

2010 IYB Celebrations in Ethiopia

In line with the UN's decision to celebrate year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), the national focal point to the CBD, the Ethiopian Institute of Biodiversity Conservation has celebrated the sixth event by conducting a two-day conference. The conference took place on the 29 and 30th of September 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa



Partial view of conference participants

The conference was officially opened by the representative of his Excellency Beshir Abdulahi, State Minister for Natural Resource Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Opening speech by the representative of H.E the State Minister

The conference was organized by the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation in collaboration with the Green Forum, a Network of Environmental NGOs working in Ethiopia. The event undertaken in relation to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity was colorfully celebrated under the Theme **“Connecting Biodiversity with people’s wellbeing”**.

Institute of Biodiversity's Acting Director General, Dr. Kassahun Embaye gave a detailed account of the establishment of IBC, accomplishments since its inception, current status of the country's biodiversity, implementation of the CBD and the like, in his keynote address.



Keynote address by Dr. Kassahun Embaye

Four papers were presented on Agro-biodiversity, Bio-cultural Diversity, Protected Areas and Biodiversity, and Gender and Biodiversity. Senior government officials, environmentalists representing GOs and NGOs, local elders from three different localities representing different ethnic groups, biodiversity experts and other professionals from related fields attended the

two-day conference, which was successfully concluded by drafting declarations that could contribute valuable input for decision making by planners and policy-makers in future environmental protection and biodiversity conservation related endeavors.



Paper presenter delivering his presentation to the participants