

International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in the UK

What's On January – December 2010

At time of going to press, some organisations are still putting the finishing touches to their IYB-UK events and more information will be available in due course. IYB-UK will be issuing monthly what's on updates and the website, www.biodiversityislife.net, will carry full information on all partners' IYB2010 activities for the year.

Aggregate Industries

On going

Nationwide

The winner of the Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark for the way it manages its land will be working with the English regional Wildlife Trusts to present events that will include four open days and two nature days.

Arts Catalyst

5–31 March 2010

The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BS

Brandon Ballengée

The Occurrence of Malformation in Amphibians

Exhibition open Monday–Friday, 9.00–23.00. Admission free

The Arts Catalyst is a contemporary art organisation that creates bridges between artists and scientists as they address issues about our changing world. It presents an exhibition of specimens, video works and startling high-resolution scanned images of malformed toads by the artist and ecological researcher Brandon Ballengée. Ballengée's artistic practice is immersed in the study and exchange of ideas around biodiversity and ecological change, and particularly global species decline. He incorporates primary biological research, ecological surveys, field trips, environmental activism and exhibitions, often collaborating with scientists and members of the public. Ballengée, now based in New York, has worked with The Arts Catalyst since 2007, leading field trips to Gunpowder Park, Essex and Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield to collect specimens that highlight environmental changes that impact on biodiversity. The Royal Institution exhibition accompanies the launch of a new publication jointly published with YSP. For more information, see www.artscatalyst.org

18.30 Café Scientifique with Brandon Ballengée - 15 March 2010

19.30 Book launch and exhibition opening - 16 March 2010

At Bristol

Date TBC

Bristol

At Bristol will be launching a new biodiversity exhibition, a biodiversity-related family show and hands-on activities at the venue. A theatre piece will be developed in partnership with Full Beam Visual theatre (*The Lesser Spotted Collectors' Club*).

Big Nature

Launches May 2010

Brighton and Hove

A totally new, loose affiliation of organisations (Brighton & Hove City Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex Biological Records Centre, Sussex Branch of Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, ISPOT and the Dorothy Stringer Environmental Partnership), that has come into existence to deliver a range of biodiversity-related events during 2010. See www.bigbiodiversitycount.org.uk

Big Nature's plans are provisional and subject to change:



Bee Aware Campaign – 22 May 2010

The Bee Aware Campaign is coordinating the identification of common bees by the public and school children in Brighton and Hove and the city of Le Havre, France. The bilingual Big Nature website will enable participants from both countries to input records at the same place. Launched 22 May 2010, it runs until 30 September 2010.

Spring Watch Bioblitz (Stanmer Park) – 6 June 2010

Experts, members of the public and school children identify as many organisms as they can in 24 hours in Brighton and Bristol. Working in conjunction with the City of Bristol.

The Heritage and Environment Festival at Moulescoomb Primary School – 28 June – 1 July 2010

Brighton pupils and teachers from many schools learn about education outside the classroom.

The Big Biodiversity Butterfly Count – 2 July 2010

This citizen science project is entering its third year. It uses butterflies as indicators of environmental change and is designed to raise bilitery. Launching on 2 July, with a recording period of 3–11 July.

Dorothy Stringer Environmental Summer Fayre Saturday – 17 July 2010

The Schools Biodiversity Conference – November 2010

A conference to show the range of excellent biodiversity work being produced by schools in Brighton and Hove.

Silas Birtwistle

January and October 2010

International tour

A Table From The Sea's Edge

Artist and craftsmen Silas Birtwistle is creating a remarkable work to mark IYB2010. *A Table From The Sea's Edge* embodies the rich biodiversity of nature through crafting a large symbolic table surrounded by 12 chairs, made entirely from beautiful examples of driftwood – collected from key coastal communities – and catalogued from points around the world. The work aims to raise awareness of environmental issues and promote conservation of the world's coastal and marine biodiversity. Community involvement with the areas Silas visits has been facilitated and NGOs have had input on planning as Silas has visited British Columbia, Belize and the east coast of Africa. Only two more destinations remain on the artist's itinerary to collect wood – Sumatra and the UK. The table and chairs will be unveiled, exhibited and used at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya during October 2010, and will subsequently, subject to confirmation, tour to key cities worldwide. The project is supported by CBD, Maersk and the WWF. Maersk Line are shipping the driftwood to the UK, where Silas works, and generously taking the table to Nagoya, then hopefully on around the world. Charities such as WWF will benefit when the work is eventually auctioned in early 2011.

Silas will be in residence at the Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham, Greater London, from January 2010 while the work is constructed.

Bournemouth Natural Science Society

Launches March 2010

Bournemouth

Bournemouth Natural Science Society will hold illustrated talks throughout the year on biodiversity at their HQ. The Society will run Flagship days in its garden with Dorset Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Its IYB2010 programme will include Saturday morning family events during the summer, highlighting pond dipping, insect trawls and bird boxes.

Saving the World's Heritage: Plant Genetic Resources for the Future – 16 March, 19.30

A talk by Dr Geoffrey Hawtin

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

The partnership will be celebrating their achievements in delivering the Biodiversity Action Plan in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes over the last 10 years.

Bristol Festival of Nature

12–13 June 2010

Bristol

From 12–13 June, Bristol will host the UK's biggest celebration of the natural world held at Bristol Harbourside.

Bristol Natural History Consortium

12–13 June and November 2010

Bristol

Bristol Natural History Consortium will hold the Festival of Nature 2010 from 12–13 June as well as National BioBlitz events. The Consortium will hold the annual Communicate conference in November 2010, which will look at biodiversity communications post Nagoya. See www.festivalofnature.org

British Waterways

Nationwide

British Waterways are organising a series of events to promote IYB2010. These will focus on the work the British Waterways is undertaking to conserve, enhance and monitor biodiversity on, and adjacent to, the waterway network.

University of Bristol

13 March and 12–13 June 2010

Bristol

The University will undertake schools and public engagement work at the following events:

Discover Festival 11–13 March, Bristol Festival of Nature 12–13 June and Bristol Bioblitz. They will be holding talks, discussion events and science cafés throughout the year.

British Ecological Society

Date TBC

The Society is organising a joint conference during 2010 with the Society for Experimental Biology and the Biochemical Society. It is expected that the meeting will focus on biodiversity.

Butterfly Conservation

26–28 March 2010

Reading

Butterfly Conservation will hold a major international symposium at Reading University, entitled The 2010 Target and Beyond for Lepidoptera. This will be opened by their President, Sir David Attenborough. See www.butterfly-conservation.org/symposium

Charles Darwin Trust

Summer 2010

Kent

IYB-UK will link with Down House in Kent and English Heritage to maximise the interpretation and understanding of Darwin's scientific and cultural legacy and relevance today, especially relating to threats to biodiversity. The Trust will continue its Darwin-inspired teaching and learning programmes developed and delivered to all key stages at Down House and other venues. The Trust will also be developing online delivery for these learning opportunities.

In summer 2010, the Trust will hear whether UNESCO has awarded World Heritage Status to Darwin's Landscape Laboratory.

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)

Date TBC

Nationwide

An international scientific conference is being planned by the CEH – as coordinator of the Environmental Change Network – and the Natural History Museum, into the long-term monitoring and research of biodiversity. The focus will be on charting, understanding and reacting to long term changes in biodiversity. Other local events will be planned at the CEH facilities in Wallingford, Lancaster, Bangor and Edinburgh.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Launches January 2010

Cheshire

Cheshire Wildlife Trust will include biodiversity in their Natural Know-How training programme. The Trust will have an SBI recorder programme and a volunteer programme for nature reserves, as well as programming biodiversity content during the One Earth Festival 2010 and other activities throughout the year.

Natural Know-How training days are aimed at amateur naturalists as well as those working professionally in conservation. Course content ranges from introductory topics to those that are more specific and detailed. For more information on each course and for bookings, please go to the CWT website, www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk. If you would like more information on which courses best meet your needs, please email info@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk. Courses generally cost £20 for members (and concessions) and £35 for non-members. Prices may vary depending on course length.

Walk With the Waders – 1 January 2010

Training day with Jeff Clarke at Wirral Country Park, Cheshire.

Introduction to UK Mammals – 7 February 2010

Training day with Tony Parker at Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley nr Malpas, Cheshire.

Introduction to Conservation Grazing – 13 February 2010

Training day with Richard Owen at Grange Farm, Mickle Trafford, Cheshire.

Introduction to Phase 1 Habitat Surveys – 27 March 2010

Training day by Linda Swankie at Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley nr Malpas, Cheshire.

Woodland Wild Flowers – 10 April 2010

Training day with Shirley Burton at Kingsley, Cheshire.

Chris Beardshaw / Bradstone / RHS Chelsea Flower Show

May 2010

London

Chris Beardshaw and Bradstone have set the theme of creating a biodiverse garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for their scholar, who will be building a garden at the show in May 2010 mentored by Chris Beardshaw. This will mark the end of the 12-month scholarship, which provides a unique blend of practical and financial assistance to one winning candidate each year.

Church of England

Date TBC

Nationwide

Shrinking the Footprint is the Church of England's (CoE) environmental campaign and has been extended to include biodiversity. The CoE intends to promote biodiversity throughout the Church during 2010. There are over 16,000 churches and most have space to encourage biodiversity, while others have windows and fabrics that feature biodiversity. It is hoped biodiversity will be mentioned in services and worship, reaching a wide range of people of all ages.

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Launches spring 2010

Bradford

Bradford Council is hosting a series of large-scale events throughout the year that will have a biodiversity theme, including:

Garden Magic – The city square will be transformed into a garden using sustainable resources. There will be opportunities for workshops with school groups on biodiversity

Square Mile – An international project in partnership with Bradford University, mapping the biodiversity and cultural diversity of a square mile within Bradford. The results will be shared with cities around the world via the internet, funded by the British Council.

Roberts Park Restoration – Roberts Park, Saltaire, will reopen at Easter 2010 having undergone a £3 million restoration programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. 44,000 new plants will be planted as part of the scheme and volunteers and local community groups will be involved in the planting.

Bradford Council will be working with Bradford University on a series of lectures and conferences focusing on biodiversity, connected with their ecovercity project. See www.brad.ac.uk/ecovercity/. There are also a number of other biodiversity projects taking place within the Council's Health, Environment and Rural Affairs Department during 2010.

City of London Burnham Beeches

Launches April 2010

London

Despite its relatively small size of 220 hectares, Burnham Beeches is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It is also designated as an internationally important Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Burnham Beeches plays the role of open space and important wildlife habitat and offers recreational opportunities. It will offer a series of events throughout next year and its programme comes out in April.

The City of London Festival (CoLF)

1 June – 9 July 2010

London

An ongoing theme for this annual arts festival is sustainability. CoLF, a recent recipient of a Greener Festival Award for its work in 2009, seeks to empower artists to bear witness to the world around us by commissioning work and developing collaborations. While its geographical focus in 2010 is on the Portuguese-speaking world – Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Goa, Timor and more – the Festival's reflections on biodiversity will be mainly about bees, including newly commissioned poems (by Jo Shapcott and others), new music (by Richard Causton and others) and the creation and tasting of diverse honeys from around the Lusophone world and from hives to be placed around the City.

The Conservation Foundation

Nationwide / London

The Great British Elm Experiment will plant young elms propagated from mature, healthy native elms growing in the English countryside in schools throughout the UK. London's Green Corners Awards will run through 2010 and celebrate Londoners whose green corners brighten the capital and enrich its biodiversity.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust

The south west is planning a co-ordinated range of events.

Darwin's Landscape Laboratory (London Borough of Bromley)

Date TBC

London

A series of events, activities, education programs and resources will link Darwin's work with the importance of biodiversity and IYB2010.

Desperate Men

Nationwide

One of the UK's premier outdoor theatre companies will be marking IYB2010 by creating a brand new theatre show about the science and issues of biodiversity. The show will build on the remarkable success of their recent production, *Darwin and the Dodo*, which toured to museums, events and festivals across the UK and to Portugal, Hong Kong and Shanghai. See www.desperatemen.com

Dumfries & Galloway Biodiversity Partnership

2–18 April 2010 and year long

Dumfries and Galloway

The Partnership will have a programme of awareness-raising activities throughout 2010, especially during Dumfries & Galloway Wildlife Festival, which takes place 2–18 April.

Durham Wildlife Trust

Date TBC

Durham

Durham Wildlife Trust will hold a range of events and educational activities.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Date TBC

Jersey

The Jersey-based international nature conservation NGO aims to make the International Year of Biodiversity its main focus for 2010 and will conduct special events to raise awareness about the year and the importance of biodiversity.

The Environment Agency

2 February / Launches April 2010

Nationwide

During 2010, the Agency will publish its Otter Survey. It will also be looking at the state of river habitats. The Regional Biodiversity Implementation Plans will be launched on 10 April and the Agency will be supporting World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2010.

Epping Forest Countrycare

Date TBC

London

Epping Forest District Council's Countryside Management Service will run a programme of events and volunteer days promoting and improving biodiversity over its nine Local Nature Reserves and other wildlife sites it manages.

Essex Biodiversity Project

Date TBC

Essex

Essex Biodiversity Project will be continuing taking forward the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan that will include a number of activities and public events during 2010.

Evolving Words

Date TBC

Nationwide

During 2010, this poetry writing and performance project that engages 14–25 year olds will be producing a museum/arts project that brings together scientists and young people to create performance and online content inspired by the themes of IYB2010.

Flicker

Date TBC

Nationwide

The beauty of biodiversity and its importance has been recorded on film since the medium was invented. Flicker is planning to organise a film festival, showcasing films old and new, features and documentaries that have personally inspired leading individuals (primatologists, zoologists, etc) in choosing their profession. The festival will hopefully include a short film competition to bring together young, inexperienced film-makers with established film producers and scientists with expertise in diverse areas of biodiversity.

Forestry Commission Scotland

22 May 2010/year long

Scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland has plans to run a number of events across Scotland to celebrate IYB2010. It will also have some specific events taking place on the 22 May, International Day of Biodiversity.

Forth Estuary Forum

Forth Estuary

Forth Estuary Forum will be working with local authorities around the Forth Estuary to co-ordinate the approach to pan-Forth coastal/marine biodiversity issues.

Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT)

15 September 2010

London

GCT's annual Galapagos Day will take place at the Royal Geographical Society on 15 September 2010. Speakers for 2009 included Sir David Attenborough and Andrew Marr. See www.savegalapagos.org for more information.

During 2010, GCT's Tortoise Club for schools will progress its membership drive among UK primary schools to raise awareness of conservation and biodiversity by using the inspirational creatures of Galapagos, including the world's most famous tortoise, Lonesome George.

Ginkgo Music

On going

Nationwide

Ginkgo Music will be releasing Tropical Forest Project: Ecuador in 2010, a music album by various artists created to raise money for World Land Trust, a charity creating and expanding biodiverse forest reserves in Ecuador. Ginkgo has tree planting projects taking place with RSPB Scotland, Turquoise Mountain Foundation, Afghanistan, and others.

Gloucester Museums Service

Date TBC

Gloucester

Gloucester Museums Service is planning activities during IYB2010.

Grant Museum at UCL

Date TBC

London

During IYB2010, the museum will run primary and secondary school workshops, family events, evening lectures, film screenings and debates.

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project

Date TBC

Manchester

GMBP will be working to organise a number of events across Greater Manchester that focus on biodiversity to celebrate IYB2010. These will be promoted on www.gmbp.org.uk

The Heather Trust

Nationwide

This charity will use IYB2010 as an opportunity to raise its concerns about the management of the heathland and upland areas of the UK.

Heriot-Watt University

Date TBC

Nationwide

Heriot-Watt has a particular focus on the biodiversity of cold-water coral habitats, particularly the scleractinian reef frameworks that develop in the deep sea on the shelf edge, offshore banks and seamounts. Its 2010 activities will focus on awareness-raising using their cold-water coral website, www.lophelia.org, currently the first Google search return for the most common terms relating to cold-water or deep-sea corals. In 2010, the University hosts the European Marine Biology Symposium, which will promote marine biodiversity.

Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative

May and October 2010 / year long

Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative will be hosting member orchard open days during blossom time in May 2010 and National Apple Day events during October 2010. It will be running school visits and attending major countryside events with displays and juicing demos and working in partnership with the OPAL project and the University of Hertfordshire on citizen science initiatives.

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Date TBC

Hertfordshire

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust will be running walks, talks and wildlife training programmes, supported by downloadable fact sheets.

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management Autumn 2009, spring and autumn 2010

The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management will be holding conferences during autumn 2009 and in 2010:

Protected Areas – autumn 2009

Ecosystem Services – spring 2010

Biodiversity Target – autumn 2010

It also plans to have a biodiversity stand at the British Science Festival in 2010.

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership

Date TBC

Isle of Wight

The Partnership is planning a special 24-hour Go Wild on Wight event as well as guided walks and activities to celebrate the island's biodiversity during 2010.

International Union for Conservation of Nature UK National Committee **Date TBC**

The ICUN expects to be convening a number of events and seminars, as well as launching projects.

John Muir Trust **February and April 2010**

Nationwide

The UK wild land conservation charity will be involved in Edinburgh Botanics What's On programme during IYB2010, including two weekends of biodiversity activity in February and April. Other activities are being planned. See www.jmt.org

Lancashire's Biodiversity Partnership **Date TBC**

Lancashire

The Partnership plans to co-ordinate a series of projects and events to include public participation and education throughout Lancashire that will communicate and engage across all sectors from the public through to business and politics.

Linnean Society **Date TBC**

The Linnean Society is planning a number of meetings with a biodiversity theme during 2010.

Life Science Centre **Date TBC**

Newcastle

The Centre will be hosting IYB2010 lectures and will be involved in IYB-UK activities at Newcastle ScienceFest.

The Living Rainforest **13–19 February 2010**

Berkshire

Run by the Trust for Sustainable Living, the charity plans a diverse programme of events under the title I (heart) Biodiversity Week, running from 13–19 February 2010. The celebration week, organised by the Living Rainforest, will include daily family activities and a special talk on biodiversity by Professor Michael Keith-Lucas. The Living Rainforest is a rainforest eco-centre in Berkshire housing over 700 plant and animal species. See www.livingrainforest.org

London 21 Sustainability Network **Date TBC**

London

The Network is developing a biodiversity audit within the City of London for 2010. It is examining the role of biodiversity education in wider environmental issues and developing a biodiversity tool kit for dissemination through its own and associated networks.

London Borough of Lambeth **Date TBC**

London

London Borough of Lambeth is working with the London Biodiversity Partnership and the London Borough Biodiversity Forum to host and promote events during IYB2010. It will be launching a new website for its Biodiversity Action Plan and the Council will be attending various events and festivals in Lambeth to promote biodiversity, as well as running activities with local schools and community groups.

London Wildlife Trust **Date TBC**

London

London Wildlife Trust wants to introduce you to the English capital city's wild side. Throughout the International Year of Biodiversity and across London, the Trust will be running events and activities, most of them free. From wildlife gardening seminars to practical conservation sessions and from guided walks to bushcraft skills, arts and crafts to exhibitions, there's something for everyone, young and old. Find out more at www.wildlondon.org.uk/getinvolved

The Mammal Society **Date TBC**

Nationwide

The Mammal Society will launch the Mammal Atlas campaign, surveying small mammals and offering a series of training courses.

Marine Biological Association of the UK **June 2010**

Nationwide

The charity is planning to use biodiversity and IYB2010-related material in its information, education and public awareness activities. Its 125th anniversary conference in June 2010 at the University of Plymouth will include an IYB2010 themed session.

Merseyside Biobank

Date TBC

Merseyside

Merseyside Biobank will be running the Local Biological Recording Conference as well as offering free training sessions in biological recording and offering recording education packs.

Midlothian Council

Date TBC

Midlothian

Midlothian Council is running various events for its staff and the public at a variety of council sites as a lead partner in the Midlothian Biodiversity Partnership. The events will be a mixture of educational (guided walk, talks, presentations) and also practical (habitat box construction, tree planting, wildflower sowing) activities. The council is considering celebration events such as open days in local country parks.

The Moray Firth Partnership

until 18 January 2010

Moray Firth

This Local Coastal Partnership is a voluntary coalition of organisations and individuals and is a co-partner in the North East Scotland Marine Habitats Biodiversity Action Plan. The Partnership's Community Grants Scheme 2010 (supported by Scottish Natural Heritage) offers grants of up to £1,000 to not-for-profit organisations for coastal natural heritage projects. (The closing date for applications is 18 January 2010.) The priority themes for 2010 include biodiversity. The partnership aims to improve the level and quality of volunteer mapping and recording of biodiversity in the area. See www.morayfirth-partnership.org

MONA LISA arts & media Community Interest Company

Date TBC

The company will work with local schools and community groups facilitating arts workshops, projects and events to help raise awareness of biodiversity issues.

National Biodiversity Network Trust

Date TBC

Nationwide

National Biodiversity Network Trust will launch a non-native species project in 2010, and is also planning a range of activities including web-based initiatives. See www.nbn.org.uk/

Natural History Museum

Launches November 2009

London

The Museum will open four exhibitions as part of IYB2010, as well as hosting over 250 free events as part of its regular Nature Live programme.

The World I Want

26 November 2009, 19.00

Have you ever really stopped to think about what our world will look like in 50 years, or even what we want it to look like? With growing populations and changing climate, the planet's biodiversity will undoubtedly suffer. The question is, how much are we willing to lose? We can't save everything, so difficult decisions need to be made based on what we value most. Is it maintaining our current lifestyle or trying to conserve our environment for future generations?

Join the Nature Live team for an evening of debate to weigh up the value and importance of Earth's biodiversity and begin to unpick some of the real choices that need to be made by us all in order to protect it... or not.

Tickets £6 and booking is essential. For tickets please book online at www.nhm.ac.uk, visit an information desk at the Museum or phone 020 7942 5555.

The Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity

Spring 2010

This new resource centre for anyone with an interest in UK natural history will be launched during 2010. It aims to nurture, inspire, excite and support naturalists of all ages and levels of interest. The Centre is situated on the Lower Ground Floor of the new Darwin Centre. One of the most important roles the Centre plays is to respond to people's concerns about UK biodiversity by taking a lead in the national citizen science debate. By actively leading partnership projects such as the already successful Riverfly Partnership, the Centre for UK Biodiversity is the place for keen natural historians to participate in these important national projects. Visitors to the Centre can access extensive UK collections amounting to over 10,000 drawers of plants and animals and 120 metres of books from the library of the London Natural History Society, as well as the Identification and Advisory Service. The Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity will inspire a new generation of nature lovers and increase their environmental awareness as they gain real hands-on experience of the UK's biodiversity.

The Deep

opens 28 May 2010

Your imagination stops at 100 metres, but the Natural History Museum's new exhibition will take you 11,000 metres down.

The Deep will plunge visitors into the abyss, revealing a deep sea environment less explored than the surface of the moon. With bizarre creatures that have adapted to their harsh world in wonderful ways and extraordinary yet fragile biodiversity, visitors to the exhibition will discover the history of deep sea exploration, cutting-edge technologies used today and how Museum scientists are helping to preserve this important ecosystem.

Combining the latest deep sea science with astonishing imagery, specimens and immersive interactive installations, *The Deep* will take visitors on a voyage to the planet's final frontier.

Amazonia

opens October 2010

This exhibition will feature newly commissioned contemporary artworks from Jorge and Lucy Orta, inspired by an expedition into the Peruvian rainforest, one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. The works will examine the value of nature and will be displayed in the Museum's Jerwood Gallery.

Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year

opens October 2010

See the environment around you with new eyes and be inspired by the latest winning entries in the world's most prestigious showcase of wildlife photography. *Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year* is owned by the Natural History Museum and *BBC Wildlife Magazine*. It is the international leader in the artistic representation of the natural world. The exhibition showcases the very best photographic images of nature, giving visitors an insight into the beauty, drama and variety of our natural environment. The winning images are displayed in a stunning exhibition launched at the Natural History Museum that then tours the UK and overseas. Through an interactive installation, visitors to the Museum can find out what the judges, scientists and photographers think about particular images. In addition, visitors can select their favourite image or choose from a selection of prints to have in their own home.

National Science and Engineering Week – What on Earth is Going on? 12–21 March 2010

Nationwide

To reflect IYB2010, National Science and Engineering Week's 2010 theme will be Earth, with the Week's 3,500 organisers across the UK being encouraged to organise events that fall within this broad theme. The British Science Association is putting together a range of UK-wide participation activities for NSEW that include:

What on Earth?: A nationwide call to action, encouraging the British public to rediscover their gardens or local parks and send in photos of any plant and animal species they don't recognise to be uploaded and identified on the What on Earth? website.

The Save our Species debate: Vote on the endangered species you most want to save.

It's a Wonderful World: A trivia-fest of amazing facts and figures about planet Earth – tell us what you know.

For full details of NSEW events, or information on how to get involved from home, visit www.nsew.org.uk

The National Trust

Date TBC

Nationwide

The National Trust will be holding events at its properties linking into IYB2010. The Trust will be promoting its top wildlife sites throughout the year.

The National Trust for Scotland

Date TBC

The National Trust for Scotland will be using its conservation events to highlight IYB2010.

Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)

May and September 2010

Nationwide

OPAL will be launching two national surveys during IYB2010 that anyone can take part in. The OPAL Water Survey will begin in May and invites people to tell us about the animals that live in lakes and ponds across England. The OPAL Biodiversity Survey will begin in September 2010 and invites people to explore the diversity of life near them. Taking part in OPAL activities is completely free and everyone's contribution is valuable. For more information, visit www.OPALexplorenature.org

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)

8 January 2010

Nationwide

Some of the most important biodiversity for which the UK is responsible does not occur in the British Isles, but in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOT). Mostly small islands, scattered around the world, the UKOT support many unique and threatened species, including globally important seabird colonies and extensive coral reefs.

UKOTCF will be involved in a range of activities promoting the biodiversity of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, starting with a presentation at the Cambridge Conservation Forum's Annual Symposium on 8 January.

Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

Date TBC

Norfolk

IYB2010 will be woven into the Partnership's programme of events for the year, including the Non-native Species Stakeholders' Forum and its Annual Biodiversity Forum.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Date TBC

Norfolk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust aims to highlight IYB2010 through its public events programme across Norfolk in 2010, which offers around 100 events reaching more than 5,000 people. Events range from guided walks on nature reserves to talks, family days, arts and crafts activities, displays and activities. It will also attend major shows, such as the Royal Norfolk Show, with stands and displays.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Date TBC

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency will be leading the celebration of International Year of Biodiversity in Northern Ireland. The Agency will be holding a range of events and activities at its sites and properties throughout the year, along with a conference on biodiversity in Northern Ireland and highlighting action at a local level with the work of the Local Biodiversity Action Planning Officers.

Pond Conservation

Date TBC

Pond Conservation will be promoting the value of small water bodies for biodiversity.

Railway Land Wildlife Trust

May 2010

Sussex

In late May 2010, this Sussex charity and nature reserve will be opening a new centre in Lewes called the Linklater Pavilion – a centre for the study of environmental change. It has been working on innovative flora artwork by adults with learning disabilities utilising information about the wild plants on the Trust's nature reserve, and these materials will be used when the centre opens.

rECOrd – The Local Record Centre for the Cheshire region

Date TBC

Liverpool

rECOrd's 10th anniversary coincides with IYB2010, so it is planning to celebrate these two events simultaneously with various activities, including linking up with World Museum Liverpool's plans.

Renfrewshire Council Arts and Museums Service

Launches 9 September 2010

Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire Council Arts and Museums Service has a biodiversity themed exhibition planned that will run from 9 September 2010 to 16 January 2011 and will focus on Paisley Museum's natural history collections, which house objects from all over the world. The variety of life is illustrated in these collections and the Service will use these exhibits to highlight a number of environmental issues affecting biodiversity today. In addition, a number of lectures will be run as part of the Museum's lunchtime talks programme to support the themes of the exhibition and a school workshops programme will be developed in line with the science curriculum to supplement the exhibition.

Rivers Nursery Site and Orchard Group

Date TBC

Hertfordshire

This organisation will continue to map and identify species and habitats in its traditional orchard during 2010. It hopes to use IYB2010 as an opportunity to raise awareness of ownership of the site and the biodiversity threat to the area. It will be working with local biodiversity officers and experts to ensure Hertfordshire sites are at the forefront of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

July–December 2010

Edinburgh

From Another Kingdom is an exhibition exploring the amazing world of fungi at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Scotland, running from July to December 2010.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

6 February – 7 March 2010 / year long

London

For its *Tropical Extravaganza* festival, RBG Kew's Princess of Wales conservatory will become a hot-weather oasis of vibrant orchids and other dramatic tropical plant species from 6 February – 7 March 2010. The festival will highlight the importance of variety within tropical habitats and Kew's orchid conservation work both in the UK and abroad. RBG Kew's Princess of Wales conservatory is also home to a collection of species orchids.

RBG Kew is finalising its 2010 programme and more information will be available in due course. Please check www.kew.org/press

Royal Horticultural Society

Date TBC

Nationwide

The Society is planning a season-long set of activities and garden trails in the RHS gardens focusing on biodiversity in the garden in its various forms.

Royal Mail

13 April 2010

Nationwide

On 13 April 2010, Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps on endangered UK mammals. This is the latest stamp issue in the series Action for Species. Every year Royal Mail has issued 10 stamps of endangered UK wildlife in this series, which began in 2007 and leads up to IYB2010.

The Royal Society

13–14 January and 19–20 April 2010

London

The Royal Society will be holding the InterAcademy Panel Biodiversity Conference on 13–14 January 2010. This cutting-edge, cross disciplinary conference will draw together experts from across the globe to explore how ecosystem services can be integrated into biodiversity management. In a rapidly changing world where biodiversity management is increasingly complex and challenging, this issue is ever more important and provides a real opportunity to drive biodiversity conservation alongside international, local and national development.

The Royal Society will also be holding a two-day discussion meeting entitled Biological Diversity in a Changing World on 19–20 April 2010. Drawing insights from organisms ranging from microbes to mammals, this meeting will show why a deeper understanding of temporal turnover in ecological communities is essential in coping with the changes that the natural world will experience over the next 50 years. For more details, please go to www.royalsociety.org/events-diary

The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Date TBC

Nationwide

The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts plans to support and encourage engagement with IYB-UK across all of its 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK by re-branding the Trusts' events and encouraging engagement with the campaign. See individual trusts' listings for details of events across the UK.

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Date TBC

As the Secretariat for IUCN UK, RZSS expects to be co-ordinating a number of events during 2010 in association with that body, in addition to developing its own IYB2010 activities.

Science Oxford

May 2010

Oxfordshire

Science Oxford will be running a series of events in May 2010 looking at sustainable technologies being developed in the county of Oxfordshire.

Scottish Agricultural College

Date TBC

Scotland

SAC has a series of programmes designed to help audiences understand the value of animal and plant biodiversity. It hopes to enhance its well-established four-year-old Success Through Knowledge programme in relation to IYB2010 and to take the initiative to events such as the Royal Highland Show, at the RBGE Gateway programme and across schools and public places.

Scottish Borders Council

Date TBC

Scottish Borders

Scottish Borders Council will have a programme of guided walks and events across the region, with a focus on engagement.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Launch 12 January 2010 / 15–23 May / year long

Edinburgh/Scotland

Scottish Natural Heritage is leading the Scottish celebration of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity for the Scottish Government that will be launched on 12 January at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

SNH and its partners in the Scottish Biodiversity Forum (SBF) will be promoting Scottish Biodiversity Week from 15–23 May. Scottish Biodiversity Week aims to encourage everyone to enjoy Scotland's unique wildlife and habitats through hundreds of events taking place at rural and urban locations throughout the country. The Week is supported by a number of key partner organisations and the website, www.snh.org.uk/biodiversityweek, will carry all the details on the ways people can explore and interact with biodiversity on their own doorstep.

Events throughout Scotland will include local festivals, talks, guided walks, pond-dipping, bird watching trips, nature reserve open days, wildflower planting days, nature photography and painting workshops and exhibitions.

A nature photography competition will form part of the way in which Scotland's people can participate in the Week. Previous years' winners and entries can be viewed at www.snh.org.uk/biodiversityweek

There will be a strong biodiversity focus on the Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS) stand at the Royal Highland Show from 24–27 June and at other national events.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Date TBC

Staffordshire

The Trust will use IYB2010 to spread the message of biodiversity throughout the year, linking in with its regular and extensive events programme.

Swansea Nature Conservation Team

Date TBC

Swansea

Swansea Nature Conservation Team will be holding events in partnership with Swansea Biodiversity Partnership and other networks in the area.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Date TBC

Suffolk

Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be running a schools' education programme, family and community events and children's activity days. It will be conducting a range of surveys on farmland birds, harvest mice, and a new hedgehog and garden management survey.

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership

Date TBC

Sussex

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership will promote biodiversity through its website and newsletter, as well as running activities and using other opportunities such as surveys to highlight biodiversity issues.

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

May and October 2010

Tayside & Fife

The 10-day Tayside Biodiversity Festival was so successful in 2009 that in 2010 it will take place over the whole month of May and will include an international aspect. The Carse of Gowrie Orchard Festival will also expand to become the Tayside & Fife Orchard Festival in October 2010.

Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership

Date TBC

Northeast England

Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership is planning a public event, or string of events, to encourage members of the public to take part in recording local wildlife and reporting their findings to the northeast regional records centre.

Tidnor Wood Orchards Community Interest Company

Date TBC

Herefordshire

The Company, based in the Lugg Valley close to Hereford, supports biodiversity by saving cider apple varieties through its national collection and holds over 400 different varieties in its five-acre museum orchard, as well as its French collection in orchards in Calvados, Normandy.

The organic company will be working with Herefordshire infant school children, and hopes to arrange open days and ongoing activities. See www.tidnorwood.org.uk

Thames Landscape Strategy

Date TBC

London

Thames Landscape Strategy will continue its regular education and outreach programme to engage with and introduce new audiences to river bank management and habitat creation along the River Thames. It will be organising a series of special volunteer activities throughout 2010, including habitat creation works, educational activities and invasive species control.

Thinktank

Date TBC

Birmingham

The Birmingham Science Museum is planning a festival devoted to nature with associated public and schools programmes, including a temporary exhibition, under-8s storytelling, schools educational programme, workshops, activities, one-off events, specimen handling and other linked or themed events.

UCL Museums and Collections

Date TBC

London

UCL Museums and Collections will have museum and collections-based activities, as well as public events for adults and families, particularly through the Grant Museum of Zoology, UCL.

University of Aberdeen Natural History Centre (NHC)

Date TBC

Aberdeen

The NHC aims to promote the importance of the natural environment and biodiversity, while addressing the issues of sustainability, to schools, families and public audiences. In 2010, at the centre and on road shows it will present schools' education programmes on biodiversity, host a forum to link with other environmental educators and engage secondary schools through a poster competition. It will also deliver a series of biodiversity events for the public at the centre and contribute to National Science and Engineering Week and other festivals.

Werneth School, Cheshire

Date TBC

Cheshire

Werneth School will be planting trees, cleaning up litter, setting up recycling, and redeveloping the green spaces on its site.

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Date TBC

Nationwide

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust will be holding a range of events related to International Year of Biodiversity, such as pond-dipping, bird watching, bat walks, talks and courses at its nine wetland visitor centres in the UK, which attract more than a million visitors a year.

WWT London Wetland Centre

26 May – 6 June 2010

Barnes, London

WWT London Wetland Centre was created from scratch on the site of four old reservoirs and opened in May 2000. The past 10 years have seen the flora and fauna at the centre grow, settle and diversify and the site is an SSSI. From 26 May to 6 June, LWC will be holding events to show the biodiversity strengths of the centre, from numerous water birds such as over-wintering bitterns, to bats, an established colony of water voles and thousands of waterfowl for which the centre is now home at various times of the year. See www.wwt.org.uk/london for information on the events.

Wildlife and Countryside Link

Date TBC

Nationwide

As a membership coalition providing the secretariat for its 38 members, the WCL will be working with its environmental NGO members to promote the International Year of Biodiversity.

Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough **Date TBC**

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough

The Trust will be running education and community events across these four counties.

Wildscreen

On going

Nationwide

Wildscreen will be launching a campaign around their flagship ARKive initiative, www.arkive.org, in late January. IYB2010 will represent Wildscreen's greatest wildlife challenge yet. There are thousands of plants and animals across the world, yet despite our unprecedented access to millions of images and films, we still don't know what many of them look like. How can we care about the species we might lose if we don't even know what they look like? Wildscreen believes the only way we can help protect wildlife on the brink is by raising awareness, and if there isn't any moving or stills footage of the species in question then the task is almost impossible. ARKive is uniquely equipped to handle this challenge as the unmatched online treasury of still and moving images of threatened wildlife on Earth. During the International Year of Biodiversity, Wildscreen is setting itself a challenge: to put faces to the names of the most threatened species on the Red List. It aims to reveal the missing identities of as many threatened organisms as possible, raising their profiles to make them available to everyone through www.arkive.org

The Woodland Trust

Date TBC

Nationwide

Planned events including tree planting, guided walks and other public activities.

World Museums Liverpool

Date TBC

Liverpool

World Museums Liverpool is planning a varied programme of museum-based activities including trails, displays, talks, performances and creative projects with a biodiversity theme.

ZSL London Zoo

opens 27 March 2010

London

ZSL London Zoo will open its new biodiversity exhibits, *Rainforest Life* and *Night Life*. These mixed species exhibits will immerse visitors in the sights, sounds and smells of the rainforest, both day and night, and tell the story of biodiversity.

-ends-

To help plan your features, arrange interviews, for more information or pictures call Marie Clements on 020 7942 6655, or email m.clements@nhm.ac.uk

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