



2010 - International Year of Biodiversity in Poland

United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. In efforts to promote the Year in Poland, joined both the individuals and entities involved in development of various educational forms in the field of environmental protection. These include, among others, the regional centers for environmental protection, national and landscape parks, State Forest units, environmental NGOs as well as the entities involved in cultural goods protection (in the area of cultural heritage and landscape protection).

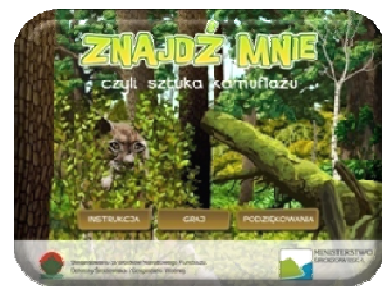
Ministry of the Environment in June 2010 conducted a study about "The State of awareness and attitudes of Poles towards the loss of biodiversity." Research shows that the state of consciousness of Poles in the biodiversity is rather low. Survey showed that only 19% of adult Poles declared the knowledge of the term "biological diversity". Poorly are recognized as well, causes and consequences of biodiversity loss. Poles feel being poorly informed about biodiversity. Therefore, it is necessary to educate the public about the nature and importance of biodiversity. On the basis of the report, a multimedia presentation has been prepared, that contains the most interesting and critical data. The project is available in two languages - Polish and English, at the address http://info.mos.gov.pl/prezentacje_edu/.

Ministry of the Environment has implemented a public campaign on biodiversity, in which were conducted the following activities:

1. Competition "An unusual class of biological diversity " for NGOs, national parks, landscape parks and forestry schools to conduct educational campaign targeting biodiversity;



2. Photo competition 'Biodiversity is Life' accompanied by post-competition exhibition in cities: Warsaw, Augustow, Hel, Karpacz, Krakow and Lodz;
3. Poster exhibition "Biodiversity and Climate" which has been presented, among others in the Parliament and the Botanic Garden in Powsin.
4. Summer billboard campaign in Pomerania, which was to draw attention of tourists to the problems associated with the protection of nature and its threat. In frame of shares were hung billboards and in selected cities, were carried out the happenings on the subject of biodiversity.
5. Educational campaigns, such as Earth Day, Green Wave, Green Week, the Science Picnic. Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity was held in Warsaw ZOO. Visitors could observed the lives of animals , and could take part in educational games and activities.
6. Package of games for children about biodiversity -"Jabłuskowe memory" shows the old varieties of apple trees for children, "Domino butterflies " presents the butterflies which found in Poland and an interactive game, "Camouflage", which gives the opportunity to learn about the life of animals in their natural environment.

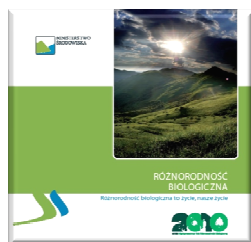


7. Educational package for teachers of biology and geography of high schools on subject of European Ecological Network Natura 2000 which provides assistance in preparing the lesson on wildlife conservation, while students become familiar with the issues regarding Natura 2000;



8. Calendars and information booklet titled "Biodiversity is life ";

9. The website of the Ministry of the Environment was formed under the special section at the address www.mos.gov.pl/bioroznorodnosc where you can find the information on biodiversity and the current events organized within the celebration of the Year;



10. Polish Post has issued postcards to promote the International Year of Biodiversity;

As part of promotional and communication activities preparing to the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in May 2010, a visit of foreign journalists to the Polish national parks was organized. The visit was aimed at building the image of Polish, as a country with unique natural resources;

App. 850 000 people were covered by the educational and promotional activities within the campaign on biodiversity carried out by the Ministry of Environment. These actions contributed to the strengthening of citizen involvement in efforts to protect and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Educational campaign to promote the International Year for Biological Diversity has also organized a Center for Environmental Studies at Warsaw University. The campaign under the patronage of the Minister of the Environment and the Secretary - General of UNESCO was partially funded by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. The campaign included:

1. Poster Competition for the Year 2010. The winning posters were printed and disseminated; Posters were presented at an exhibition of entries;

2. A series of open lectures "Biodiversity in many scenes ". The content of the lectures was published in a book edited by Dr. Anna Kalinowska;
3. National conference "Speaking on Biological Diversity - not only in the year 2010 " for popularizing a wide range of issues related to biodiversity and the publication of speeches in book form;
4. Developed program for teachers to facilitate the observation of biological diversity in the field under the European Union - Biodiversity Education and Awareness to Grow a Living Environment - BEAGLE.

In celebration of International Year of Biodiversity also joined in the service of nature conservation, National Forests, scientific institutions and NGOs.

The most interesting activities conducted by the national parks are:

1. Competition promoting biodiversity protection in the national parks – ‘Biodiversity and landscape diversity of the Polish national parks’ organized in the Bieszczady National Park;
2. All-Poland photo competition and post-competition exhibition – ‘Biodiversity and landscape diversity of the Bieszczady National Park and its buffer zone’
3. The following events took place in the Wigry National Park:
 - workshops for teachers in the area of presentation of the environmental values of the park with particular focus on the needs of biodiversity protection within the area of the Wigry National Park;
 - ‘Earth Day’ in the Wigry National Park focused on gaining knowledge on biodiversity of the Park;
 - ‘Summer Environmental Academy’ – workshops for children and their teachers from the Wigry National Park and other areas of the Suwalskie region.
4. Within the celebrations of the United Nations’ International Year of Biodiversity, the Bialowieza National Park completed in 2010 several own events and participated in the activities taken by the other institutions:
 - February – training for teachers on ‘Improving biodiversity education – preparation to conduct school field environmental observations. The training was focused on participation of the Bialowieza National Park in two project being delivered by the University Centre for Environmental Studies of the Warsaw University within the BEAGLE EU Project;

- April – stand of the Bialowieza National Park on the Earth Day Festive held on the Pola Mokotowskie in Warsaw – organization of competitions and events on biodiversity of the Bialowieza National Park and ‘climate-friendly behaviors’, supporting maintenance of biodiversity (number of participants: app. 10 000 people);
 - May – popular science seminary with participation of the high school and secondary school students of the Bialowieza Forest Euroregion, scientific and educational employees of the Park (number of participants: 80 people);
 - May – training for the Park employees – ‘Invasive plant species in the Bialowieza Forest’ as a threat to biodiversity within delivery of the project - ‘Establishment of joint platform for information exchange and the system of vocational trainings in the national parks’ (Action 5.4, Priority 5 of the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2007 – 2013) project (number of participants: 20 people);
 - September – November – carrying-out of the environmental knowledge competition at the Voivodship level for the secondary school students on ‘Biodiversity and forms of nature protection in Poland’ (number of participants: 500 people);
 - November – publishing of the ‘Experiencing the Bialowieza Forest Biodiversity’ educational package for the secondary and upper secondary schools students and their teachers (volume: 2500 copies).
5. Publishing of the ‘Biodiversity of Biebrza Meadows’ educational package by the Biebrza National Park;
 6. Environmental knowledge competition organized by the Biebrza National Park – ‘Biodiversity and forms of nature protection in Poland’;
 7. Scientific Conference in the Ojców National Park – ‘Limits of human interference in the protected areas. Principles and management schemes’;
 8. Organization by the Kampinos National Park of 112 thematic classes for app. 2800 participants “Fauna and flora of the Kampinos National Park” and publishing in the ‘Kampinos Forest’ - quarterly newspaper of the series of articles focused on celebrations of the Biodiversity Year, provided with logo of the International Year of Biodiversity;
 9. Organization by the Wielkopolski National Park of a series of classes in the ‘Forest School’ in April and May focused on biodiversity, its threats and the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
 10. Educational actions taken by the Slowinski National Park between April and August 2010 (total number of participants exceeded 8000 people), which covered:
 - exhibition of graphic works for students and teachers of elementary and secondary schools as well as laboratory classes within the ‘Nature on Touch’ natural camp – ‘Biodiversity collection of the Slowinski National Park’;

- outdoor event in a form of team competition for students and teachers of elementary and secondary schools as well as workshops for students and teachers within the Globe Programme – ‘Species, biocenosis and landscape diversity in the Slowinski National Park’;
- workshops for the participants of the Earth Day celebrations held in Warsaw – ‘Biodiversity Book of the Slowinski National Park’.

11. Carrying-out of the ‘Karkonosze National Park – Biodiversity Centre’ Educational Programme between May and November 2010, covering as follows:

- carrying-out of social debate on the territory of the Karkonosze National Park in May 2010 within the international actions of local debates on the importance of the selected ecosystems for local communities and participation of these communities in the actions for maintaining biodiversity;
- Biodiversity Action Day, ecological picnic on the occasion of Biodiversity Year (more detailed report annexed);
- ‘Biodiversity of Karkonosze Mountains’ - a series of lectures;
- ‘Karkonosze School of Biodiversity’ field workshops for teachers;
- organization of temporary exhibitions and film shows;
- organization of 5 educational festivals – ‘Karkonosze – the Centre of Biodiversity’
- reprint of 3000 copies of 5 popular educational materials each – Fauna, Flora and Nature 2000 in the Karkonosze National Park and ‘Bird Gates’ and ‘Peatbogs of Karkonosze’;

12. Carrying-out of two-part training for the employees of the Polesie National Park focused on the European Network Nature 2000, aiming at building the attitudes and activity of the society for the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity;

13. "Biodiversity – Why Still Bother" meeting held in Brussels, co-organized by the Museum and Institute of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences;

Within the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity, the State Forests carried out the following actions in 2010:

- forest regeneration in the area of more than 50 000 ha;
- conversion of monolithic stand of trees into mixed forest in the area of more than 10 500 ha;
- afforestation of 891 ha area;
- development and delivery of tree species restitution and protection, including (yew) *Taxus baccata*;

- delivery of the ‘Programme for establishment and keeping of *Acer* archives of importance for the Polish forestry” and of the ‘Programme for Polish forests biodiversity maintenance testing’;
- Conference “European Union for conservation of biological diversity of Polish forests” organized by the State Forests;
- co-organization of the ‘Earth Day’ and the exhibition promoting the successes of the State Forests in the area of improving biodiversity.

The General Directorate for Environmental Protection carried out the following actions:

- preparation of the study for the meeting of the Parliamentary Commission for the Protection of Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry – ‘Evaluation of the progresses of works on establishing the Nature 2000 sites’;
- launching of the ‘Keep Balance, Discover Nature’ initiative, aiming at raising environmental awareness and knowledge, in particular on the Nature 2000 Network by at least 20% among at least 500 thousand of Polish students by means of providing young people, in particular students, with access to information on sustainable development, biodiversity and Nature 2000;.
- organization of seminary on ‘Climate changes and biodiversity – threats, opportunities and directions of future actions’.



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