

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY CELEBRATION STATUS REPORT

Background

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity in the city.

The objectives for celebrating IYB are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity for human well-being and promote understanding of the economic value of biodiversity
- Enhance public knowledge of the threats to biodiversity and means to conserve it
- Encourage organizations (and through them individuals) to take direct or indirect biodiversity conservation activities

As part of celebrating 2010 as The International Year of Biodiversity, Johannesburg City Parks Environment Conservation Department through The Environmental Education Unit and partners such as Rand Water, Johannesburg Zoo, City of Johannesburg, Department of Forestry and Fisheries, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Delta EE Centre have identified annual programmes and projects which will be implemented as part of addressing biodiversity issues within the city of Johannesburg.

Projects/Programmes identified towards the celebration of IBB are:

Johannesburg City Parks
Registration No. 2000/028782/08
(Association Incorporated under Section 21)

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Parks • Cemeteries • Environmental Conservation • Street Trees

Directors

G Zabala (Chairperson), L L Williamson (Managing), M S Bahula, A C Carolissen, Prof H C Kasan, N N Mabaso, S M B Nyalunga, T B Nzimakwe, V B Ramsingh, K Venier, M Sayed Hassan (Company Secretary).

1. School programmes

This programme involves inviting schools across the city to participate in a 3 hour environmental education programme at JCP's nature reserves including the EE centers. 20 schools were targeted for this programme. Out of the 20 schools targeted, the transport for 13 schools was paid by Marketing Department and seven are invited to participate in the programme at their own cost. So far 3 have paid for their bus. Various biodiversity themes such as. : Biodiversity – what is it and why does it matter?, Plants and animals in the ecosystem, Biodiversity Ecosystem and Biodiversity in Grasslands are facilitated to learners. The schools target and reached are:

NAME OF SCHOOL	AREA	DATE	GRADE	CENTRE	BEFICIARIES REACHED
Thembaletu P/S	Meadowlands	7/5	5	Kloofendal	95
Durban Deep P/S	Durban Deep	6/5	5	Kloofendal	62
Bonamelo P/S	Doornkop	13/5	5	Kloofendal	61
Masakane P/S	Zandspruit	17/5	5	Kloofendal	58
Emelang P/S	Braamfischerville	25/5	6	JBG EE	Still to be done
Bottom P/S	Kagiso Ridge	26/5	6	JBG EE	Still to be done
Dowling P/S	Westbury	27/5	6	JBG EE	Still to be done
Khulani P/S	Emdeni	12/05	7	KNR	62
Mbali P/S	Orange Farm	14/05	7	KNR	62
Realogile Secondary	Alexandra	28/04	10	REEC	60
Umghele Secondary	Ivory Park	29/04	10	REEC	45
Tsosoloso Secondary	EbonyPark	17/05	10	REEC	62
Diepsloot Secondary	Diesploit	06/05	10	REEC	63
St Peters Boys Prep	Paulshof	12/05	5	REEC	78
Brescia House School	Bryston	07/05	7	REEC	67

Fetura P/S	Ridgeway	14/06	7	The Wilds	Still to be done
Gauteng College	Berea	15/06	7		
Regents P/S	Regents Park	17/06	7	The Wilds	Still to be done
Turffontein P/S	Turffontein		7	The Wilds	Still to be done
TOTAL REACHED SO FAR					775

2. Community Engagement, Education and Awareness at Kaalspruit River

Kaalspruit River is one of the rivers where conservation of biodiversity is a challenge due to the state of the river. As one of the activities planned for the celebration of IYB, the following activities were planned and are currently implemented near the Kaalspruit River:

• Education and awareness Programme

Education and awareness programme on Water pollution, impact on biodiversity, waste management/illegal dumping issues and the dos and don'ts when near a river e.g. not using the river as a dumping site, no swimming are conducted through a door to door campaign to houses near Kaalspruit River. So far 11 Community Based Educators have been employed to run the education and awareness programme through door to door visits for two weeks. The project commenced on 13/05/2010 and will end on 27/05/2010. So far 1730 households were reached.

• Kaalspruit River Clean up

As part of the blitz programme a clean-up programme through the use of a contractor was conducted at Kaalspruit River. 3 Hectors of litter and debris was removed in the river as well as grass cutting. This was conducted parallel to EE & A programme.

3. Exhibitions

An exhibition on Biodiversity was developed and will be displayed at parks and malls in and around the City. So far the exhibition was displayed at Head Office for JCP Staff reaching 23 JCP staff members. For malls and parks the display will be conducted as per the attached dates:

Malls

Mall	Area	Date of Exhibition	Responsible Person/EES
Trade Route Mall	Lenasia	25/05/2010	Mosa Maruping
Protea Mall	Protea South	26/05/2010	Mosa Maruping
Palm Springs Mall	Orange Farm	27/05/2010	Mosa Maruping
Dobsonville Mall	Dobsonville	28/05/2010	Mosa Maruping
Norwood Mall	Norwood	27/05/2010	Moliehi Moonyane
Eastgate	Eastgate	28/05/2010	Moliehi Moonyane
Marlboro Shopping Centre	Marlboro	20/05/2010	Nicole

Parks

Park	Area	Date of Exhibition	Responsible Person/EES
Brixton Park	Brixton	27/05/2010	Kogie
Alex Juskei Park	Alex	28/05/2010	Nicole

Other parks will be added on the list especially regional parks across the City for the Year

4. Celebration of IYB

Company IYB celebration is on 21/05/2010 at JBG EE & Research Centre. The programme of the day is two fold. The morning session involves school programmes at the JBG Wetland area where learners will be educated on biodiversity issues by staff from JCP, Delta EE

Centre, Rand Water and Jhb Zoo. 120 learners and 60 community members are participating in the programme.

The afternoon programme will be a formal programme where the MMC, MD and OE will address and offer biodiversity speeches to guests invited for IYB celebration.

Other projects that are targeted for the Year are:

- Wetland Rehabilitation
- River Health &
- Alien Plant Control

These programmes will be conducted for the 2010/2011 financial year. Some are currently running and other require budget for implementation in the coming financial year. All partners are having representatives who will assist in the implementation some of the programmes/projects.