

“Raising Biodiversity to the Next Level – How the Tongans Do It”

Tonga’s Ministry of Environment & Climate Change conducted a variety of activities to mark the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in Tonga. In the National Environmental Awareness Week celebrated nationally in the first week of June of every year, coincided with the World Environment Day on the 5th June 2010. This year’s National Environment Awareness Week was from 31st May – 5th June 2010.

Activities that were conducted included Primary School visits where the Ministry visited several primary schools around Tonga and presented biodiversity talks, Ozone Depleting Substances presentation. We also got the school kids to plant trees around their school ground to mark the importance of biodiversity. The staff of the Ministry did not miss out in planting some trees to remind themselves vital role biodiversity has for themselves and the environment.



Planting of trees were not just limited to inland areas, we also planted mangroves along the low lying inundated villages in Tonga. This served two purposes, increase biodiversity and increase adaptation to climate change.



We held a clean up day, where the city coastal area was cleaned up by picking of rubbish to prevent them from flying into the nearby sea and damaging the marine biodiversity!



We held an “Open Day” where a tent was erected in the beachfront and all biodiversity related Government Ministry’s and Civil Society Organisations were asked to join and display their work. Included Government agencies were Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries, the Waste Authority Limited, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources. There was also a “Face Painting” booth at the Open Day where biodiversity images were painted on the faces of young children to add a “fun element” to the day.



