

Program Title: International Day for Biodiversity Observance 2007

Lead Organization: Environmental Coordinating Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and the Environment (E.C.U)

Collaborating Partners: The Division of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks
Fisheries Division
Division of Agriculture
Marpin Telecoms
Dominica Broadcasting Corporation
Isaiah Thomas Secondary School
Nehemiah Comprehensive School
Pierre Charles Secondary School

Duration: 14th – 22nd of May 2007

Background:

Each year, May 22nd is celebrated as International Day for Biodiversity (IBD). The United Nations proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) 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. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IBD, 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 year.

Dominica joined the international community in this valiant effort to protect the biodiversity on planet Earth and Ratified the UN Convention on Biodiversity on July 5th, 1994.

Dominica is known for its rich biodiversity and boasts of three (3) national parks which have been established to preserve of our flora and fauna for future generations to experience. Unfortunately, over the last two (2) decades Dominica's biodiversity has been subject to increasing stresses and diseases caused by several global environmental problems including Climate Change, Land Degradation and Ozone Depletion.

The E.C.U is responsible for coordinating environmental activities in Dominica and to serve as the focal point for Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which Dominica is a signatory. As such the E.C.U views IBD as an opportunity to mobilize the public and private sector stakeholders of Dominica's Biodiversity for the implementation of a program that shall effect the conservation of this vital resource. This year IBD is being observed under the theme: "Biodiversity and Climate Change" hence our activities shall be developed with a view to bring

to the fore the impact of climate change on the Biodiversity of Dominica whilst educating the public of the international implications of this problem.

It is against this background that the E.C.U is partnering with the Division of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks, Fisheries Division and the Division of Agriculture, who manage our terrestrial and marine biodiversity resources in the implementation of activities forming part of the International Day for Biodiversity Observance 2007.

The E.C.U intends to coordinate a program of activities geared at promoting awareness of the issues surrounding the loss of Biodiversity in Dominica and effect positive behavior change with regards to conservation of Dominica's Biodiversity.

Objective(s):

1. To heighten awareness of the importance of Dominica's Biodiversity and educate the general public on effective Biodiversity conservation strategies.
2. To educate the youth of Dominica on the various uses of Dominica's Biodiversity and the benefits of Biodiversity conservation to our health and economy
3. To encourage and increase participation in programs that empower the youth to play a vital role in Biodiversity conservation
4. To focus attention on the impact of Climate Change on Dominica's Biodiversity
5. To encourage the learning of scientific principles and concepts through non traditional methods of teaching which emphasize on hands on learning out of the classroom.

Activities:

1. Media Blitz;

A media Blitz shall be conducted from June 1st-9th 2007 in an effort to raise awareness of the program of activities for Environment Day and solicit the support and participation of the general public.

The table below provides detailed information about the above mentioned media blitz

Activity/Program	Media House	Date (May)	Time
News Segments	All Media houses	14-22	Various
From All Angels	Marpin Telecoms	16	8:30-9:30 p.m.
Environment & Sustainable Development	Kairi F.M	17	7:00-8:00 p.m.
Education in Action	D.B.S	19 th	2:30-2:45 p.m.

2. Youth Expedition;

On May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. fifty (50) students from the Isaiah Thomas Secondary School and the Nehemiah Comprehensive Secondary School shall embark on an environmental expedition. This expedition shall include visits to; the Morne Diablotin National Park where they shall traverse the Syndicate Nature Trail. Officers from the Division of Forestry will be on hand to facilitate an educational tour for the participants.

3. School Assemblies;

Schools will be encouraged to conduct Student led Assemblies Focusing on the importance of maintaining our present levels of Biodiversity & highlighting International Day for Biodiversity 2007. Schools with Established environmental clubs will be the principal target group for this activity

4. Preparation of short Documentary of the program of activities for International Day for Biodiversity Observance 2007

5. Preparation of Report of the program of activities in observance of International Day for Biodiversity Observance 2007