



Celebrations of International Year of Biodiversity – 2010 in India

India has undertaken a number of activities to create awareness about biodiversity issues during the celebration of IYB in 2010. The IYB was formally launched in India on 4th January, 2010, in which the Minister for Environment and Forests released a brochure on 'Achieving 2010 Biodiversity Target; India's Contributions'. It highlights the measures taken by India towards biodiversity conservation. A calendar for the year 2010 with 12 award-winning paintings by school children on the theme 'Our Rich Biodiversity', prepared by the National Museum of Natural History was also released on the occasion. A special session on 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Development' was organized on 7th January, 2010 during the 97th Indian Science Congress held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. An exclusive event on biodiversity was organized during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in February, 2010. A special article on 'Biodiversity: We cannot afford its loss' was brought in the March, 2010 issue of 'Namaskar', the inflight magazine of the national carrier, Air India. A commemorative postal stamp and first day cover on Biodiversity was brought out by the Department of Posts, Government of India and was released on 5th June, 2010 to mark the World Environment Day, the theme for which this year was 'Biodiversity : Connecting with Nature'. Plantation drives were taken up along the route of Queen's Baton Relay covering 20,000 km. in all 28 States and seven Union Territories for the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi from October 3-14, 2010. The concerned Ministries in the Central Government, State Governments, Centres of Excellence and other organizations have also undertaken activities for celebration of IYB. The Press Information Bureau has issued seven exclusive press releases on biodiversity and uploaded three features and one backgrounder on their website.



To observe "International Year of Biodiversity 2010" in India, the National Biodiversity Authority organized a number of events all over the country and also extended catalytic support for the celebration of IYB 2010 in partnership with agencies like UNDP. The State Biodiversity Boards as well as Biodiversity Management Committees held a variety of programmes.

The summary of the celebrations is indicated hereunder.

7th January 2010: A session on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development was organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and National Biodiversity Authority at Thiruvananthapuram as part of the 97th Indian Science Congress with support from UNDP. This Special Session provided a forum for discussion and interaction amongst a galaxy of scientists, with contributions from leading resource persons and speakers in the field of Biodiversity.



22nd April : Earth Day

Karnataka State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with various NGOs celebrated the Earth Day from 22 - 26 April this year at Karnataka Unani Medical Association, Bangalore, Janachintana Urban and Rural Development Organization, Tarikere, Kiran Rural Reconstruction society, Gulbarga. Experts and guest



speakers delivered lectures on biodiversity and environment protection. Debates and competitions were held. The participants pledged to get involved in environmental protection activities. The celebrations saw the participation of lecturers from colleges, members of self help groups, youth organizations, local leaders, school children and the locals.

23rd April 2010 : *National Consultation on International Regime on ABS, Evolving Sui Generis System For Protection Of Traditional Knowledge Related To Biodiversity & Amendments To Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004, Chennai* (with support from UNDP). A wide cross-section of stakeholders and experts was represented by the participants who included the chairmen and member secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards,



representatives from biodiversity related research, development and legal organizations, educational institutes, industries, NGOs, etc. Discussions were held on the drafts that had been circulated earlier, pertaining to the three important subjects that were covered during this consultation. A comprehensive report indicating the deliberations, recommendations and outcomes was prepared.

2nd May 2010: *International Marine Biodiversity Conservation Festival, Chennai* (with support of UNDP), was Organized by TREE Foundation. This was part of the efforts in bringing international conservation techniques to protect highly endangered marine life particularly sea turtles and marine mammals in the east coast of India. Renowned international marine conservationists stressed the significance of conservation of the fragile marine biodiversity.



3rd May 2010 International Conference on “Wildlife Conservation, Health and Disease Management a Post Millennium Approach”, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Leading international experts, authors, veterinarians, researchers and national delegates were the participants. The programme included deliberations and discussions on continuing education on different spheres of domestic and wild animal health care.

22nd May 2010: *National Seminar on Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Context of Climate Change, New Delhi* (with support from UNDP). This seminar, which focused on a global theme declared by the United Nations, was co-hosted by The Energy Research Institute (TERI). The Honourable Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh, who was present on the occasion, stressed the requirement of an effective and coherent convergence of policies at a global, national and regional level to significantly reduce biodiversity loss, the importance of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and the People Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). The key recommendations included strengthening biodiversity monitoring systems, creating linkages between pertinent institutions, focusing on marine ecosystems along with terrestrial ones, and understanding the economic values of biodiversity.



22nd May, 2010: International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)

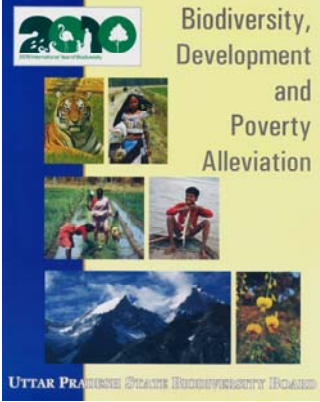
With the aim of creating awareness and a greater understanding of the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity amongst the people in their states, the State Biodiversity Boards celebrated the International Day of Biological Diversity with great enthusiasm and fan fare. Exhibitions, seminars, discussions, scientific lectures etc were organized which saw the participation of officials from the government and private sectors, university scholars, teachers and the locals in large number. Colourful rallies, poster drawing competitions, nature trail walks etc were organized for school children.

The summary of the celebrations of SBBs are as under:

State	Celebrations
Gujarat	Sarpanches, village panchayat members, NGOs, social workers, teachers and environmentalists attended public functions in Amreli District, and Nasirpur (chha), District.
Haryana	In District Panchkula, students took part in a cycle rally, carrying boards depicting slogans on Biodiversity. Lectures, painting competition and essay competitions were held at 8 districts of the State.
Jharkhand	<p>In district Latehar the program commenced with a morning walk to Betla National Park followed by presentations on biodiversity, cultural programs presented by the women from the villages and children from the local schools. Literature on Biodiversity, gifts and prizes were distributed.</p> <p>A programme in Hazaribagh District was organized at Rajderwa National Sanctuary with songs on Nature written by students themselves in the local language. Experts from the field of Biodiversity shared their experiences in wildlife, conservation of BD and its importance.</p>
Karnataka	IBD was celebrated at different places in the State , from 22 May – 25 May 2010, in collaboration with NGOs – Karnataka Unani Medical Association, Bangalore, Centre for Sustainable Development, Bangalore, Navodaya Educational and Environment Development Services (NEEDS), Rannebennur (held a programme in Shimoga), Sanduru Environment Education and Development Society, Bommaghatta, Sanduru taluk, Janachintana Urban and Rural development Organization, Tarikeri and Kiran Rural Reconstruction

	<p>Society, Gulbarga.</p> <p>Issues of global warming, climate change and its effect on living conditions of human beings, role of biodiversity in relation to development and poverty alleviation, water and sanitation, atmospheric pollution, food security and subjects related to degradation of natural ecosystem were highlighted in the various programmes. Workshops , competitions and rallies with placards and banners, planting of saplings of different tree species, marked the events in which the participants were women self help groups and eco club members, students and teaching staff.</p>
<p>Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>Celebrations which included exhibitions, seminars etc were held at various locations in Hoshangabad, Rewa and Balaghat districts. In addition to creation of awareness, discussions were held on traditional practices, biodiversity- based livelihood generation and on the need for biodiversity conservation. Basic training related to PBR preparation was taken up.</p>  <p>A state level symposium on biodiversity was held in Bhopal for State government officials of different departments, BMC members of Bhopal and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>Mizoram</p>	<p>The day was observed at the Pacchung University College, the oldest college in the State. The Minister for Environment and Forest, Mizoram attended the session. A presentation was made on <i>Reptile Diversity of Mizoram</i>. The invitees included science students, department heads and officers of biodiversity-related departments.</p>
<p>Orissa</p>	<p>A State Level Celebration was organized in Bhubanashwar where Shri Naveen Patnaik the Chief Minister of Orissa, reiterated the State's commitment to biodiversity conservation, emphasized the importance of effective management, governance of its rich natural resources, poverty reduction and economic development. A drawing competition for school children was held on the theme "Biodiversity of Orissa" and two booklets were released.</p>

<p>Punjab</p>	<p>Workshop on “Conservation of Biodiversity and its Sustainable Utilization” by University Centre of Excellence in Research, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. The workshop was attended by participants from all over Punjab and included experts on biodiversity, representative from industries utilizing bio-resources, v aids, principals /faculty members from different Ayurvedic colleges, medicinal plant growers, agriculturists, students and general public.</p>  <p>Awareness programme at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala was marked by Guest lectures by experts, distribution of informative brochures, documentary show and planting of trees.</p> <p>Activities by the Biodiversity Management Committees.</p> <p>The District level BMC at Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Fatehgarh Sahib, Bathinda and Mansa celebrated this day by conducting a variety of programmes including workshops, lectures on the importance and current status of biodiversity, major threats to floral & faunal species, pollution, climate change and BDA. The target audiences were farmers, chairpersons of zila parishads, school teachers, administrative officers and officials from the concerned departments.</p>  <p>Activities conducted in collaboration with the NGOs: Institute of Ecology & Environment, Pathankot, and Watawaran Sambhal Society, Ludhiana organized competitions, seminars, lectures and exhibitions on the rich biological diversity of India, the role of nature in human life and on medicinal plants.</p> <p>Activities conducted at District level in collaboration with Education Department: Special programmes were conducted at Ropar and at the Government Sr. Secondary School, District Amritsar.</p>
----------------------	---

	<p>These included song competition, skits, chart making, quiz and painting competitions and a field trip / nature trail.</p> <p>Activities with Global college of Pharmacy (Anandpur Sahib): A workshop on “Pearl culture/ Bee-Keeping/ Extraction of Volatile oils from Biodiversity”. The Staff and students of the college, general public, farmers and persons engaged in commercial activities using medicinal plants also participated in the programme.</p> <p>School Based Programmes: Punjab Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Punjab State Council for Science and Technology requested all District Education Officers and Master trainers of National Green Corp (NGC) in the state to celebrate this day by involving schools covered under NGC programme. In District Amritsar, the International Biodiversity Day was celebrated in 20 schools where Eco-Clubs have been established under NGC Scheme, and in District Muktsar celebrations were held in 20 Government senior secondary schools where various activities & competitions were conducted.</p>
<p>Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>A national conference on “Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation” was organized in Lucknow. The conference focused on development and poverty alleviation by looking at alternate sources for revenue generation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity. Presentations were made on conservation, livelihood issues, BD Act, roles of plants, forests, insects, traditional knowledge, information technology etc., which was brought out in the form of a publication.</p> 
<p>Uttarakhand</p>	<p>Celebrations were held throughout the State to make people aware of the importance of conserving biodiversity and the significance of its sustainable use in improving the local economy. The main programme was held in FRI, Dehra Dun with Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttarakhand as the chief guest.</p>
<p>West Bengal</p>	<p>A day-long programme was held at the Ramakrishna Institute of Culture, Kolkata with a lecture on “Harnessing Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation” followed by an open session with discussions on People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR) and functioning of BMCs in the State. A</p>

	<p>Field Guide on Grasses and Bamboos of Bengal was released.</p> <p>There was also the release of 7 PBRs including one of Kalyani Municipality, which is probably the first PBR to be documented in an urban locality in India. More than 200 participants including students, PBR volunteers, representatives of BMCs, NGOs, school, college and university teachers, scientists and officers were actively involved in the programme.</p>
<p>Jammu and Kashmir</p>	<p>The Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir organized a seminar on the day. The Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Jammu and Kashmir State, Shri Mian Altaf Ahmad was the Chief Guest at this function. The major recommendations of the deliberations ranged widely, from the need for an up-dated biodiversity database for the State of J&K, use of recent advances in IT, RS and GIS technologies, impact assessment of threats, assessment of genetic erosion of agro-biodiversity, evaluation of protected areas, ex-situ strategies and preservation of traditional practices. Other priorities listed were promoting sustainable use of forests and biodiversity by biodiversity-based industries, entrepreneurship skills for medicinal and aromatic plants, policies for an institutional framework in the State (SBB and BMCs), access and benefit sharing mechanisms, biosecurity systems against invasive alien weeds, pests and pathogens.</p>

5th June 2010 World Environment Day

Programs were organized by various states on this day at various schools, colleges, institutions, organizations, departments, state biodiversity boards, private sectors, and NGOs. The summary is given under:-

Delhi and Tamil Nadu	<p>The first day cover, commemorative postage stamp on Biodiversity to mark the International Year of Biodiversity was released on this day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Similar celebration was also organized by the postal department on 7th June 2010 at Chennai, Shri Debendranath Sarangi, IAS., Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Environment and Forests inaugurated the stamp exhibition in the presence of Dr.P.L.Gautam, Chairman, NBA.</p>
Gujarat	<p>The day was celebrated by SBB Gujarat in association with Social Forestry Circle Ahmedabad and ISRO Ahmedabad, with the theme “One Planet, One Future.” The programme included lectures by experts, presentations on water conservation, protection of vultures and other topics, and a drawing and painting competition. Participants included academicians, nature lovers, NGOs, environmentalists and students.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	<p>Creation of awareness was the major theme for the programmes held at the Government PG College, Hoshangabad and IIFM, Bhopal. The participants included students & teachers of the college, biodiversity conservers and students of various schools of the country selected for summer camp of IIFM, Bhopal.</p>
Mizoram	<p>26 amateurs exhibited their photographs on the biodiversity of the State during 3-5 June 2010 at a Wildlife & Biodiversity Photo Exhibition in Aizawl.</p>
Jharkand	<p>The day was celebrated by the Department of Forests by putting up exhibits by School/college students are related to departments. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of the State with good participation of policy makers, administration, forest officials, NGO's public and students.</p>



Other activities / events organized by various organization

	Event	Organized by	Venue and Date
1.	20 th All India Congress of Zoology and National Seminar on Bio resources and its Management for Food, Livelihood and Environmental Security and national Helminthological Congress	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai 29-30 December, 2009
2.	International Conference on Ethno-Veterinary Practices	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Thanjavur	South Zone Cultural Centre, Taminadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Thanjavur 4-6 January, 2010
3.	Conference on “The Current Management Practices of Agrobiodiversity of Kerala”.	M S Swaminathan Research Foundation	Govt. Guest House, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram. Jan 5, 2010
4.	Workshop on Marine Mammal Stranding	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala – 682 018	Conference Hall, CMFRI, Kochi. January 21, 2010
5.	International Conference on Biodiversity in relation to Human Security in a Warming Planet	M S Swaminathan Research Foundation	MSSRF, Chennai 15-17 February, 2010
6.	National Seminar on Quality Seed for Food Security through Public-Private Partnership	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi in collaboration with National Seed Association of India (NSAI)	B P Pal Auditorium, IARI, New Delhi April 13-14, 2010
7.	Workshop on “Interdisciplinary Education in Water Resources Management: Scope and Challenges”	Centre for Water Resources, College of Engineering, Anna University, Chennai	April 26, 2010
8.	One Day Seminar on “Recent Trends in Taxonomy and Biodiversity Conservation in India”	Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata	April 27, 2010
9.	National Consultation on Landscape Gardening for Aesthetic Values and Environmental Services	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore – 560089	IIHR, Bangalore 29-30 April, 2010
10.	Organisation of vacation training programme for the school children (Std X) on Bioresources and Biotechnology	M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation	Chennai May 3-28, 2010
11.	National Symposium on Garcinia Genetic Resources: Linking Diversity, Livelihood and Management	Indian Council of Agricultural Research New Delhi and University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	College of Forestry, Sirsi May 8-9, 2010
12.	Oraganisation of state level Essay Writing Competition in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity	The Manipur Biodiversity Board in collaboration with the Education Department of Government of Manipur	Manipur May 22, 2010
13.	International Biodiversity Day	A.P. State Biodiversity Board	May 22, 2010

	Celebrations and 2010 International Year of Biodiversity	and A.P. Forest Department	Aranya Bhawan, Hyderabad
14.	Arrangement of Jathas by involving NCC/Eco Clubs etc. in various districts with banner highlighting the importance of conservation of biological diversity and its sustainable use in various districts of Karnataka in commemoration of celebration of Biodiversity Day in International Biodiversity Year 2010	Karnataka Biodiversity Board	May 22, 2010
15.	National Consultation on Agro biodiversity Management	ICAR and Bureaus of ICAR	National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC), New Delhi 26-27 May, 2010
16.	The Indian Aqua-Invest Congress and Expo-2010 (IAICE)	Indian Fisheries Association, Mumbai and Pillay Aquaculture Foundation in collaboration with Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR) and Zoological Society of India (ZSI)	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Off Yari Road, Versova, Mumbai 26 – 28 May, 2010
17.	Swadesh Prem Jagriti Sangosthi 2010 and National Conference on Horticultural Biodiversity for Livelihood, economic Development and Health care	Jointly organized by Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation in collaboration with University of Horticultural Science, Bagalkot and Biodiversity International, Rome	Bangalore 29-31 May, 2010
18.	National Consultation on RET plants – Restoration of Rare, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species for Enhancing Forest Biodiversity of Western Ghats	MSSRF, Chennai; Community Agro biodiversity Centre, Wayanad, Kerala and NBA, Chennai	4-5 June, 2010
19.	State Level Consultation on Community based management on Agrobiodiversity	M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	7 June 2010 Chennai
20.	One day consultative meeting on “Biodiversity: Challenges and Issues”	Forest Research Institute, Dehradun	June, 2010 Dehradun
21.	National level consultation workshop for identification of research gaps in Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in India	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	June 24-25, 2010 Hotel Raj Sundar Palace, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai
22.	International Seminar on Mango Biodiversity for Livelihood	Horticulture Division of ICAR	Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, UP 25-28 June, 2010
23.	International Conference on “Eliminating Hunger and Poverty: Priorities in Global Agricultural	M S Swaminathan Research Foundation	Aug 7-9, 2010 Chennai

	Research and Development Agenda in a era of climate change and rising food problem.		
24.	National Conference on Marine Biodiversity – Present status and prospects	Department of Marine Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli-620024	September 16-18, 2010
25.	National Symposium on Citrus Genetic Diversity Conservation and Management in the context of Climate Change	Horticulture Division of ICAR	National Research Center for Citrus, Nagpur, Maharashtra 24-27 September, 2010
26.	Conference on “Native Livestock Breeds”	Vechur Conservation Trust	Kottayam/Ernakulam September 27, 2010
27.	International Conference on Bioresources in relation to Noni Products and Foundation Day celebration of NBA	The World Noni Research Foundation	Chennai Trade Centre, Nandanam, Chennai 1-3 October, 2010
28.	India participated in CBD, COP-10, Nagoya, Japan and organized an exhibition on India’s biodiversity.	Ministry of Environment and Forests and National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	18-29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan



COP-10, Nagoya, Japan