

IYB 2010 Celebrations in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had the honor to organize many activities relating to biodiversity, throughout the year. Here is a list of the activities they took part in.

On the 9th of February 2010 a stakeholder meeting was held to discuss the Fourth National Report to the UNCBD. The IYB was introduced / launched locally and stakeholder organizations were encouraged to become involved in activities to raise biodiversity awareness in celebration. The workshop brought to the fore many of the causes, drivers and impacts of biodiversity loss in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and generated much discussion and debate about what should be done to halt and reverse the observed trends.

On April 29th 2010, a team from the United States Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago as well as the Peace Corps and members of the Environmental Management Department visited several primary and secondary schools around the Country doing short presentations, games and activities centered on biodiversity. The schools were also given posters and other environmental education materials donated by the US Embassy.

On Saturday June 5th 2010, World Environment Day, under the theme *Many Species. One Planet. One Future.*, was celebrated with a mini-fair and exhibition at Heritage Square, in the center of capital, Kingstown. The exhibition featured stalls on biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and ozone depletion and linkages were made between these issues. Passers-by were given brochures and information packages, and there were interactive games and quizzes.

On August 19th, 2010, staff from the Environmental Management Department traveled to the Dark View Falls and park to facilitate an environmental education activity for children and teenagers who were part of the Hot Vibes Summer Camp. The young people were lectured about ecosystem and the services they provide. They were then given an opportunity to create diagrammatic representations of ecosystems and to lecture their peers about the significance of the linkages they described. IYB Pins, pens and brochures and eco-bags were distributed as tokens to reward their participation.

On September 10th, 2010, an activity similar to that held on World Environment Day was held at Heritage Square, Kingstown as part of the Caribbean Wellness week. Linkages were made between the environment and in particular, biodiversity and wellness. There were numerous display boards, posters and one-to-one discussions with visitors to the booths.