International Year of Biodiversity

National Biodiversity Strategy

In 2010, the Italian Ministry of Environment launched a process for the drafting and the adoption of a <u>National Biodiversity Strategy</u>. This process gathered the scientific community, the stakeholders and the public administration in order to achieve a shared and concrete outcome.

Three <u>territorial workshops</u> were held in Florence, Padova and Naples in April and May 2010. During these workshops participants discussed the key issues related to the targets and the working areas of the National Strategy. A further meeting on Protected Areas was held in the National Park of Circeo (central Italy).

The results of the above meetings were presented on the occasion of a <u>National Biodiversity Conference</u> that was held from 20 to 22 of May 2010 at "La Sapienza" University in Rome. During this event, scientists, stakeholders, public administrators and environmental organizations gave their further contribution to finalize the National Strategy. The President of the Italian Republic as well as the Italian Minister of Environment participated to the conference.

The National Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the Permanent Conference for the Relationships between State, the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces in October 2010. This national document represents an historic outcome for the protection of biological diversity and for the implementation of CBD.

Natura Aperta

The Italian Ministry of Environment organized also an initiative to raise public awareness in collaboration with National Parks and Protected Areas. This initiative, named "Natura Aperta", was held on 23rd of May throughout the country and included free visits of Protected Areas and Parks as well as many activities to raise public awareness. Most Protected Areas launched also other local events and initiatives during the whole year in order to promote the importance of protecting biodiversity and the benefits arising.

BiodiversaMente

The National Association of Scientific Museums together with WWF organized this initiative characterized by events in 188 museums, botanical gardens, research institutes. Its main goal was to show the fantastic biodiversity preserved in the collections for study, conservation, awareness raising. It was also an important occasion to show how many researchers and work stay behind these collections and the need to maintain this expertise and instruments.



TOTEM