

28 February 2010

The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, has prepared the plan celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, and has undertaken several initiatives on celebrating the Year.

Printed materials so far:

- The NCS has produced the booklet on the Gilf El-Kebir Protected Area located in the southwest of Egypt, and it is considered as the largest protected area in Egypt (48.000km²). The booklet is produced in Arabic, English and Italian.
- The NCS in cooperation with the Medicinal Plants Project have produced an Agenda that contains information about the Medicinal Plants Project as well as the protected areas of Egypt.
- The NCS has produced the Wetland booklet in Arabic entitled: Caring about wetland as a response to climate change.
- The NCS has produced a booklet on Agro-biodiversity in Arabic that will help to highlight the Agro-biodiversity in Egypt and raise awareness about the significance of agricultural genetic resources.
- The NCS has produced fact sheets on several species of fauna and flora.
- The NCS in cooperation with the Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds Project have produced notebooks carrying information about the soaring birds for primary school use.

Events:

- In partnership with the Arab countries, the NCS have participated in a two days workshop in January 2010 on the updating and revision of the strategic plan of the Convention of Biodiversity for the post 2010 period.
- The NCS have participated in the Green and Sustainable Tourism conference in January 2010.
- The NCS has organised a three-day national training programme on water bird identification and census techniques in the Zaranik Protected Area since February 2010.
- The NCS has organised the first national campaign to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity on the occasion of wetland day, February 2010. The campaign took place over two days and hosted 150 Egyptian scouts.
- The NCS in cooperation with the US Forest Services have organised a week long workshop on interpretation skills for 21 Rangers responsible for Public Awareness in different protected areas in Egypt.
- The NCS has invited the interested national, regional and the international donor countries seeking their contribution in funding the planned activities for the International Year of Biodiversity.
- The NCS has invited members of the Egyptian Parliament to participate in a guided tour to discover Egypt biodiversity in Wadi El-Gemal Protected Area.
- The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has selected the Egyptian focal point on the Programme of Work on Protected Areas to participate in the Protected Area Curriculum Workshop in Costa Rica, February 2010, in order to develop an innovative e-learning programme for global use.