Kids 'n Nature – Presqu'île Provincial Park

Presqu'île Provincial Park released a Kids 'n Nature experiential learning program for students in grades 2 to 7. The program focuses on biodiversity and includes an in-class visit with a nature interpreter as well as a trip to the newly restored marsh boardwalk for a hands-on learning experience.

<http://65.109.70.62/pressreleasesc12.php?command=viewArticle&ID=293¤tFeed=1>

Montréal Biodiversity Centre

The Biodiversity Centre of the Université de Montréal was created thanks to the efforts of several researchers of the Institut de recherche en biologie végétale (IRBV). It is a centre of excellence in conservation and digitization of biological collections and in biodiversity research and training.

The new building of the Biodiversity Centre was designed according to the LEED green building standards and built in the heart of the Montréal Botanical Garden. A large portion of the building is dedicated to housing several important collections of plants, insects and fungi. The Centre's cutting edge laboratories gather about fifty researchers and students dedicated to the discovery and preservation of the natural heritage of Quebec, Canada and the world. Finally, the Centre also encourages the general public to learn more about biodiversity and biological collections by offering museum exhibits and activities in its exhibition hall.

The government of Quebec and the Canada Foundation for Innovation recognized the value of the Biodiversity Centre with a contribution of over 15 million dollars. The Biodiversity Centre was officially inaugurated in March 2011.

<http://www.biodiversite.umontreal.ca/?lang=en>

Nature Works!

"Nature Works!" an activity for children aged 10 and 11, was launched by Environment Canada's Biosphere in 2010. Throughout the activity, the students discover the relationships that exist between living species, animals and plants. In a laboratory setting, they discover biomimicry by observing natural elements to picture technological innovations in accordance with nature. The activity also provides an opportunity for students to discuss the impacts of human activity and various actions they can undertake to preserve nature.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

Ontario Nature's Youth Writing and Art Contest

The theme of Ontario Nature's 2010 Youth Writing and Art Contest was Wild Species and Wild Spaces: why biodiversity is important to me. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources sponsored this contest and participated in judging. Each winner received a signed letter of congratulations from the Minister of Natural Resources. Mountain Equipment Co-op and Waste Management Canada also partnered in this initiative.

www.ontarionature.org

Photo Rally

A public Photo Rally was launched by Environment Canada's Biosphere in 2010 and will run to May 2011. Through use of an outdoor photo exhibit at the Biosphere, "Tightly Knit", visitors are challenged to participate in a scavenger hunt game! Using small photo excerpts and texts, they search for, and find, the matching photo. This program provides an opportunity to discover some fascinating aspects of Canadian biodiversity.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

Robert Bateman Get to Know Program

In 2010, the Get to Know Program held a series of BioBlitzes that focused on getting kids interested in the plants and animals around them. The events encouraged learning through art, writing, photography and video activities. Participants uploaded work to the Get to Know Online Biodiversity Gallery to share knowledge with youth across North America.

<http://www.gettoknow.ca/>

Wanted: Pollinators

"Wanted: Pollinators" is a 30-minute lab activity offered to the public by Environment Canada's Biosphere. Participants are invited to explore a typical breakfast and understand the important roles that pollinators play in our lives. Participants learn that a reduction in the number of bees, other pollinating insects and birds threatens biodiversity, and about what can be done to protect pollinators.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=En&n=8AB791CF-1>

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

The Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada

Natural history museums, zoos and aquaria across the country promoted biodiversity awareness through projects ranging from new exhibitions to an organized garlic mustard pull in Ontario. These initiatives were undertaken by the 16 members of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC), a network formed in 2003 to enhance collaboration in areas of research, collections development and education about the natural environment. The ANHMC's activities for the International Year of Biodiversity kicked off on January 26 with the launch of a biodiversity public service announcement on YouTube.

http://www.naturalhistorymuseums.ca/documents/Release-2010IYB_EN_001.doc

YouTube video: www.naturalhistorymuseums.ca.

Alternatives Journal

In celebration of our nation's spectacular biodiversity, in October 2010, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Biodiversity Council placed a half page advertisement in the Alternatives Journal biodiversity issue. The ad featured Ontario's 2010 biodiversity reporting that was done during IYB.

<http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/magazines/biodiversity-366>

Biodiversity Bookmarks

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources created a photo-filled bookmark featuring things you can do to help conserve biodiversity in Ontario. Printed in both English and French, more than 5,000 of the bookmarks were distributed at various events from March to December 2010.

BioKits

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, Environment Canada's Biosphère developed a series of biodiversity exploration guides "BioKits".

The Urban BioKit invites people to use all five senses to look at the biodiversity of their city in new ways. The Nature BioKit takes people on a journey of discovery through the wilder environments of the country. Users of these two BioKits have the chance to share their discoveries online and evaluate the biodiversity of the places explored.

The City of Montréal BioKit features ten major parks on Montréal Island. Points of interest are highlighted, and their GPS coordinates can be captured on a GPS navigational device.

The Île Sainte-Hélène BioKit, features a GPS treasure hunt of the Island, located in the middle of the St. Lawrence River. Armed with a GPS or a map, participants explore the Biosphere's surroundings while looking for clues to the treasure chest of Pehr Kalm, one of the first botanists to explore the island's natural treasures.

Users of the Cap Tourmente Biokit can recreate the day of a 1729 shipwreck off the coast of Cap Tourmente, and set off to discover the wonders of the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area. Points of interest and geocaches can be found on the adventure using a GPS unit.

New BioKits will continue to be developed during the UN Decade on Biodiversity.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits>.

CHEX Newswatch at 5:30

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources partnered with CHEX TV in October 2010 to profile several episodes of CHEX Newswatch at 5:30 with a feature on biodiversity. Episodes included youth in Ontario Provincial Parks, the impact of invasive species, the impact of climate change on the Southern Flying Squirrel and biodiversity in your backyard.

Environment Canada - Internal Communications

Internal communications methods were used to inform Environment Canada employees of the International Year of Biodiversity, including several articles in EnviroZine – Environment Canada's monthly online Newsmagazine.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/default.asp?lang=En&n=67262BD6-1>

Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Newsletter

Spring edition of the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Newsletter featured an article on IYB and the importance of Biodiversity. Co-authored by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Species at Risk Branch and Ontario Parks, the article informed readers about the significance of IYB, and the importance of biodiversity.

<http://www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/haliburton/>

Hinterland Who's Who biodiversity webisode

The Canadian Wildlife Federation in partnership with Environment Canada developed a biodiversity webisode. The webisode features in-depth descriptions of wildlife, current issues, and actions to help wildlife.

<http://tv.hww.ca/video/watch/5>

Hinterland Who's Who Video Clips

The Canadian Wildlife Federation in partnership with Environment Canada developed 30 second and 60 second video clips on biodiversity which are featured on the Hinterland Who's Who website, and as Television advertisements.

60 second clip: <http://www.hww.ca/media.asp?mcid=3>

30 second clip: <http://www.hww.ca/media.asp?mcid=2>

Nature Matters! Contest

Environment Canada's **Nature Matters! Contest**, invited Canadian youths between the ages of 9 and 35 to create an original written or video essay answering the question, "Why is nature important to you?". Winning essays were announced on the International Day for Biological Diversity at the grand re-opening of the Canadian Museum of Nature.

<http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FC6BC0A1-1>

Life! Brought to you by biodiversity lanyards

Lanyards with the tagline "Life! Brought to you by biodiversity" in English and French were created and distributed at a number of workshops, events, and conferences during 2010. The lanyards were produced by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as a unique way of spreading the message that biodiversity is essential to our lives.

Life! Brought to you by biodiversity factsheets

A series of 2 factsheets with the tagline “Life! Brought to you by biodiversity” were developed in 2010 by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in both French and English. The first factsheet is a description of biodiversity and why it is important, with links to other resources. The second is a list of 10 things you can do to help conserve biodiversity in Ontario.

Man & His World

Environment Canada’s Biosphere developed a multimedia presentation on biodiversity accompanied by a guided activity “Biodiversity: The Voice of Choice”. This 30 minute activity promotes biodiversity awareness, including effects that daily consumption choices have on biodiversity.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere>

Manitoba Biodiversity Network Group

Manitoba Biodiversity Network Group (a group of representatives from government, NGOs, academics and private interested individuals) celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity Celebration, and raised awareness of the importance of Biodiversity. The group was officially formed in 2009 to raise awareness in the province of Manitoba of the importance of biodiversity and to plan Biodiversity Day celebrations. In 2010 the group featured their plans, events and news on www.naturenorth.com. Weekly biodiversity related articles were contributed to several local newspapers; and continuous efforts were made to improve communication and outreach methods in order to raise awareness of biodiversity in the province.

Migratory Birds

Environment Canada’s Biosphere presented a film to the general public on Migratory Birds. The movie features the voyages of 4 different types of migratory birds that spend a part of their life cycle in Canada and shows what is done to ensure their survival. It will continue to be part of the Biosphère’s seasonal programming and it is also presented at the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere>

Ontario Parks Tabloid

The Ontario Parks Tabloid is distributed in every provincial park. In recognition of International Year of Biodiversity, the 2010 tabloid included an article on IYB, and the importance that biodiversity plays to our parks and protected areas. The Tabloid is led by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Parks.

Ontario Stewardship Article

Fall 2010 edition of the Ontario Stewardship newsletter featured an article on the International Year of Biodiversity and the video Our World Ontario that was produced by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

http://www.ontariostewardship.org/files/newsletters/OS_newsletter_fall_2010_en.pdf

2010 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) included a message about the International Year of Biodiversity and the importance of hunting and fishing to biodiversity in Ontario in the 2010 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary, page 2. OMNR also featured a half page ad about what biodiversity is and why it is important, on page 30. The Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary is an annual publication with a print run of over 400,000.

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@fw/documents/document/239841.pdf>

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@fw/documents/document/239847.pdf>

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources - Internal Communications

A variety of internal communications methods were used to inform Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Public Service employees, including two Top Story articles on the staff intranet related to IYB, special mention in the Deputy Minister's blog, an article in Topical, the OPS newsletter, and content on the Biodiversity Branch's intranet page.

Lead organization & partners: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Our World, Ontario

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources produced an 8 minute video "Our World, Ontario, featuring stunning images from across Ontario and containing a message of hope and empowerment. Intended to inform and inspire people to appreciate biodiversity and understand its threats.

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/2ColumnSubPage/286676.html>

Showcasing Ontario's Biodiversity at the Royal Ontario Museum

To mark the United Nations' International Year of Biodiversity, a new Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) program showcased "[A Slice of Life](#)" in Ontario from Polar Bear Provincial Park in the north to Point Pelee in the south. The ROM partnered with the Ministry of Natural Resources to offer a year-long series of workshops, podcasts, lectures and teaching tools to encourage Ontarians to appreciate and protect the province's rich diversity of plant and animal life. The ROM program showcased life in all four of Ontario's ecozones – the Hudson Bay Lowlands, Canadian Shield, Mixedwood Plains, and the Great Lakes.

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Newsroom/LatestNews/283843.html>

SNO Squall E-bulletin featuring IYB

The Stewardship Network of Ontario (SNO) released the first edition of SNO Squall, November, 2010, featuring recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity. The e-bulletin is produced twice a year to report on the latest developments in land stewardship across Ontario and beyond. SNO Squall is hoped to become a medium for member organizations to share their success stories. Stewardship Network of Ontario partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for this E-bulletin.

http://www.stewardshipcentre.on.ca/files/scnON/SNO_Squall_Nov_2010_2.pdf

Videoconference – Variety is the Spice of Life

Environment Canada's Biosphere launched a biodiversity videoconference for students "Variety is the Spice of Life". This videoconference helps students understand the importance of biodiversity and the pressures that we exert on the natural environment. With an expert facilitator, students have an opportunity to discuss biodiversity and solutions for its conservation. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere>

Whistler Council Endorses UN International Year of Biodiversity, Creates Own Campaign

The Resort Municipality of Whistler became a local government partner in the United Nations 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The Council undertook a biodiversity education campaign, to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth, and held a celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity during the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/302n.asp?newsid=3412>

WEBSITES

Canada's National Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism

A new national biodiversity clearing-house mechanism was launched by the federal, provincial and territorial working group on biodiversity in October 2010. It profiles biodiversity information, news and events, and features a section devoted to the International Year of Biodiversity. This website reflects the shared responsibility for biodiversity in Canada and the commitment of federal, provincial and territorial governments to achieve the goals and objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity through a collaborative approach.

<http://www.biodivcanada.ca>

Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council

In 2010 the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council created a new website to showcase the work of Canadian businesses that demonstrate leadership in biodiversity conservation through managing their facilities and activities in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

<http://www.businessbiodiversity.ca>

Biodiversity in Ontario website

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biodiversity pages were updated to include content related to the International Year of Biodiversity, including the official IYB logo.

www.ontario.ca/biodiversity

ICLEI Canada – Biodiversity Program

In 2010 ICLEI Canada created a new biodiversity program section on their website to profile the Canadian Cities and Biodiversity Case Studies Series, their Biodiversity Engagement Strategy, the Local Action for Biodiversity Program and relevant news, events and publications.

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=8806>

June 8, 2010

Oceans Portal

The Oceans web portal facilitates users accessing all oceans-related material that is hosted on Government of Canada websites, by centrally housing them in one location.

Lead organization & partners: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (lead) and all Government of Canada departments and agencies with marine interests.

<http://www.oceans.info.gc.ca/>

Ontario Biodiversity Council 2010 Reports

Site featuring the Ontario Biodiversity Council's 2010 reporting efforts, utilizing new technology for easy online reading.

Lead organization & partners: Ontario Biodiversity Council and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Date: May 17, 2010

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/index.php/reports>

The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) website for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)

RCEN launched website for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The site featured a regularly updated news feed, updated via Twitter, with the latest IYB-related information from Environment Canada, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other notable organizations. Other features include a list of educational resources and materials, including those produced by the RCEN, such as its Biodiversity Best Practices Handbook.

<http://www.cen-rce.org/iyb2010/index.html>