



## Launch of Commemorative Stamps for the International Year of Biodiversity

In commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB), the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment in collaboration with the Environmental Management Authority, the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resource, and Public Utilities launched a historic series of Postal Stamps on Wednesday May 19th, 2010 at the Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre's Savannah Terrace, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The commemorative stamp series exhibits the biological resources of Trinidad and Tobago and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. More significantly the stamps demonstrate the importance of the country's rich biological resources to the overall socioeconomic growth of the nation, livelihoods and health of citizens, consistent with the themes for the IDB - "Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation" and for IYB -- "Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is our Life". The stamp series reflects various aspects of our agricultural diversity featuring the cocoa industry, fisheries sector, short-term agricultural crops and livestock production.

Our game species resources have been reflected in the wild hog (*Tayassu tajacu*) and agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*) stamps. Areas of special conservation protection status such as the Soldado Rock Game Sanctuary, the Caroni Swamp and Nariva Swamp Ramsar Sites are also featured on the stamps. Our fauna that are sought after in the international horticultural markets are featured through two orchid stamps. The country's rich diversity of birds is also depicted, as well as some of our aesthetic coastal and marine features.

