

2010 IYB Celebrations in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the first countries that are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which has also ratified the convention. Since then, the country has taken all the necessary steps to strengthen relevant institutions such as the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC), which is fully engaged in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilization and related issues. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, IBC has developed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and has incorporated the CBD in to its National Agricultural and Environmental Policies and Strategies. The country has been fully engaged and is still making its utmost effort to implement the convention at national, regional and local levels.

In line with the UN's decision, the national focal point to the CBD, the Ethiopian Institute of Biodiversity Conservation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders has so far carried out the following International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) celebrations.

1. The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation in relation to the 2010 IYB conducted a two-day workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilization activities to National Regional States from 27-28 January 2010. Presidents or representatives of Regional States, Bureau Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development, Heads of Environmental Protection Authorities of each Regional State, Mayors or representatives of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa City administrations, Directors of both Federal and Addis Ababa Environmental Protection Authorities, Local and International NGOs engaged in Biodiversity conservation, Environmental Protection and related sectors took part in that important workshop.

Governmental and Private Media Agencies filmed and documented the overall processes of the workshop and have already started airing and releasing the event through electronic, press, radio and televised media which is believed to raise the awareness of policy makers and the general public regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and ecosystem services to human well-being.



Partial view of the workshop participants



Participants visiting IBC's gene bank after the event

2. On the 5th of June 2010, a panel discussion was organized by the Institute of Biodiversity conservation, Forum for Environment and Bio Economy Africa

at the Yeha Institute of Technology Hall. This event was also celebrated in commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity and World Environment day under the Theme “Many Species, One Planet, One Future”. Papers related to Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental protection endeavors were also presented by the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation, Federal Environmental protection Authority, Bio Economy Africa, Herbarium Department of Addis Ababa University and Ethio-wetlands.



IBC A/Director General presenting a paper on current status of Bd Conservation endeavors

The panel discussion was followed by field visit and also display materials exhibited by students of Yeha Institute of Technology within the Bio Economy Africa.

Both the field visit and the demonstrations exhibited by the students focused on Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental protection activities which really attracted the attention of the panelists.



Panelists visiting Exhibition prepared by students for the event

Bio Economy Africa, Forum for Environment, Greener Ethiopia, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network, Population, Health and Environment Consortium-Ethiopia, Youth Network for Sustainable Development, Institute for Sustainable Development, Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Federal Environmental Protection Authority were some of the stakeholders who contributed and had actively involvement in the occasion.

3. On the 9th of June 2010, the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation organized and hosted an important workshop to commemorate the International Day of Biodiversity and Celebration of the 2010 World Environment Day on the Theme “*Teff: The Story of Ethiopia’s Biodiversity*”. Relevant stakeholders who took part in the workshop were: Bio Economy Africa, Forum for Environment, Oromia Forestry and wildlife Enterprise, Greener Ethiopia, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network, Population, Health and

Environment Consortium-Ethiopia, Youth Network for Sustainable Development, Institute for Sustainable Development and the Netherlands Embassy through its first secretary.



Power-point presentation during the IYB celebration event

4. As a continuation of the above events, planting seedlings of indigenous tree species has been carried out on the 26th of June 2010 in Finfine special Zone of Oromia regional state at a place called Wechecha, where the head of state, President Girma W/giorgis and other senior government officials participated.



President of FDRE officially opening the IYB celebration and tree planting event



IBC's A/Director General delivering speech in relation to the IYB Day and planting event in the presence of the President of the FDRE.

According to the Oromo culture (the largest ethnic group in the country), planting activity commenced after Oromo elders' blessings.



elders delivering their blessings for the IYB celebration event

All the above mentioned stakeholders have had active participation in the IYB celebration and planting event. The Ethiopian Press, Radio and Television Agency and other Private Media Agencies gave sufficient coverage during all the events which will be broadcasted to politicians, the general public in general and custodians of biological resources in particular.



Partial view of the IYB celebration and planting event undertaken at Wechecha area, 30 km west of Addis Ababa.

The event was celebrated in commemoration of the International Day of Biodiversity with the Motto *“Tree planting to conserve Biodiversity and protection of the Environment for Sustainable Life”*.



Buses that transported participating stakeholders and youth network group to the IYB celebration site

5. On the 10th of June 2010, the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) in collaboration with Gambela National Regional State celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity. A senior expert representing IBC gave a detailed account of the contribution of biodiversity conservation to adapt to/ mitigate climate change for the benefit of human kind not only for the present generation but also for the generations to come as well. The message was conveyed to high-level regional government officials, various bureau heads, representatives of different local and International NGOs, community elders, representatives of the society from all walks of life, teachers, students, etc... Media people from both government and private sector have recorded/documentated the event using all

means of communication facilities for further airing for the sake of awareness creation.

6. Similarly, a group consisting of two senior experts and an audiovisual expert toured to Dire Dawa City Administration on the 22nd of June 2010 to celebrate the 2010 IYB with the people of the city administration and farming communities from nearby villages.



Students parading in commemoration of the event: the banner in Amharic says Biodiversity is the foundation of our life.

The experts of IBC gave detailed account of what Biodiversity is, the contribution of Environmental protection and Biodiversity conservation to mitigate Climate Change and for sustainable life of human well-being.



IBC's experts delivering their presentation to the audience

Senior politicians of the city administration, heads of the various city administrative offices including grass-root level leaders, Local and International NGOs' representatives, teachers, students, members of biodiversity and Environment clubs, local elders and renowned individuals representing various sections of the society attended the event colorfully.