

DECR Commemorates International Day of Biological Diversity

Biological diversity or biodiversity refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.



The DECR commemorates the Biological Diversity Day in support to the United Nations (UN) proclamation that May 22 every year is observed as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB). The main objective of the annual commemoration is to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated “The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)”. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was partly done because it was difficult for many countries to plan and carry out suitable celebrations for the date of 29 December, given the number of holidays that coincide around that time of the year. It is worth mentioning the UN has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biological Diversity (IYBD). The objectives of the IYBD are:



- Raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity for human well-being and promote understanding of the economic value of biodiversity
- Enhance public knowledge of the threats to biodiversity and means to conserve it
- Encourage organizations (and through them individuals) to take direct or indirect biodiversity conservation activities
- Celebrate the achievements of Countdown 2010 partners and other stakeholders
- Reporting on the possible failures for not achieving the Target

- Prepare the ground for communicating the post-2010 target(s)

Biological diversity or biodiversity refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

As part of the regular activities of the DECR and in to support to the Biodiversity Day Celebration, the Department has scheduled different activities at the different Offices in the Territory.

DECR-Providenciales will conduct red mangrove planting along the Venetian road, lignum vitae and gumbo limbo planting around the National 'Environmental Centre (NEC), and mahogany transplanting on May 21 (Friday). Similarly, the rescue of endemic and endangered



plants for biodiversity conservation will be continued and this activity is in line with the newly approved project funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) of the UK

government. Likewise, the DECR also spearheads the conservation and restoration of the Caicos Pine, the national tree of the TCI, with funding from the Overseas Territories and Environment Program (OTEP) of the UK. The DECR will also continue its Lionfish eradication project, and Environmental Education and awareness campaign.



In DECR South Caicos, they will conduct Lionfish capture, while the DECR Grand Turk will conduct mangrove Field trip, school visits - Coral Reef Ecosystems and their Value.

For more information about the Biodiversity Day Celebration in the Turks and Caicos Islands, please contact the DECR Offices in Grand Turk (946-2801), Providenciales (941-5122), and South Caicos (946-3306).

