

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE

CABINET

CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE N°1

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURE PROTECTION

CABINET

TECHNICAL ADVISER N°1

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Press Release

Cameroon celebrated the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity on **12 May**, at the foot of Mount Fako, under the auspices of the Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature and under the banner “**Biodiversity and Development** “. Celebration activities were marked by wide sensitization talks on the importance of biodiversity and the need to halt its increasing loss and a field trip to the Bakingili Community forest where a cross-section of Cameroon wealth of biodiversity is found.

Although the International Biodiversity Day is 22 May, countries in the world were invited to celebrate this day at their convenience. Cameroon therefore retained 12 May 2010, as the day for Action.

It is important to note that activities to mark celebrations of the Year of Biodiversity will take place through out the year;

As part of activities to celebrate the Biodiversity Day, a national media competition (audio-visual and print) was organized and Mrs. Tchonko Becky Bissong's CRTV Centre radio programme “Population and Development” won the prize with her 26-minutes production titled “Biodiversity and Fifty Years of Development in Cameroon”.

There was also a series of quizzes, essay and painting, competitions organised for university, secondary and primary school students where the best sixty participants drawn from both public and the private schools joined the other participants for the field trip to the Bakingili Community forest. The laureates were officially recognized during a biodiversity cultural evening with special prizes, ranging from laptops, books and other art works of the South West Region of Cameroon.

These activities were part of the global mosaic of experiences to be presented to highlight the stakes of biodiversity during deliberations at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity convened for Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

The Event was sponsored by the government of Cameroon in collaboration with, GTZ, IUCN, WWF and other partners.