



ENVIRONMENTAL GENERAL DIRECTION

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Program of Activities Developed in 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity



International Year of Biodiversity

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The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. It's a celebration of life on Earth and the value of biodiversity to our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to ensure the variety of life on Earth: Biodiversity.

However, biodiversity continues to be lost to an unprecedented rate, threatening the planet's ability to continue to provide their goods and services. The current extinction rate is estimated at up to 1,000 times the natural rate of extinction. We may be entering a new era of the sixth global mass extinction of species and the first to be generated by humans. If the current loss rates continue, it is expected that an area of 1.3 thousand million hectares worldwide - about 1.5 times in the United States - will completely lose their original levels of biodiversity by 2050. This loss of biodiversity is worsened by climate change. More than 30 percent of all species could disappear before the end of this century due to climate change. The impact and consequences of this unprecedented loss of capacity of our planet to continue to provide its products and services that humans take for granted are unknown to the general public and policy makers. It is for this reason that the UN General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, in order to engage people around the world in the fight to protect life on Earth. The objectives of this unique event in the life of the Convention on Biological Diversity is to increase awareness about the importance of biodiversity, to communicate the human cost of its permanent loss, and for the people, particularly youth and children involved in efforts to conservation and sustainable use of our natural heritage and to protect our lives and the lives of our children. As the slogan of the International Year reminds us, "Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life."

Cape Verde, being a part of this Convention and also due to the fact of being concerned with preserving the environment and its biodiversity Nationally, also defined several activities that meet the objectives of the Convention, such as:

- **International Environmental Faire (Theme – Preserving our Biodiversity)**
- **Outdoor with the Endemic Biodiversity and habitat of Cape Verde**
- **Lectures in Schools (secondary and UniCV)**
- **Eco-schools (primary schools)**
- **Drawing Contest (primary schools)**

- **Ecological Marathon**
- **Planting Trees Campaign**
- **Green Wave – demonstration and exhibition**
- **Conferences (University of Cape Verde)**
- **Film Projections (documentaries)**
- **Photography Contest**
- **Other activities (school gardens and/or municipal campaigns of observation and conservation of birds and turtles)**
- **Disclosure on TVs, Radios and Newspapers**
- **Production of awareness materials**

These activities are intended to cover all social groups and all sectors, public or private, thus having a complete opening and wide dissemination of the topic.

For the **Environmental Fair** in the year 2010, that is on its 3rd edition, and will be held as usual on the 4th, 5th and 6th of June, celebrating the International Day for the Environment, will be focusing on the International Year of Biodiversity, the theme suggested for this third edition will be meeting what was proposed by the Secretariat of the Convention, GREEN WAVE. At the end of the environmental fair, we are expecting a good promotion and awareness by the National Parks to explain the importance of the preservation of species and habitats and also, the recycling of paper, plastic, tins, glass, raising the awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity.

Communication through **posters and billboards** will be a quick approach to inform the public about our existing and endemic biodiversity which life's and habitats are endangered. So, spreading over all municipalities in the country, about 22, we want a strategic point allowing the maximum number of people to know a small part of our endemic biodiversity. A total of 30 billboards and 300 posters are being distributed throughout Cape Verde.

Lectures in schools will be very important tools in order for the knowledge on biodiversity in Cape Verde to reach each house, and therefore aware all about our responsibility as citizens to respect our planet with actions that view the sustainable

development of both: the country and the world. With each delegation of the Ministry being responsible, we will be managing to get closer to all secondary schools in the country.

A **competition called "Eco-schools"**, will be launched amongst primary schools to encourage all students to preserve the environment and give it its proper value. Each school should develop several activities that are focused in the preservation of biodiversity. All activities will be followed by local juries, and at the end of the year the school that wins will be presented with a prize that will be defined by the Directorate General for Environment.

Each school must register to participate in the drawing competition which focuses on Cape Verde's Biodiversity, the selected designs will then be published in national stamps, to be circulated in all the islands.

On the 22nd of May we will be doing an **Ecological Marathon** in all the islands, this marathon will have a treasure hunt which consists on observing species during the walk. Divided into groups, this marathon has as main objective observing our environment and identifying different species, through questions and answers.

The **Tree Planting Campaign** will be happening on the 16th September, commemorating the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The planting campaign will be of national level and will be occurring in order to increase our forest boundaries, and therefore preserve our environment and our ozone layer.

A **green wave** will be invading our island on the 22nd of April (International Earth Day) and on the 24th of November (International Science Day) with demonstrations and exhibitions, highlighting the importance of preserving our global biodiversity, and especially, the National endemic biodiversity.

The **Conferences (University of Cape Verde), projection of films (documentaries) and exhibitions (Earth Day; Food - Food Safety)**, will be the means of disseminating Cape Verde's biodiversity. This will generate debate, raise awareness and responsibility throughout all citizens in the preservation of biological diversity.

The **Photography Contest** will be reaching another class of the population, leading participants to pay greater attention and to look differently to our biodiversity. The winner will be exhibiting his photographs in the exhibition that will be held in November.

Other activities (school gardens and / or municipal campaigns observation and conservation of birds and turtles) are important activities for the general population's knowledge, which will contact with species that need our attention and therefore raise awareness towards the preservation. The idea is to give special attention to younger ages because we believe they are the country's future: to create a generation that respects the environment and protects its biodiversity.

Disclosure on TVs, radios and newspapers will be a real asset to this mega campaign for the International Biodiversity Year. With this, we will be reaching the entire population stating the importance of biodiversity at national and global level.

The **production of awareness materials** like as sweaters, hats, pens, bags, calendars, etc will be distributed at national level. These distributions will be made in schools, universities, gardens, fairs, and others, with intent to wider dissemination of the International Biodiversity Year and the importance of preserving biodiversity.

Calendared of activities

Months	Activities	OBS	Partner
January	Preparation and release of the activities that will be developed whit the MADRRM Delegations		
February	Outdoors divulging the International Biodiversity Year for 10 months	Contact the Town Hall to be partners	MADRRM Delegation and the Town Hall
Marc	Green Wave – demonstrations and exhibitions in schools and Universities all the country	Contact the MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education and UniCV	MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education and UniCV
April	"Eco-schools" Contest (Eco-friendly Schools) Each school should develop several activities focused in the preservation of biodiversity Green wave Exhibitions about biodiversity	Contact the MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education and UniCV Contact the MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education and UniCV	Contact the MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education and UniCV NGOs, ENAPOR, INIDA, INDP, UniCV
May	Ecological Marathon (treasure hunt witch consists on observing species during the walk) Conference in UniCV and films	On the 22 nd of May International Day of Biodiversity Contact the MADRRM Delegation, Natural Parks, UniCV	Delegation of MADRRM, Education Minister and UniCV, ONGs, Natural Park (Serra Malagueta, Monte Gordo and Fogo)
Jun	Environmental Fair: Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is		Environmental Deligations of

	our life Plantation of endemic species in school and kinder garden	Contact Natural Park, INIDA, Education Minister	MADRRM Ministry. Natural Parks, INIDA, Ministry of Education,
July	Photography Contest – biodiversity of Cape Verde	All classes of the national population	MADRRM Delegations
August	Children of kinder gardens observe turtles and birds being born	Contact MADRRM Delegations, Ministry of Education, SOS Tartaruga, Natura 2000, Naturária, INDP, Turtle Foundation, Tartarugas de Santiago	MADRRM Delegations, Ministry of Education, SOS Tartaruga, Natura 2000, Naturária, INDP, Turtle Foundation, Tartarugas de Santiago
September	Tree Planting Campaign at a National Level	Commemorating the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	MADRRM Delegations, Ministry of Education, NGO's, Associations, INIDA, Natural Parks, UniCV,
October	COP 10 – Biodiversity Conference of Parties	Convention International Meetings	
November	Green wave - exhibitions	Collaboration whit associations, NGO's, schools, MADRRM Delegations, ENAPOR	MADRRM Delegation, Ministry of Education, NGO's, Associations, ENAPOR
December	The end – Balance-sheet		

