

## International Day of Biodiversity 2010 – in Sweden

The International Day of Biodiversity was celebrated on 22 May at Skansen, Sweden's largest open air museum, in Stockholm. Skansen is a participant in Nature's Year, a collaboration between some 20 government agencies and stakeholder organisations. Nature's Year was launched in 2009 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sweden's first national parks and nature conservation legislation. In 2010, Nature's Year is focusing attention on the International Year of Biodiversity. On 22 May the organisations involved in Nature's Year participated in a programme at Skansen including exhibitions, music, guided animal and nature tours and other activities for children and adults. Information about nature experience and biodiversity activities arranged by the organisations is continuously updated during the year on the website [www.naturensar.se](http://www.naturensar.se). The collaboration is coordinated by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

The International Day of Biodiversity was also marked elsewhere in Sweden. An exhibition entitled Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Resilience opened at Naturum Dalarna. The exhibition was put together for the high-level meeting on biodiversity held in Strömstad during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in 2009, and is being shown by various actors in 2010. The *Livets vetenskaper* ('sciences of life') project, run jointly by the Swedish Biodiversity Centre and Uppsala University, celebrated the day in Uppsala with art performances, an exhibition and lectures by researchers. Several municipalities and local organisations also marked the day. Many Swedish national parks coordinated their activities with the celebration of National Parks Day on 24 May.

Sweden's largest initiative during the International Year of Biodiversity was launched on 4 June, two weeks after the celebration of 22 May. Inspired by Denmark and Norway, which have carried out similar projects in the past, Sweden's Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren sent postcards to local politicians around the country drawing attention to endangered species in Sweden's 290 municipalities and calling for stepped-up nature conservation efforts. Another part of the initiative is to encourage local actors to contribute good examples of how biodiversity and local development can go hand in hand. The initiative is presented on the Nature's Year website, [www.naturensar.se](http://www.naturensar.se), and is co-organised by the Ministry of the Environment, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the county administrative boards.

Links: [www.sweden.gov.se](http://www.sweden.gov.se), [www.naturensar.se](http://www.naturensar.se)

Photos: Andreas Carlgren (Photographer Gunnar Seijbold), Celebrations at Skansen (to be sent) and Uppsala (to be sent)





