



GOVERNMENT OF ST. LUCIA
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Block 'A'
Sir Stanislaus James Building
Waterfront
Castries, St Lucia

Tel: (758) 468 4124
Fax: (758) 453 2035
e-mail adminag@candw.lc

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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TO: Mr Ahmed Djoghalf

ORGANISATION: CBD Secretariat

FROM: Hube + Emmanuel - Permanent Secretary

SUBJECT: St. Lucia's Report on IYB 2010

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

MESSAGE:

As Requested

For Your Comments

Per Our Conversation

For Your Information

For Appropriate Action

For Your Attention

International Year of Biodiversity Activities 2010 – Saint Lucia

We commenced our celebrations with an article on International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) which was published in the Voice of Saint Lucia in the Ministry of Agriculture's column, the first weekend in 2010. Subsequently several articles on Biodiversity were published in the said paper.

Saint Lucia collaborated with representatives of the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, to hand over posters on Biodiversity to the Library Services in Saint Lucia, on Earth Day 2010, for the seventeen community libraries of the island. That was done by the Public Affairs Officer of that embassy to the Director of Library Services and her staff, at the Central Library in downtown Castries. A talk on biodiversity was also given to the Form Four classes of the Saint Joseph's Convent on that day where a video on wildlife of Trinidad and Tobago was presented to the students. The students really appreciated that intervention.

Churches were officially asked by the Permanent Secretary to give talks to their congregations on biodiversity and its importance in commemoration of International Day of Biodiversity, the 22nd May 2010. Churches were given posters, brochures and other memorabilia produced by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for their congregations, to appreciate the year.

All government ministries of the country were sent posters from the CBD Secretariat for IYB, to display in prominent positions for their patrons and workers to see, to help highlight the year.

Four biodiversity Postage Stamps for IYB highlighting special endemic species of birds, iguana, plant and beetle were launched for sale on Friday the 11th June by the General Post Office, which had collaborated with the Biodiversity office of the Ministry of Agriculture in producing the stamps. The three photographers including one individual from the Forestry Department who took two of the four shots, were given copies of pictures of the stamps plus the first day covers plus copies of the stamps, on the 11th June, day of release of the stamps, in a handover ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture addressed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Biodiversity office partnered with the SDE in celebrating World Environment Day which theme focused on Biodiversity. The Biodiversity Coordinator took part in a panel discussion on Biodiversity on the national radio station, Radio St. Lucia's Agenda along with two other panellists.

The Biodiversity Office also hosted a one day national biodiversity symposium on the 17th June, focusing on presentations related to biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation. Dr Barbara Graham, retired Sub regional Coordinator of the FAO, gave the featured address and over sixty persons from all walks of life were in attendance. On that day, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture also highlighted the importance of soil conservation to Biodiversity in honor of World Desertification Day which was celebrated as well on that day.

In Collaboration with Media Impact International, an evening dedicated to Biodiversity was held on Thursday the 6th May at the Folk Research Centre, to culminate an entertainment education workshop that was being hosted here for over fifty individuals from the Caribbean region, who are participating in the regional My Island/My Community program that is focusing on Biodiversity and Climate Change. Cokes and Angel Bot, the Cecilian Rays and Masqueraders from the Vide Bouteille Primary Schools were some of the artistes that featured biodiversity acts.

On World Health Day, a press release by the biodiversity coordinator on the national radio station, Radio St. Lucia, was done on the importance of biodiversity to health.

The My Island/My Community Coalition of Saint Lucia held an exhibition in Dennery on Biodiversity Issues in December 2010 during observation of Democracy Day.

The Biodiversity Office collaborated with the Saint Lucia National Trust to host a Youth Environment Forum on Biodiversity in July on the World Environment Day theme for 2010, during the schools' summer vacation. Presentations on biodiversity were made by various resource persons, including the biodiversity coordinator. The students ranged in ages from 7 to 17 years. The students were also taken on field trips to areas of biodiversity interest. The students produced original art work, poems, songs on biodiversity that were presented at the closing ceremony.

St. Lucia was featured as the country of the Caribbean with successful implementation of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), in an analysis of implementation of NBSAPs, undertaken by the United Nations University (UNU) on behalf of the CBD. That document was presented to the Conference of Parties (COP) 10 in Nagoya, Japan.