

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**  
**5 June 2006**



**DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION**

**DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!**



Front cover photo: UNEP International Photographic Competition.  
Inside cover photo: W. Ming / UNEP

*Special thanks to Yann Arthus-Bertrand for allowing the use of photographs from his recent book L'Algérie vue du ciel (Algeria from the air), published by Editions de la Martinière. Since 1990, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has flown over a hundred countries. His aerial photographs, together with the text that accompanies them, invite each one of us to reflect upon the evolution of the planet and the future of its inhabitants. Because everyone has a role to play, everyone has the power and the duty to act and mobilize. For more information, please visit [www.yannarthusbertrand.org](http://www.yannarthusbertrand.org)*

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# World Environment Day

**W**orld Environment Day is the United Nations flagship environmental event, celebrated every year on 5 June in more than 100 countries around the world. It was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly and its commemoration is entrusted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose international headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya.

The purpose of World Environment Day is to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate political attention and action. The event seeks to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership, which will ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

Each year, a different city is chosen as the principal venue for the global celebration of World Environment Day. The host government and/or city, in cooperation with UNEP, set the tone for the event. A theme, slogan and logo are selected to be the focus for all World Environment Day information materials and promotional activities worldwide.

Interest in World Environment Day is growing each year, as evidenced by the number of countries which lend their support to this important United Nations Day, by the expanding list of municipalities, businesses and communities that participate, and by the hundreds of thousands of individuals who visit UNEP's World Environment Day web site.

Activities planned before and during World Environment Day are wide ranging. Essentially, it is a "people's event", with colourful activities such as street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling and clean up campaigns.

World Environment Day is also meant to be an "intellectual" event, providing opportunities for seminars, workshops and symposiums on preserving the environmental health of our planet for the benefit of generations to come. The media play a critical role, and the event inspires thousands of journalists around the world to report on the environment

The Day enhances political attention and action. Local and regional officials, Heads of State and Government and, of course, Ministers of the Environment deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth. For example, in 1994, President Fidel Ramos called upon Filipinos to pause exactly at noon on 5 June and simultaneously "think clean, think green and with positive and joy-filled energy restore to nature the energy borrowed from it." More solemn pledges are made which lead to the establishment of permanent governmental structures dealing with environmental management and economic planning. World Environment Day also provides an opportunity to sign or ratify international conventions.

This year, for the first time, World Environment Day will include regional level celebrations in addition to the international celebrations in Algiers, Algeria.

The following cities and countries will host regional events:

- Africa

Dakar, Senegal

- Asia and the Pacific

Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan

- Europe

Sofia, Bulgaria

- Latin America and the Caribbean

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- North America

Arlington, VA  
United States of America

- West Asia

Manama, Bahrain





Algiers, the host city for the international celebrations of World Environment Day 2006. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)

## YEAR

**2006**

2005

2004

2003

2002

2001

2000

1999

1998

1997

1996

1995

1994

1993

1992

1991

1990

1989

1988

1987

## HOST CITY

**Algiers**

San Francisco

Barcelona

Beirut

Shenzhen

Torino/Havana

Adelaide

Tokyo

Moscow

Seoul

Istanbul

Pretoria

London

Beijing

Rio de Janeiro

Stockholm

Mexico City

Brussels

Bangkok

Nairobi

## COUNTRY

**Algeria**

USA

Spain

Lebanon

China

Italy/Cuba

Australia

Japan

Russian Federation

Republic of Korea

Turkey

South Africa

United Kingdom

China

Brazil

Sweden

Mexico

Belgium

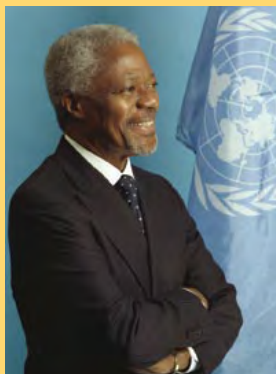
Thailand

Kenya

5 June







# Protecting Drylands, Preventing Poverty

Message of United Nations  
Secretary-General Kofi Annan

**T**he theme of this year's observance of World Environment Day, "Don't Desert Drylands!", reminds us all, in the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, of the importance of caring for the world's vast areas of arid and semiarid land.

Drylands are found in all regions, cover more than 40 per cent of the Earth and are home to nearly 2 billion people -- one-third of the world's population. For most dryland dwellers, life is hard and the future often precarious. They live on the ecological, economic and social margins. It is essential that we do not neglect them or the fragile habitats on which they depend.

Across the planet, poverty, unsustainable land management and climate change are turning drylands into deserts, and desertification in turn exacerbates and leads to poverty. It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded. The problem is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where dryland degradation is a serious obstacle to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and is jeopardizing efforts to ensure environmental sustainability. These goals, which the world's governments have pledged to achieve by 2015, are essential components of a broader commitment to achieve a more secure future for humankind.

There is also mounting evidence that dryland degradation and competition over increasingly scarce resources can bring communities into conflict. Furthermore, people whose livelihoods and survival depend on drylands are swelling the ranks of environmental and economic refugees who are testing the already stretched resources of towns and cities across the developing world.

Desertification is hard to reverse, but it can be prevented. Protecting and restoring drylands will not only relieve the growing burden on the world's urban areas, it will contribute to a more peaceful and secure world. It will also help to preserve landscapes and cultures that date back to the dawn of civilization and are an essential part of our cultural heritage.

On this World Environment Day, in the 10th anniversary year of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, I urge governments and communities everywhere to focus on the challenges of life on the desert margins so the people who live there can look forward to a future of peace, health and social progress.

# Dryland Degradation: A Common Threat

## Message of the United Nations Environment Programme

**T**he dry and delicate landscapes that we call deserts are among the world's most spectacular, harsh and beautiful. They support a specialized diversity of life, including some of humankind's most ancient cultures. On all continents, with the exception of uninhabited Antarctica, communities that live in or around deserts represent a direct link to knowledge, history and traditions that are increasingly imperilled by the dual pressures of globalization and environmental decline.

Deserts, and the cultures that have learned to live in harmony with them, are an important part of humanity's heritage. Desertification, on the other hand, is the manifestation of a multitude of destructive factors – almost all caused or made worse by human activity – that together represent one of the greatest challenges to environmental sustainability, human security and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

There is a fine line between dryland and desert—one which once crossed is hard to return from. It is vastly more cost-effective to prevent dryland degradation than to reverse it. It is therefore essential to focus on policies and technologies that will protect the world's arid, semiarid and dry subhumid areas. These areas, where rainfall is low and evaporation is high, may be fragile, but if managed well they are also fertile and capable of supporting the habitats, crops and livestock that sustain nearly one-third of humanity.

The fact that more than half the world's productive land is dryland emphasizes the critical importance of wise management at the global, national and local level. Impoverished land and impoverished people are two sides of the same coin. To raise public awareness about desertification, and to help to preserve dryland and desert communities, and the biological diversity on which they depend, the UN General Assembly declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

In support of the International Year, UNEP chose the theme 'Don't Desert Drylands' for World Environment Day 2006. The degradation of drylands is a global problem, but it is perhaps most acute in Africa, the least developed region of the world and the most vulnerable to environmental change. The host city for World Environment Day 2006 is Algiers, capital of Algeria. With its geography, history and culture inextricably bound with the world's greatest and best-known desert, the Sahara, and with its Environment Minister, Chérif Rahmani, the UN's honorary spokesman for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, the country is ideally situated to highlight every facet of this complex issue.

Each year, on 5 June, World Environment Day provides an opportunity for communities and governments around the world to reflect on the essential role that the environment plays in our daily lives and our plans for the future. As the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has highlighted, more than 60 per cent of the world's ecosystems are in decline or even degraded





Bab-el-Oued neighborhood of Algiers, Algeria. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)

to an extent that we can no longer rely on their services. These include the world's drylands, as well as forests, fisheries and even the air that we breathe. It is plain that, despite increasing knowledge and a growing list of political agreements and commitments, humankind continues to squander our natural capital.

For example, it is estimated that desertification and drought account for a \$42 billion annual loss in food productivity worldwide. On top of this figure is the uncountable cost in human suffering and lives lost due to hunger and the need to abandon once productive land. These statistics are not only disturbing, they are preventable. This too, is the message of World Environment Day. As well as highlighting problems, each year the Day draws attention to the many available remedies.

Throughout its existence, UNEP has emphasized the importance of preventing and reversing land degradation. It played an integral role in establishing the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and is working alongside partners such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility, to implement it. UNEP has also gathered a comprehensive collection of success stories in the struggle against desertification in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, which together demonstrate that appropriate, replicable technological and policy solutions exist to address the challenges of the drylands.

The degradation of drylands is a growing problem that needs imaginative, collaborative and multi-sectoral action. It is both a result of and a contributor to climate change; it is both the cause and the consequence of poverty. If left unchecked it threatens the future food security of humanity's steadily growing population and the stability of communities and countries in all regions. Therefore, on this World Environment Day, UNEP's message to the world is 'Don't Desert Drylands!'



# Calling for a World Charter on Deserts and Desertification

**Message of H. E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika , President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria**

**A**lgeria is greatly honoured to have been chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme to host the 2006 World Environment Day celebrations. We are particularly proud to have been chosen as this year's focus is on deserts and desertification.

The official slogan for WED 2006, 'Don't Desert Drylands', addresses sustainable development in the deserts. In order to respond to the concerns and expectations of many countries on this issue, the UN General Assembly adopted, at Algeria's instigation, Resolution 58/211, which established 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Through its dual role as host country of World Environment Day and as the official 'voice' for the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification, Algeria is receiving international acknowledgement for its efforts towards environmental protection and balanced and sustainable development, as well as its wide and varied activities aimed at protecting the environment. Algeria is keen to establish an international, innovative and sincere partnership, based on the principles of fairness, solidarity and common responsibility.

My country is delighted to host WED 2006 on the African continent, large sections of which are covered by deserts and drylands, making it the most affected by and most vulnerable to the devastating consequences of the alarming degradation of fertile soils. Persistent and cyclical droughts, frequent natural disasters, poverty, migration, and other dramatic aspects of underdevelopment have had numerous consequences that cannot be confined to narrow national and regional contexts and spaces because they go beyond the political and natural borders of nation states. These numerous consequences have in fact been underlined on many occasions by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a unique and innovative African initiative of which Algeria is one of the key instigators is, without a doubt, a resolute and responsible response to the major challenges that the continent faces today. With a wealth of natural and human potential, often little or badly used, Africa must face the challenges of globalisation, especially those related to better governance and steady and sustainable development, the principal pillar of which is the environmental dimension. Combating desertification, conservation and the integrated and rational development of arid, semiarid,

mountainous and forest areas, preserving water-resources and reducing poverty are therefore key objectives that must be quickly addressed, in order to put an end to the devastating impacts of underdevelopment on the continent.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the international community is called upon to reflect on the possibility of forging a sustainable partnership, responsible and innovative, which should be able to contribute effectively to the success of this exemplary African initiative in Eco-Development. In so doing, it will be answering the cries of despair, the aspirations and expectations of nations and peoples who must cruelly endure daily hardship and an uncertain future. We must face up to the fact that the sometimes irreversible degradation of cultural, natural and agricultural heritage, of fragile ecosystems and biodiversity, the rapid spread of deserts, as well as inadequate international response and local efforts to combat desertification, aggravate conditions of poverty across the world, deepening the crisis on a global scale.

In 2005 in San Francisco, under the slogan 'Green Cities: Plant for the Planet', we were invited to adopt accords for the creation of a network of cities striving for a sustainable Urban Environment. This year, we call for the adoption of a World Charter on Deserts and to Combat Desertification to mark World Environment Day and the closing of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. In this way, we hope to contribute to achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals, goals which were reinforced and renewed by the decisions made by Heads of State and Government during the World Summit held in New York in September 2005.

All our efforts aim to sustainably reinforce our common efforts towards the development of human rights, a healthy environment, a decent and fulfilled life and a global, real, and sustainable development, for all. It is therefore our duty to unite and consolidate our efforts and means and to make them work for our common conviction, that of a common future, for the generations of today and tomorrow and for their legitimate right to live on a protected and safe planet.

Let this World Environment Day be an opportunity for us all to be messengers of world peace and harmony, messengers of hope for the future – that of our children and that of our planet.



Painting by:  
Rial Noureddine, 14  
years old,  
Tizi Ouzou,  
Algeria.





# Don't Desert Drylands!

**Message of H. E. Mr. Cherif Rahmani, Minister of Environment of Algeria  
President of the Foundation Deserts du Monde, Honorary Spokesperson of  
the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification**

**T**his slogan, in the form of an urgent call to action, defines the context in which World Environment Day 2006 will be celebrated. Algeria, my country, is honoured to have been chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as host of this day. Algeria is doubly honoured, first and foremost because the majority of its territory comprises desert and also because, by choosing Algeria, it is the whole of Africa that is honoured.

This year, the theme builds on Resolution 58/211 under which the General Assembly of the UN proclaimed 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification. This decision represents a welcome outcome of the multifaceted steps taken by my country on deserts, initiated and developed for many years, but that has certainly experienced a revival since the year 2000.

Many efforts, many initiatives and many plans of action have thus been successful. Algeria has committed itself, resolutely and consistently, to policies that not only mobilize but unify as well.

Under the innovative environmental policies initiated by His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic, we have developed and conclusively and visibly expanded on the commitments made during the Summits on the Environment and Sustainable Development of Rio then Johannesburg, as well as the UN's Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. We have also tried, and often succeeded, at our level, to encourage partnerships and mediums of cooperation and dialogue at a regional and international level, while always ensuring that our approach respected common principles, such as those pertaining to "shared but differentiated responsibility".

Should one not therefore, consider that, by choosing Algeria as the focal point for the celebrations in 2006, the aspirations and very valid expectations awakened by the UN Resolution declaring this the International Year of Deserts and Desertification to have been consecrated?

It is in any case justifiable that we once again declare ourselves honoured by this selection, in as much as the Resolution was adopted following the initiative taken by my country and that of the Fondation Déserts du Monde created under the patronage of H. E. Adbelaziz Bouteflika.

I have the pleasure and the privilege to reaffirm here, in my capacity of Ambassador, Honorary Spokesperson of the UN for the 2006 commemoration, how seriously we take the demands of the mission we have been given.

We must first give back hope to the millions of people in drylands. Hope alone, however, can not satisfy expectations when survival is often the prime issue. We not only feel concern at the often chronic material poverty in which entire communities are sinking in desert and semi-desert



Ghardaia, Algeria. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)

regions. Their poverty is, in our view, the supreme issue. And it is there that we draw on the reasons for our actions and our commitment.

Algeria will host a high level meeting at the end of the year, in the context of the International Year on Deserts and Desertification. The meeting will take stock of all that was warmly and generously thought of and retained concerning deserts and its people. This will be the crowning achievement, not only suggested but also programmed, of a series of actions throughout the months that make up this symbolic year.

The fight against desertification is an unending one. The fight against poverty is an imperative one, which now categorically forces itself upon us.

So what territory in reality is touched by our action? It is obviously the planet as a whole. For, if deserts only appear here and there in man's view, the heart of human sensitivity, on the other hand, resides everywhere.

We must speak up everywhere in favour of the deserts and the populations that inhabit them and that have formed such extraordinary civilizations, such extraordinary cultures!

We must sensitize man everywhere because where man's heart and spirit are conquered, they put themselves at the service of the causes that have moved them positively. Let us always remember that we are at the service of one slogan: Don't desert drylands! Because that slogan puts us at the service of those who, though possibly unaware of our efforts, nonetheless and paradoxically, expect much from us.







# Facts about Deserts and Desertification

Deserts are harsh dry environments, where few people live. Nevertheless many species of flora and fauna have adapted to live in deserts, and they support a wide diversity of life.

Desert toads burrow into the sand and lie dormant for months until the rains come, when they emerge to feed, breed and lay eggs. Some desert mammals have evolved long ears or other appendages to dissipate body heat. Others get their entire moisture needs from the food they eat. In Namibia, the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant persists by drawing moisture from the daily fogs that sweep over the Namib Desert.

Because of their highly specialized nature, desert species are particularly vulnerable to habitat disturbance. Surprisingly little is known and documented about deserts in terms of biological, ecological and cultural characteristics. The different deserts of the world are unique in terms of origin, evolutionary history and climatic patterns. They need tailored management and policies to protect them.

Drylands are characterized by low rainfall and high rates of evaporation. They occupy 41 per cent of Earth's land area and are home to more than 2 billion people. Half of all people living in poverty live in drylands. They depend heavily on environmental services for their basic needs.

People living in drylands, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries, lag far behind

the rest of the world in human well-being and development indicators. In developing countries, infant mortality in drylands averages about 54 children per 1,000 live births, twice as high as in non-dryland areas, and 10 times the infant mortality rate in developed countries.

Desertification is defined by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities." Land degradation in drylands is defined as the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity of drylands. It affects one third of the Earth's surface and more than 1 billion people.

The consequences of desertification and drought include food insecurity, famine and poverty. The ensuing social, economic and political tensions can create conflicts, cause more impoverishment and further increase land degradation. Growing desertification worldwide threatens to increase by millions the number of poor forced to seek new homes and livelihoods.

Between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded. The problem is worst in the developing world. The total land area affected by desertification is estimated as between 6 and 12 million square kilometers (for comparison the countries of Brazil, Canada and China are all between 8 and 10 million square kilometers).



Oasis of Timimoun, Algeria. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)

**D**rylands contain 43 per cent of the world's cultivated lands. Land degradation causes an estimated loss of US \$42 billion a year from agricultural production. Nearly one-third of the world's cropland has been abandoned in the past 40 years because erosion has made it unproductive. Each year an additional 20 million hectares of agricultural land either becomes too degraded for crop production, or becomes lost to urban sprawl.

Over the last three decades the need for higher agricultural yields to feed the growing world population has exerted increasing pressure on land and water resources. Compared to the 1970s, 2.2 billion more people need to be fed today. So far, food production has kept

pace with population growth, but continued expansion means we may need 60 per cent more food in the next 30 years. The growing need for agricultural land accounts for 60-80 per cent of the world's deforestation.

Desertification is found to some degree on 30 per cent of irrigated lands, 47 per cent of rain-fed agricultural lands, and 73 per cent of rangelands. Annually, an estimated 1.5 to 2.5 million hectares of irrigated land, 3.5 to 4 million hectares of rain-fed agricultural land, and about 35 million hectares of rangeland lose all or part of their productivity due to land degradation.

Restoring soil lost by erosion is a slow process. It can take 500 years for 2.5 cm

of soil to form. Dust storms are a growing problem in many areas, affecting the health of people and ecosystems both locally and at a great distance. Thick storms rising out of the Gobi Desert affect much of China, Korea and Japan, cause increased incidences of fever, coughing and sore eyes during the dry season. Dust emanating from the Sahara has been implicated in respiratory problems as far away as North America and has affected coral reefs in the Caribbean.

The UN General Assembly declared 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. 2006 also marks the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The Convention has a full complement of 191 Parties, representing all UN Member States.

The consequences of desertification include:

- diminished food production, reduced soil productivity and a decrease in the land's natural resilience;
- increased downstream flooding, reduced water quality, sedimentation in rivers and lakes, and the siltation of reservoirs and navigation channels;
- aggravated health problems due to wind-blown dust, including eye infections, respiratory illnesses, allergies, and mental stress;
- loss of livelihoods forcing affected people to migrate.

Drylands remain impoverished because:

- poor people living in drylands, especially women, seldom have a strong political voice and often lack essential services,

such as health care, agricultural extension and education; women are also regularly discriminated against under land ownership regulations;

- dryland dwellers often lack agricultural necessities, such as tools, fertilizers, water, pesticides and seeds, they have inadequate access to markets and their products seldom fetch reasonable prices due to low quality;
- local communities often fail to benefit from other local resources, such as mined minerals, or wildlife and other tourist attractions;
- access to water and rights over this resource are often inadequate, and water resources are often poorly managed, leading to overuse and salinization;
- land is often overcultivated and overgrazed, leading to declining productivity;
- dryland communities are especially vulnerable to drought; they often depend on livestock or subsistence crops and lack reserves of food, money, insurance or other forms of social safety nets to cope with difficult years.

Fighting poverty in drylands requires that all these problems are addressed simultaneously.

The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment notes that it is easier to prevent desertification than to reverse it. Population pressure and bad land management practices are the cause of degradation. Better management of crops, more careful irrigation and strategies to provide non-farming jobs for people living in drylands could help to address the problem.



# The World Environ

## 77 ways to celebrate

### A

Announcements by Environment Ministries  
Art made of recycled materials  
Auctions to benefit an environmental project  
Award presentations (for environment-related activities)  
Awareness campaigns

### B

Bicycle parades/races  
Broadcast of public service announcements (TV and radio)

### C

Carpools  
Celebrity support  
Clean-up campaigns  
Competitions (banner, drawing, essay, painting, poster, poetry)  
Conferences on the environment

### D

Debates on environment issues  
Discussions (small and large groups)  
Distribution of leaflets, brochures and posters

### E

Environmental education programmes in schools  
Establishment of governmental structures dealing with environmental management  
Excursions to nature sites  
Exhibitions (drawings, posters, photos and paintings)

### F

Fairs  
Festivals  
Film festivals on the environment/screening of environmental films  
Football matches

### G

Green concerts  
Guidelines on how the community can undertake environmental protection activities

### H

Hoist banners at major intersections in cities

### I

Involve various partners (NGOs, ministries of environment, youth groups, celebrities, business, industry, private sector)  
Issuance of First Day Covers (stamps)

### J

Join an environmental group

### K

Keep your neighbourhood clean  
Kick start an environmental campaign  
Know your rights

### L

Launch of government environment policies, books and reports  
Legislation

### M

March for the environment  
Media coverage and activities (TV and radio programmes and interviews, newspaper articles, editorials, letters to the editor on the environment)

### N

Network  
Never litter



# ment Day Alphabet

## O

Organic farming/cooking  
Organize a special event

## P

Parades  
Performances (plays, songs, poetry)  
Promotional materials related to theme (T-shirts, stickers, bookmarks)  
Puppet shows for children featuring environmental messages

## Q

Quizzes related to the theme for schools, youth groups, company staff, etc. . .

## R

Rainwater harvesting  
Rallies  
Ratify international environmental conventions  
Recycle  
Rehabilitate natural habitats  
Repair  
Reuse  
Rickshaw rally

## S

Save paper  
Seminars  
Sign international environmental conventions  
Sort rubbish  
Speeches  
Sponsorship from private sector  
Stickers with environmental messages  
Symposia

## T

Tours of nature sites  
Tree planting  
T-shirts with WED theme

## U

Use sustainable modes of transportation (walking, jogging, cycling, skating, carpool)

## V

Vehicle emission monitoring  
Visits to botanical gardens and other environmental sites  
Voice your concerns  
Volunteer for organizations such as Clean Up the World

## W

Waste collection  
Waste composting  
Workshops  
Write plays, poems, songs  
Write letters to your civic leaders, members of parliament, national government and newspapers

## X

X-press your concern for the environment

## Y

Youth-led activities

## Z

Zero emissions





An olive grove in the Mascara Region, Algeria. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)



The Kasbah, Algiers, Algeria. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: [yannarthusbertrand.org](http://yannarthusbertrand.org)



# Inspiring examples

World Environment Day can be celebrated in many ways. The following are a selection of inspiring examples of how World Environment Day has been celebrated in 2004 with the theme: ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?*** and in 2005 with the theme: ***Green Cities: Plan for the Planet.***

## AFRICA

### BENIN

#### Cotonou

The Agency of Young Reporters of Environment and Health in Benin (AYOREB) organized a youth-led march to disseminate information about the need to protect the environment on the occasion of World Environment Day 2004. This event was followed by a live debate/conference on the State of the Environment in Benin today and the expectations of the youth.

### BOTSWANA

#### Gaborone

A Grey Water Recycling System was launched to mark World Environment Day 2005. This wastewater system diverts, collects and treats grey water for reuse and addresses the water situation in Botswana which is at a critical stage. It is the most practical method to compliment the government's initiative for water conservation. Research has shown that this system can reduce domestic water consumption by up to 60 per cent.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

#### Goma

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Virunga Environmental Programme launched two studies on major environmental issues of



Gaborone, Botswana, 2005

the region entitled *Community Participation in Urban Forestry in Goma: A Participatory Approach and Waste Management in the City*. The studies were presented on 5 June to Goma authorities, among others, to be used as important tools for planning.

### EGYPT

#### Hurghada

World Environment Day was celebrated on the Red Sea coast of Egypt from Hurghada to Wadi El Gemal National Park with underwater, beach and mangrove clean-ups and with events honouring those who participated in protecting valuable coastal resources.

In the environs of Hurghada, the World Environment Day festivities began in the



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2005

morning with an underwater clean-up of a snorkeling reef at Small Magawish Island, followed by an afternoon clean-up around a shipwreck on Sheraton Reef. Divers collected six large sacks of bottles, pipes, fishing nets, ropes, plastics and metals. Other heavy items on the sea floor included tyres, iron railings, a porcelain toilet and concrete blocks. Near the town of Quseir, clean-up activities took place in three other coastal mangrove areas, Wadi Abu Hamara, Sharm el Bahari and Sharm el Qibli. The rangers collaborated with tourist resorts, diving centers and local residents to collect more than 80 large bags of refuse. The Quseir Ranger Office awarded certificates of appreciation to the participants. Further south on Wadi El Gimal Island, divers, tourists, young people and the general public from the coastal resorts participated along with the Marsa Alam and Shams Alam Rangers in removing garbage from the island's beaches, one of which is host to 80 Hawksbill Turtle nests.

## ETHIOPIA

### Addis Ababa

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, Midroc Gold Mines organized an environmental awareness training for its employees, the local community and schoolchildren. A total of 300 participants took part in the colourful event on 5 June. Tree plantings were carried out at three different sites by various community

groups, the company management and the employees. Some 600 trees were planted. On 6 June, a photo exhibition of the 2004 World Environment Day celebrations was held.

## GHANA

### Accra

Earth Service, an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) in Ghana launched UNEP's **Plant for the Planet** campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day 2004. Some 1,500 people participated in the event including children from various schools, representatives of UN agencies, e.g. the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), government ministries, corporations and the media as well as a number of NGOs.

## KENYA

### Dadaab

World Environment Day 2004 was marked by week-long festivities in Dadaab Refugee Camp in North Eastern Kenya. Throughout the week, the refugees, the host community and aid agencies jointly participated in plastic waste



Nairobi, Kenya, 2005

collection, tree planting efforts, solar cooking competitions and football matches. Songs and dances, essays and plays illustrating the theme and accompanied by colourful banners, produced by the refugees, were showcased at selected venues. The German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) reinforced the message with appropriately emblazoned T-shirts and caps; and awarded prizes for environmental achievements during the year.

### Kakuma

World Environment Day was celebrated in a significant way in the refugee camp of Kakuma – a city of 87,000 refugees in northern Kenya. The event focused on the cleaning of the camp with emphasis on the reduction of plastic bags. The best and cleanest block received an award. In schools, pupils from 13 years of age and upwards wrote essays on the best way of keeping the environment in and around the refugee camp clean. In addition, tree planting activities were intensified.

Five artistically painted Metro Shuttle buses drove around the city with colourful messages on the 2005 World Environment Day theme. The Kenya Bus Company and Crown Berger Paints, for the second year, offered buses and donated enough paint for the creative visualization of the 2005 World Environment Day slogan: *Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!*

### LIBERIA

#### Monrovia

The Environment Theme Group of Liberia, under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the support of UNEP, UNDP and UNMIL, led World Environment Day celebrations in the capital city Monrovia with the theme: *Green Cities – Plan for the Planet!*

A Liberian National Police band led a march of approximately 150 World Environment Day banner-wielding EPA staff and students through the streets of the capital.



Watamu, Kenya, 2005

### Nairobi

The 2005 World Environment Day activities were marked by a variety of lively, vibrant and artistic events on the UN compound, at schools, in local communities, at roundabouts, cultural institutions, universities and in the Karura and Aberdare Forests, just to name a few.

The march culminated at City Hall with the delivery of remarks by the EPA, the UN, academia and the NGO sector. In addition, UNHCR adopted the theme Green your camps: Improve Natural Resource Management whereby major stakeholders planted trees in a transit camp.





Monrovia , Liberia, 2005

## LIBYA

### Tripoli

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Tripoli, Libya organized a one-week campaign on the environment for the general public under the title *Cleaning the Beach*. This activity was organized by the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief, the Canadian Embassy, scouts and guides, among others. A drawing competition was also organized by the Canadian Embassy with the support of commercial firms.

## MALAWI

### Mulanje

Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust commemorated World Environment Day on 4 June 2005 at the Mulanje Community Ground with a running race competition among school children. Following the race, speeches, poems and songs based on the *Green Cities* theme were performed.

## MAURITIUS

### Curepipe

The aim of the World Environment Day 2004 project in Mauritius was to attract the public's attention and to get them to actively participate in cleaning fallow land located on Pope Hennessy Road in Curepipe in order to restore the soil's fertility for future crops. The project consisted of creating a botanical garden, a retaining wall, a path, educational tours and a parking lane 180 metres long to promote sustainable, social and ecological development.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Maputo

Environment Minister Luciano de Castro celebrated World Environment Day by inaugurating a landfill for the disposal of industrial waste at Mavoco, Boane district, about 20 kilometres from the capital Maputo. The facility covers 50 hectares, and six will be used in the initial stage. The landfill is owned by the state, through the National Environment Fund (FUNAB), but it was paid for by the aluminium smelter MOZAL. The landfill can process 3,500 tonnes of industrial waste a month. The disposal of waste from industries in Maputo, Matola and Boane is thus solved for at least the next five years.

## NAMIBIA

### Windhoek

Environment and Tourism Deputy Minister Leon Jooste announced at the World Environment Day 2005 celebrations that his Ministry, the City of Windhoek and the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry had initiated an environmental management planning programme for the capital. He also announced that the Ministry was finalizing the Pollution and Waste Management Bill and associated regulations. These laws would

make environmental assessment mandatory in all developments, including construction projects in towns.

A massive clean-up operation was also organized during World Environment Week held from June 4 to 10 at the dune belt between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. The Environmental Management Section of the Municipality of Walvis Bay, in partnership with Dare Devil Adventures, organized the effort to get the dunes spotless. An appeal was also made to 4x4 vehicle owners to assist with the campaign by offering to take volunteers into the dunes. Quad bikes were made available to assist volunteers and the Municipality awarded certificates of appreciation to participants and donors.



Hurghada , Egypt, 2004

## NIGERIA

### Lagos

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, Earthwatch Foundation organized an Earth Carnival and a green concert. Participants were dressed in colourful clothes depicting various shades of green. A week-long environmental awareness campaign was broadcast by selected TV stations. Last year, between 29 May and 5 June, Tunde Imolehin (a well-known environment analyst and a TV personality) hosted a very successful television festival

entitled Earth Summit on one of Nigerian's main TV stations. To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, the Nigerian Environmental Society (NES) organized the *Ride-for-life Green Concert* - a green motorcycle ride concert. The 5 km trip started as a moving train from the Bar-beach end of Lagos and ended at Ikeja. This event aimed to raise awareness among the general public and government authorities of various environmental issues, including coastal erosion, environmental sanitation, safety on wheels, noise and air pollution. Some 50 carefully selected motorcyclists were kitted out with branded T-shirts and caps. The train ride was coordinated by the officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC). In addition, a five-day environmental art exhibition was organized at Muson Centre, in collaboration with Afroaccess Galleries.

### Surulere

To mark World Environment Day 2005, Human Rights and Justice Group International, under its Sustainable Environmental Action Programme (SEAP), carried out a drainage clean-up project in Kirikiri Community in Apapa, Lagos. The project's aim was to clean up all the drainage ditches in the community to prevent flooding and ocean surges as many ditches are blocked by local refuse dumps. Also included in the programme was an environmental campaign entitled Know Your Rights. The aim was to educate and enlighten the communities to know that a sustainable clean environment is a right and a prerequisite for healthy living. About 134 volunteers participated in this event.

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Cape Town

The City of Cape Town hosted the Youth Environmental School (YES) programme under the theme *Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?* YES 2004 was the fifth programme the City hosted from 31 May to 4 June 2004 with an Eco-School Teachers' Workshop on 5 June, at the Chrysalis Academy in Tokai. YES was hosted at

the Academy in Tokai with 15 satellite venues. A total of 48 organizations with 65 speakers presented 77 different activities (e.g. Rivers for Life, Learn Not To Burn, Drug Awareness, Wetlands, Know Your Birds, Children Living on the Streets, Discover Science, HIV/AIDS and You). The programme was open to all primary and special schools in the City and was free of charge. To ensure that all schools had an equal opportunity to participate, especially marginalized schools, bus transport (two buses per school) were made available, free of charge. A total of 237 buses were used. On 5 June, an Eco-Schools Teacher's Workshop, with about 160 teachers, learners and service providers, was organized. During the week there was a Teachers' Resource Centre with 33 exhibitors to assist teachers and schools with learning support materials – most of which were free.



Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, 2004

### **Pretoria**

South Africa celebrated National Environment Week to coincide with World Environment Day 2005 under the theme *Our environment belongs to all who live in it*. As part of the celebrations, the National Assembly debated the subject with special emphasis on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk formally designated the first group of Environmental Management Inspectors

(EMIs) nicknamed the "Green Scorpions". The inspectors are authorized to carry out a range of enforcement powers varying from routine inspections to search and seizure operations, setting up roadblocks and arresting suspects. The Minister also launched the first in a series of countrywide Clean Air meetings in Boipatong to engage communities worst affected by air pollution.

### **RWANDA**

#### **Kigali**

In Rwanda, Environment Minister Drocella Mugorewera launched environment week which was dedicated to protecting areas around the River Nyabarongo, so that soils are not washed off into the river.

### **SOMALIA**

#### **Berbera**

Every year, the organization Yovenco in Berbera organizes a ceremony on the occasion of World Environment Day. In 2005, they mobilized the community through the media by putting on plays about the environment.

### **SWAZILAND**

#### **Mbabane**

Two weeks before World Environment Day, a variety of activities, in line with the 2005 theme, were carried out in the country's main towns and cities. They included: a press conference by the Swaziland Environment Authority; the protection and cleaning of a stream at Siteki Town; the cleaning of a pond at Pigg's Peak Town; a breakfast meeting for Parliament Portfolio Committees to sensitize them about World Environment Day; a joint tree-planting and clean-up campaign at Manzini City; a mini-launch for the rehabilitation of public parks; declaration of a wetland as a protected area in Nhlanguano Town; a seminar at the University of Swaziland; and the main celebrations at Pigg's Peak Town (including an exhibition) on 4 June.



**TANZANIA****Dar es Salaam**

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, the Mabibo Women's Environmental Management Society organized solid waste collection and road sweeping, as well as a tree planting activity.

**TOGO****Lomé**

On 5 June 2004, a network of 13 NGOs, the National Consumers and Environmental Alliance of Togo, (ANCE/Togo) organized two activities to celebrate World Environment Day.

The first, an information meeting, chaired by the director of ANCE/Togo touched on a number of issues affecting oceans and seas by the region's largest industrial companies including IFG-Togo, Benin Brewery, and NIOTO and the agricultural overuse of chemical fertilizers in the coastal regions and near rivers. The meeting called upon the government and the public to take appropriate action to protect the marine ecosystem.

On the afternoon of World Environment Day, more than 4,000 people marched through the main streets of the capital Lomé. The hour-long march helped draw the country's attention to the growing risks to seas and oceans and the need to adopt urgent measures to protect them.

**ZIMBABWE****Bindura**

To mark World Environment Day 2005, the organization Environment Action Support Youth (EASY) implemented a Zero Waste Initiative at Bindura University by developing and implementing a sustainable waste management plan. They also cleaned up Bindura Town and Hospital.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**AUSTRALIA**

Each Year World Environment Day is celebrated amongst Toyota's 3,000 employees in Australia with competitions, sausage sizzles and free seedlings handed out. This year, Toyota's internal theme and focus was "waste". They distributed approximately 2,500 re-usable "Green Bags" to their employees.



To coincide with World Environment Day 2004, eight high-profile Australians made a national plea over clear-felling. More than 300 people attended a public meeting in Perth, Western Australia, and 600 were present at a meeting in Brisbane. About 700 attended a meeting in Adelaide and about 1,600 were in Sydney. Rallies were also held in Melbourne and Sydney. In Hobart, World Environment Day was celebrated on the Parliament House lawns with dancers, bands, stalls and speeches.

The 2004 Lithgow Environmental Awards were held in conjunction with World Environment Day at the Lithgow Council Chambers.

Going with the World Environment Day 2005 Green City theme, Toshiba Australia Pty Ltd introduced an extensive recycling programme,

covering all forms of waste generated by all the company premises throughout Australia. As an introduction to this new policy, all employees were given a china mug to replace foam cups, which will be banned from Toshiba Australia Pty Ltd's sites.

In 2005, Clean Up the World (CUW) invited members to consider the impact of the planet's growing urban populations. CUW promoted Green Cities, Green Communities in support of UNEP's World Environment Day theme ***Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!***



Save the Sea by Tin Chi Ting, 9 years old, China

### **Brisbane**

The faculty of Environmental Sciences at Nathan Campus, Griffith University, celebrated World Environment Day 2005 with an initiative entitled "Redeeming Our Pledge to Save the Environment and Make Green Cities". The students gathered at the nearby City Center shopping mall to conduct awareness activities on 'Green Shopping'. They requested people

to reject the disposable plastic bags and go for 'Green Bags'. Australia uses 6 billion plastic bags each year, most of which end up in landfills.

### **Kingscote, Kangaroo Island**

In keeping with the World Environment Day 2004 theme, Kingscote Area School undertook a study of the marine environment with the participation of the entire school. The results, outlined in a brochure, were launched on World Environment Day. In addition, a very large artwork created by students (with the aid of a local artist) from beach litter collected from around the island was unveiled.

### **Melbourne**

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, Parks Victoria and the National Gallery of Victoria joined forces to create an environmental trail entitled "The Altered Land", with artworks from the permanent collection of Australian art. The trail highlighted environmental issues and explored ways in which artists capture the changing Australian landscape. This collaborative project was launched on 5 June at the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square.

### **Nelson Bay**

On 5 - 6 June 2004, the Nelson Bay Town Management celebrated its second annual Festival of The Whales to coincide with World Environment Day using the 2004 theme ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*** The festival marked the commencement of the annual whale migration along Australia's east coast and was also a celebration of the local marine environment in Port Stephens - one of Australia's premier dolphin and whale watch centres.

### **Perth**

The City of Perth, in partnership with the Town of Victoria Park, the City of South Perth and the Claive Brook Catchment Group, hosted World Environment Day 2005 celebrations on 5 June at Point Fraser. Activities included: performances

by the City Farm Chameleon Brass Band; a community planting at Kensington Bushland; a cycle tour of Perth; a walking tour of Point Fraser; rides with the hydrogen fuel cell bus of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure; a speech by the Water Corporation and

to share and experience environmental learning. Some 350 students were invited to Portland Aluminium to participate in various environmental activities and to be treated to a waste wise/healthy lunch. The purpose of the event was to support environmental education and the development of future environmental leaders. It is also to showcase Alcoa Portland Aluminium's commitment to conservation and sustainability. Examples of activities students experienced included: interactive community partner displays, enviro arts and crafts, animal antics and 'wetland wonders'.

### Queensland

The Federal Labour Party launched the framework for its water policy to mark World Environment Day 2004.

Hannaford's Events, an Australian-based company that owns an exciting new theatre product called Flames of the Forest (FOTF) – Theatre of Light and Shadow, which was pioneered with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), organized a special event where guests experienced a theatre/dining and cultural event set in the rainforests of tropical north Queensland. For World Environment Day, FOTF launched an Australian first - the 000 concept (One person, One tree, One world) – a regeneration project where every participant discovers they have generated the planting of one tree on Australian soil as they are entertained in the stunning surroundings of the rainforest during an FOTF evening.

### St. Kilda, Victoria

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2004, Coast Care in conjunction with Quicksilver Board Riders Club, hosted an environmental rehabilitation and education day at the world famous Bells Beach known for its surfing. Everyone was invited to join in the revegetation of indigenous plants around the Winkipop area and to take an environmental interpretative tour.



Western Australia Museum; a Kings Park bushwalk; and various workshops at City Farm. A 20 per cent discount for bike hire was offered by Close About Bike Hire for World Environment Day visitors to Point Fraser.

### Portland

Alcoa Portland Aluminium hosted an event on 2 June 2005 to celebrate World Environment Day. The event brought together 10 local primary schools and 15 community partners



## Sydney

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the advertising firm Saatchi and Saatchi created, pro bono, a radio public service announcement for the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Sydney. In keeping with the year's World Environment Day theme, the focus of the PSA was city air pollution.

## Tasmania

On World Environment Day, Greens' Senator Bob Brown called on Australia's 15 million voters to make saving Tasmania's forests and wildlife a vote changing issue in the impending election. There were rallies, concerts and other events around the nation for the iconic forests.

## BANGLADESH

### Dhaka

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2004, the Prime Minister inaugurated an environment fair at Oamani Memorial Auditorium and distributed prizes to the winners of the children and youth painting and essay writing competitions.

## CHINA

### Beijing

In Beijing, a number of activities were held to coincide with World Environment Day 2004 including: the launching ceremony on 5 June of the national green community campaign sponsored by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) and the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) in a public square of a residential area; a launching ceremony of *I love China and I love Seas and Oceans – Campaign for Environmental Protection by China's Youngsters* jointly sponsored by the Song Chingling Foundation and SEPA in the Great Hall of the people. *The China Environment News* devoted a whole page to cover the information materials released by UNEP and



Shenzhen, China, 2005

activities of World Environment Day around the world. In addition, a State of Environment Report in China for 2003 was released by SEPA on 3 June 2004.

### Hong Kong

As part of World Environment Day 2004 celebrations, the Hong Kong Business Environment Council organized a seminar on sustainable production and consumption at the Island's Shangri-la Hotel. The seminar attracted some 100 participants, mostly from the Hong Kong business sector.

### Liaoning

Approximately 1,000 environmental protection volunteers in Dalian, held a rally at the Zhongshan Square to observe World Environmental Day 2004. Students from a dozen colleges and universities gave performances and delivered speeches on environmental protection at the square, which was adorned with billboards and posters. Under the slogan of ***Public involvement in environmental protection***, leading officials of numerous city departments in Dalian attended the day's activities in their capacity as volunteers instead of government officials.

### Shenzhen

To commemorate World Environment Day, Hitachi Global Storage Technologies hosted a celebration entitled "Green City, Green Home",

at Shenzhen Red Forest Eco-Park. Activities included: a clean-up of the Park from waste left by tourists, an environmental quiz and a photo exhibition.

## INDIA

### Chandigarh

To commemorate World Environment Day 2004, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) organized a workshop at Khuda Ali Sher village to create environmental awareness among the public. People from as many as 100 villages participated. Many renowned experts from various fields and NGOs lectured on selected environmental problems. A documentary film produced for WWF-INDIA highlighting various environmental concerns was also screened and remedial strategies were discussed.

Theatre Arts, in association with the State Bank of India, organized a street play entitled *Prakrati ke Dushman* to mark World Environment Day. This spectacular performance depicted the multifarious environmental problems of deforestation, air, water and noise pollution. The satire on politicians captured the audience's imagination.

### Imphal

The All Manipur Rickshaw Drivers' and Pullers' Welfare Association carried out a rickshaw rally in Imphal city on 5 June 2004.

### Maharashtra

To commemorate World Environment Day, the Tekdi Group organized "Earth Events 2005" from 22 April (Earth Day) to 5 June. The events symbolized an attempt to bridge the time between these two days by initiating Eco Activities. Events included: the launch of a Digital Desktop Eco Calendar on 5 June available on their website at <http://www.tekdi.com> as a free download. This calendar featured important Eco Events of the year as well as environmentally important days. As in previous years, the World Environment Day

activities began with tree planting exercises at their branches around the world. This activity, which started on World Environment Day will go on until December depending on local planting seasons. For example, in India the planting season begins on 5 June and runs until September.

### Mumbai

WWF-India, in association with the Maharashtra Nature Park, organized a workshop entitled "Green Mumbaikar" on 5 June. The programme included a nature trail in the Maharashtra Nature Park (a city man-made forest, developed by WWF-India on a garbage dump in the 1990s), followed by interactive sessions on vermicomposting, paper making and recycling. Different games and quizzes were also organized.



India, 2004

### Mysore

The Quality Inn Southern Star celebrated World Environment Day 2004 by prominently exhibiting in the lobby of the hotel posters depicting various factors affecting the environment. Guests were presented with bookmarks highlighting the importance of the day. A special programme to plant some 45 palm saplings by the general manager and employees was organized.

## New Delhi

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Postal Department of the Government of India brought out a First Day Cover which is an envelope bearing a commemorative cachet of stamps depicting the work of the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation.

## Trivandrum

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Forum for Environmental Writers (FEW) displayed banners in the local dialect on the



menace of plastic bags. The banners were put up at vantage points in the capital of Kerala. On the same day, a popular TV discussion on environment was broadcast.

## INDONESIA

### South Kalimantan

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, PT Arutmin, one of the local coal mining companies, invited the local government and the people to clean their areas by picking up rubbish and planting trees in public areas. They provided rubbish bins strategically placed along city roads and assisted in developing domestic waste management systems and the necessary infrastructure.

### Tangerang

In Indonesia, the main source of air pollution is vehicle emissions. That's why on World

Environment Day 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Tangerang Municipality measured public vehicle emissions. The tests were undertaken free of charge on 6 and 7 June to enhance public awareness of the need to maintain vehicles properly in order to prevent air pollution. The EPA also distributed posters, leaflets and stickers, which describe how important it is to maintain vehicles.

## Yogyakarta

Sylva Indonesia, the Indonesian Forestry Student Association, celebrated World Environment Day 2005 with a tree planting exercise to raise awareness of the year's theme. A project entitled "An Eco-Corridor for a Green City" was also developed in collaboration with 30 Indonesian universities to create a green corridor between Merapi Mountain National Park and the town of Yogyakarta. The association cooperated with the local government and NGOs, as well as with civil society and the media.

## KOREA

### Seoul

On 5 June 2004, the official ceremony to celebrate World Environment Day was held in the auditorium of the Convention and Exhibition Centre. More than 1,100 participants came from various sectors of society, including local and central governments, NGOs, industry and the armed forces. The Vice Prime Minister and the Environment Minister delivered statements and committed themselves to taking action to protect the environment.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### Uijongbu

In 2004, the United States Army, the United States Forces Korea (USFK), Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Service Members (BOSS) Programme, Camp Red Cloud and Area 1, planted trees in celebration of World Environment Day.





Malaya, Malaysia

## MALAYSIA

### Kuala Lumpur

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, Bangsar Village Shopping Centre undertook an environmental campaign, whose objective is to educate and reinforce the concept of recycling. The shopping centre sponsored 20,000 specially designed reusable green shopping bags, with the slogan *Go Green for the Future of our Kids*. Storyboards targeted at children were also displayed in the shopping centre, to create awareness of the need to recycle. To reinforce the message of using used materials, a book recycling effort was carried out. All collected books were donated to local charities, which adhere to the Bangsar Village Kids for Kids Charity Programme. To create awareness of the colour-coding employed for the sorting of different recyclable items, coloured recycling bins were put at key points, with large posters hanging over each bin. The campaign began in early April and continued until World Environment Day.

### Malaya

On 29 May, the Environmental Education Programme Rimba Ilmu of the University of Malaya in Malaysia launched at the Rimba Ilmu Botanic Garden Building the second Children's Art Show to coincide with World Environment Day 2004. The show was jointly organized by the University of Malaya, the Malaysian Nature

Society and the Impact Art Programme. An exhibition of 50 paintings on nature by a group of children was also produced. A silent auction of the paintings was held, and 60 per cent of the funds raised were donated to the Rimba Ilmu Botanic Garden.

### Penang

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2004, the World Fish Centre headquarters in Penang, Malaysia organized an awareness programme for its staff. World Environment Day posters were placed in strategic locations within the office complex and various articles about the year's theme, *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?* were also circulated. To mark the day, a special staff meeting was organized and staff members were treated to a short video clip on the state of the oceans. This led to discussions on how staff can contribute to the protection of the environment.

## MONGOLIA

### Ulaanbaatar

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium established a community-based tree nursery in Uliastain. The nurseries were placed in areas that will be able to provide sustainable seedlings for the next 10-20 years and with the aim of greening the Uliastain area in the next five years. The Mongolian Nature and

Environment Consortium provided technical and professional support to community members to fulfill the objectives.

## **NEPAL**

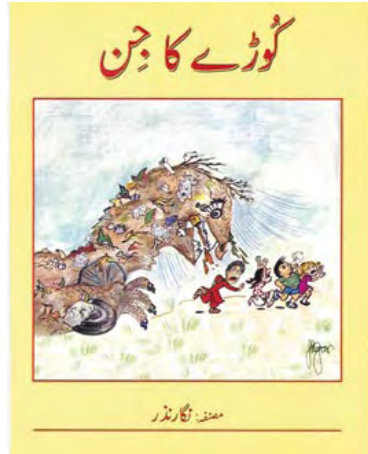
### **Kathmandu**

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Youth Awareness Environmental Forum (YAEF) arranged a banner show, at Ratnapark, Kathmandu and Lalitpur. On 4 June, the Secondary Level Valley Speech Competition Programme was held – 34 schools participated in the competition.

YAEF distributed posters which carried slogans on different topics, including: water conservation, plastic use reduction, stop chimney brick industries, stop the stone curser industries, etc. The 5 June programme was jointly organized by YAEF and Environment Cycle Radio (ECR FM). Celebrations started at the city hall in Rastriya Sava Griha Exhibition Road with the Valley Bicycle Rally, with the aim of turning into action the World Environment Day slogan. On reaching the YAEF Head office, a discussion was organized on the topic *Environment Protection in Nepal: Problems and Solutions*. On 6 June, a performance with dances and environmental songs took place.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

On World Environment Day 2004, International Waters called for deep sea protection from the Greenpeace flagship, Rainbow Warrior II, by urging the population not to put life in the deep sea out of mind, because it was out of sight. Rainbow Warrior left Auckland for waters around New Zealand to investigate and document bottom trawl fishing practices. It was part of an international campaign to protect deep sea life from the impacts of bottom trawling.



Islamabad, Pakistan, 2005

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Islamabad**

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, Gogi Studios presented a book, entitled *The Garbage Monster* on the theme of environment protection and cleanliness. The book, authored by the famous Pakistani cartoonist, Nigar Nazar, has colourful illustrations and includes a board game based on the Do's and Don'ts of maintaining a healthy and clean environment. Translated in Urdu and printed by the Ministry of Environment, it was distributed to children in different provinces of Pakistan.

### **Karachi**

On 4 June 2004, on the occasion of World Environment Day, the Society for Environment of Pakistan (SEP), a newly established non-profit organization, organized in collaboration with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Government of Sindh, a seminar at the Arts Council in Karachi based on the World Environment Day theme *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*

### Peshawar

The Human Resource Social Welfare Society International celebrated World Environment Day 2004 with an Environmental Award Ceremony in Peshawar. The ceremony was the culmination of a three-month campaign, which commenced with Earth Day celebrations on 22 April. It is estimated that one million people participated during the three-month period.

### Usta Muhammad

The Society for Human Advancement and Disadvantaged Empowerment (SHADE) celebrated World Environment Day for the first time in the region in 2005. Activities included a walk; a seminar entitled *Save the Planet*; and a poster competition among students of different schools. In addition, an environmental message was broadcast throughout the day on a local TV station.



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Alotau, Milne Bay Province

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, Conservation International (CI) organized a Green and Clean Day. Students, town authorities, businesses, prison inmates and the general public came together to clean up the town and plant trees. In addition, CI and the Town Authority launched a continuing Coastal Care Programme and introduced the Alotau Green and Clean Committee, who will be responsible for initiating clean and green programmes throughout the year. Posters and brochures were prepared for the event

and youths painted waste drums with clean and green messages.

### Port Moresby

The Department of Environment and Conservation, on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, launched the celebrations for World Environment Day 2004 at Port Moresby National High School on 3 June where the Prime Minister, Sir Michael Thomas Somare, gave the keynote address. Activities included traditional songs and dances, poem readings by students, drama and choir performances. The most important event was a tree planting, with the participation of a number of dignitaries who planted trees that were named and tagged after them. The current Moitaka Wild Life Sanctuary was officially dedicated to the Prime Minister and student representatives from some 15 schools in the capital were present.

## PHILIPPINES

### Muntinlupa City

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Muntinlupa City Ecological Solid Waste Management Board organized a number of initiatives, which took place throughout the month of June, including a motorcade; a gathering of all Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJ) and Tricycle Operators (TODA); a free petrol



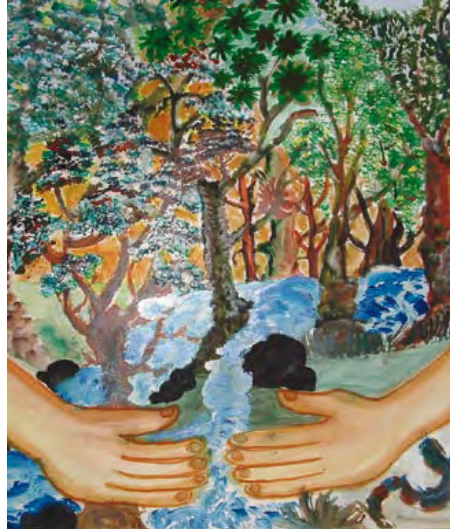
Corry Fian Angelia,  
12 years old,  
Indonesia



and diesel testing for tricycles, PUJs and government vehicles; a lake seeding exercise; and a river clean-up. An initiative entitled 'Tree ForThe Next Generation' was also launched, and a seminar on solid waste management was held. In addition, a free testing of water stations of the city was carried out.

## **SINGAPORE**

In Singapore, activities conducted to mark World Environment Day 2005 were varied. They ranged from government initiatives to voluntary and commercial efforts. On 27 May, the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources met with various industry professionals, governmental and non-governmental leaders at the inaugural Climate Change Roundtable. Strategies for a long-term blueprint for stakeholders to mitigate the effects of climate change in Singapore were mapped out. In June, raising environmental awareness became part of the portfolio of the Singapore Police Force. In addition to designating 1 June as 'Green Transport Day' – where staff were encouraged to take public transport such as trains and buses to work – more than 30,000 staff participated in activities such as the cleaning of nature areas, planting gardens and recycling projects. Several large retailers such as Carrefour and IKEA partnered with the Singapore Environment Council, a local NGO, in organizing a traveling "Green Living Exhibition". The exhibition reached about 5,000 people who learnt how to become more environment-friendly in their daily lives. In addition, one of the leading supermarket retailers – NTUC FairPrice – launched the FairPrice Green Bag, a reusable and environmentally friendly tote bag made of 100% polypropylene. Carrefour put up signs to identify green products within their premises, encouraged shoppers to use their own bags for their purchases and sold eco-friendly trolley bags at a discount.



Galle, Sri Lanka, 2004

## **SRI LANKA**

### **Galle, Southern Province**

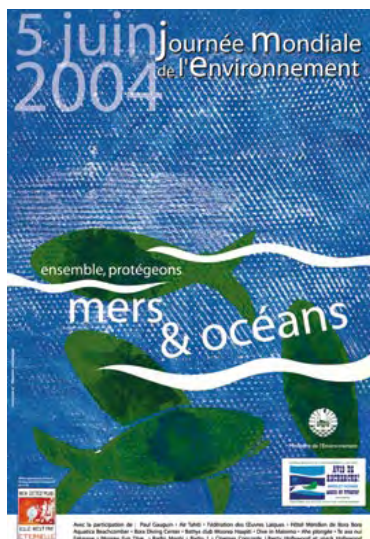
Rainforest Rescue International launched an awareness programme for 10 selected schools in Galle and Matara districts, to commemorate World Environment Day 2004. The initiative was part of a national programme coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the participation of the relevant Municipal Councils of the two districts, which are the main coastal towns in the country. The main event took place at the Town Hall, Galle on 5 June followed by a tree planting exercise. In addition, a beach cleaning programme was organized in collaboration with the Municipal Council of Matara, the University of Ruhuna and several environmental organizations. The film *Biodiversity and the Sea* was screened at the main bus station, Matara which, attracted more than 1,000 participants.

## TAHITI-FRENCH POLYNESIA

The Ministry of the Environment of French Polynesia organized a variety of events to celebrate World Environment Day 2004. Among them, radio public service announcements, a film showing and a poster competition. Environmental associations and children and youth from the Federation for non-denominational charities participated in the unveiling of billboards aimed at building awareness around the environmental protection of the Panenoo valley of Tahiti.

The programme "Ambassadors for the Environment," launched on the ocean-liner Paul Gauguin, ran from June to August, and used the knowledge of trainers from Jean-Yves Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society to educate children on the need to protect the rich resources of the ocean. The "Saga Vanille" campaign founded by Henri Cornette de Saint-Cyr and which is geared towards less advantaged children was also associated with the programme.

In addition, open-days were organized at various diving clubs around the islands, so as



Rayong, Thailand, 2005

to raise awareness amongst vacationers to the need to protect the marine and lagoon ecosystems.

## THAILAND

### Bangkok

Greenpeace Southeast Asia hosted a public event to raise awareness of environmental crimes and their impact. *Protecting Life on Earth* the first ever photo exhibition on this subject, featured 45 images highlighting regional and international environmental problems such as illegal logging, toxins and genetically modified organisms. The exhibition was held on 4 to 6 June 2004 at Pakkad Palace.

### Lampang

In keeping with the 2005 World Environment Day theme **Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!** the Lampang Environmental Office brought together on the occasion of World Environment Day some 360 organizations, including 16 local schools in Payao. Activities included cleaning up the canal and public roads and planting native trees and shrubs. The schools were also

involved in a symposium and an exhibit on how to preserve the environment. Activities on the day included interactive community partner displays, enviro arts and crafts, quizzes and information on sustainable development. In addition a concert was organized and leaflets distributed to raise awareness about the Day and the role of the public in protecting the environment.

### Pattaya

On 3 June 2004, in keeping with the year's theme, members of the government and the private sector – with the aid of Pattaya school children – went to Pattaya Beach to clean the beachfront and enjoy some fun and games. The day was split into two main competitions: the best World Environment Day poster design among the 10 Pattaya schools; and the second, the best items made out of recycled materials. Each aimed to educate the youth and the public on the need to care for the environment.

### Rayong

Bayer Young Environmental Envoys (BYEEs) organized celebrations for World Environment Day 2005, with the support of Bayer Thai and the Klangkachet Municipality of Rayong led by Surapol Itpasert, Mayor of Klangkachet Subdistrict Municipality. In line with the theme of Green Cities and the slogan *Plan for the Planet!*, BYEEs across the country joined hands with their counterparts from Sailom Saengdad Group, community-based youths, members of Baan Noen Payom, as well as Bayer's employees, to replant the field with more than a thousand mangroves, supported by the Marine and Coastal Resources Departments Rayong office.

## VIETNAM

### Ho Chi Minh

As they have done in past years, the newspaper Liberated Saigon celebrated World Environment Day with articles related to the theme, *Green Cities -Plan for the Planet!*

## EUROPE

### BELGIUM

#### Brussels

In 2004, Green Week, organized by the European Commission (EC) and the Director-General (DG) of the Environment, took place from 1 to 4 June. The EC and the DG announced the launch of the new "*Clean Marine Award*", which was presented for the first time on 1 June as part of Green Week. This award was very much in keeping with this year's World Environment Day theme: seas and oceans. The awards were announced in the European Commission's Communication on a European Union strategy to reduce atmospheric emissions from seagoing ships. Their objective was to give positive publicity for environmentally responsible shipping, specifically low-emission initiatives, and to disseminate best practice. The Commission plans to celebrate these ceremonies on a biannual basis, through high profile events.



Wooden cabinet



Composting toilet

Box for sorting office recyclables



Waste bin



\* Finland



The World Customs Organization (WCO) created a special web page on the occasion of World Environment Day 2004.

## FINLAND

To celebrate World Environment Day 2004, Lassila & Tikanoja\* produced a 32-page recycling guide for Finnish consumers, which offers useful information about recycling waste in the home. Together with WWF, Lassila & Tikanoja created a web quiz about environmental issues and particularly about recycling. Lassila & Tikanoja also produced a song called *Blues and Greens*.

### Joensuu

ENO-Environment Online is a global web school for environmental awareness at 180 schools in 69 countries. ENO's bicycle parade and kite flying events on the occasion of World Environment Day finished the 2004-05 school year. ENO organized a bicycle trip with students to a local park where they flew their kites. The kite is a symbol of the ENO programme, and with these activities they celebrated the day, not only in Finland but in schools in 69 countries!

## FRANCE

### Paris

The City Council of Paris put a World Environment Day 2004 announcement on 177 electronic panels throughout the City from 26 May to 5 June. In addition, 100 World Environment Day posters were displayed in city halls and public libraries.

## GEORGIA

### Tbilisi

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the association Green Way launched a project entitled "Earth Festival" which included a Forum on the Day; the establishment of a "Green Fund"; the launch of a Small Grant

Competition; and various activities to benefit charities. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of environmental issues in Georgia. The Forum involved environmental NGO representatives, legislative and executive bodies, the business sector, donors and the diplomatic corps. During the Forum, invitees were given an opportunity to present and promote their activities and achievements and highlight the problems that they are facing and illustrate possible solutions.



Hamburg, Germany, 2004

## GERMANY

### Hamburg

As a contribution to World Environment Day 2004, the United World Philharmonic Youth Orchestra launched on its web site a seven-minute video-clip. The orchestra played the second mouvement *Jeux de Vagues* of Claude Debussy's *La mer* – synchronized with images focusing on seas and oceans.

## GREECE

### Athens

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2004, the Athens Environmental Foundation (AEF), in partnership with the Athens Organizing Committee (ATHOC) and UNEP, undertook with Jean-Michel Cousteau a special event in Piraeus, Greece. Activities included a beach



Athens , Greece, 2004

clean up at several beaches around Athens, including Piraeus – the Port of Athens – as well as an underwater clean-up with hundreds of divers in several spots in Greece. Five vessels participated in this exercise and three removed large amount of debris from the seabed, including cars and refrigerators. In addition, municipal trucks hauled the debris for recycling and/or disposal. The other two vessels did a demonstration on oil spill containment. Prior to the event, a ship with two divers went on site to survey what was under the water. They mapped the results and handed them to Mr. Cousteau and his team who were leading the expedition.

### Zakynthos

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, the Department of Ecology and Environment and the Technological Education Institute of the Ionian Islands, together with the Municipality of Zakynthos, organized a city open day, under the slogan *Nature is You*. Cars were not allowed

within the city's limits, while public transport was free. Various activities, including a bicycle tour, street events, concerts, bands and theatre plays were organized on the day.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Bangor

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, the Northern Ireland Tree Campaign, a Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland initiative funded by Environment and Heritage Service, descended on Scrub Country Park, Newtownards, to hold an "Environmental Adventure". Starting in the main car park, adventurers followed a simple map around Killynether Wood, a mixture of beautiful beech and hazel trees, stopping along the way to take part in fun activities to learn about the natural world. Each activity, carefully designed to be both fun and educational, took about an hour to complete and was suitable for all ages.

## IRELAND

### Lorraine

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board organized Fisheries Awareness Week in the Shannon catchments. Activities included open days, environmental awareness talks, angling demonstrations and competitions.

## NORWAY

### Bergen

In the city of Bergen, Inky's Ecodetectives named Bergen a Green Childrens' City, and a variety show for schoolchildren took place in the main town square on 4 June 2004.

### Oslo

The children's environmental organization Inky's Eco-detectives, a partner of UNEP, participated in a number of World Environment Day 2004 activities. The two riverbank towns

of Hamar and Gjøvik, separated by Norway's largest lake Mjøsa, collaborated to clean up their lake.

### Tromsø

In the arctic town of Tromsø, 5 June 2004 was celebrated under the midnight sun with a carnival and a storytelling festival.

## ROMANIA

### Arad

To celebrate World Environment Day, Arad and Tulane Universities organized a series of Urban Environmental Forums including workshops, trainings and tours of sewage plants and landfills. Experts from various fields (i.e. government, NGOs, universities, private companies and citizens) came together to discuss urban environmental issues. The Conference, attended by people from six countries, was organized under the WED theme *Green Cities*.



Paraschiv Andrea Maria, 12 years old, Romania

## RUSSIA

### Nazran

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, International Medical Corps (IMC) - Russia organized clean-up campaigns (rubbish and waste removal, renovation of communal places, cleaning of river beds and springs, tree planting) on 6 June in four settlements

in Ingushetia and two villages in Chechnya. Ten vehicles were provided with waste-bins, with slogans inviting people to take care of the environment. All volunteers attended a "green concert", during which children of the IMC Youth Centers (from the spontaneous settlements of "Iman" and "Metalshop") could show their creative skills and initiative. To foster healthy lifestyle skills and attract children's interest in environment issues, poster/drawing competitions were organized among 20 spontaneous settlements in Ingushetia and four villages in Chechnya.

## SPAIN

### Alcalá de Henares (Madrid)

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Association of Environmental Sciences launched a digital magazine entitled *Legatus*, featuring various articles on sustainable development.

### Bilbao

For the third consecutive year, IHOBE - the public society of environmental management of the Basque Government Environmental Department - organized Basque Green Week (*Aste Berdea*) from 31 May to 6 June to coincide with World Environment Day 2004. For the first time, more than 51 municipalities participated in Basque Green Week with more than 200 green activities including exhibitions, films, conferences, visits to factories, theatres, competitions (photos, flowers, painting), ecological agriculture exhibits, and more.

## SWITZERLAND

### Gland

The three environmental organizations based in Gland, Switzerland - IUCN, Ramsar and WWF - joined forces to host a well-attended open house on World Environment Day 2004, helping to put Gland on the map as a true world centre for conservation and sustainable development.



Between 800 and 1,000 people passed through the doors of the IUCN Headquarters, where adults and children were entertained and educated by an extensive marine exhibition and a multitude of imaginative children's games in line with the day's theme *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?* A film was shown on IUCN's Marine Programme and a water-themed improvisation was staged.

There were expert-guided tours every hour on the hour through IUCN's natural garden. The day ended with more than 130 prizes being given out in a tombola draw that included thousands of prizes donated by local commercial and IUCN suppliers. The World Environment Day open house has grown every year in both scope and vision and the public has responded accordingly," says Achim Steiner, then IUCN Director General. "It is our chance to give something back to the community and region that so generously hosts our headquarters."



Plamena Ivanova, 12 years old, Bulgaria

## Lausanne

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Athena Foundation presented the 2005 Canton de Vaud Earth Champions Awards. The event took place at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, and honoured those who have made significant contributions to environmental sustainability in the Canton.

## Zurich

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2004, Zurich – the largest city and economic centre of Switzerland – went all out in support of the environment. Cleaner air, less noise, lighter traffic, saving energy, protection of city animals, healthy tree and plant life, better hygiene in food handling in restaurants being some of the issues addressed. At several city squares and other central locations, information stalls, inter-active events and measuring equipment brought these issues closer to the approximately one million inhabitants of the Greater Zurich Area. Excursions to bat colonies and other parts of Zurich's astonishingly rich "city wildlife" were a highlight for families.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Dorking

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, the Dorking Decongestion Forum organized a number of events during the World Environment Day weekend, including: a non-single occupant Vehicle Day, with the participation of 20,000 people; a Cycle Fun Day with 15,000 people taking part; and a black tie Gala Dinner.

### Hemel Hempstead

Every year Epson Telford Limited has an Environment Month, which now falls in June to coincide with World Environment Day. In 2004, Epson used various competitions and promotions to reinforce the company's commitment to the environment and to raise the profile of local, regional and global environmental issues. Environment Month allows Epson to "up the ante" with its employees

and the local community. In 2004, activities included a poetry competition with local schools using the World Environment Day slogan *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?* The prize-winning school received an Epson Printer and the top three winning pupils also received prizes. In-house, an environmental quiz was held (also with a prize) using the World Environment Day theme.

## London

London Sustainability Weeks (LSW) is the largest project to date of London 21 Sustainability Network. This two-week programme celebrates local action for sustainability in Greater London, to coincide with World Environment Day on 5 June. Events are organized by local organizations and London-wide networks: there are nine supporting partner associations, who work on issues such as food-growing, recycling, city farms, energy and social inclusion. LSW was first run on a small scale in 2003 (with about 50 events in one week). In 2004, London 21 received financial support for this work and expanded the event from one to two weeks. The partnership of organizations supported more than 350 local events across the city. The core idea is that it can be hard for small projects to get publicity and media coverage on their own due to limited resources and staff time. By working together, LSW is able to provide a stronger story for the press and the public.

## Preston

Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate celebrated World Environment Day 2005 in a very unique way. On 2 June, they opened the Vertical Composting Unit pilot plant on Tom Benson Way which processes rotting kitchen waste. On 3 June an 18 hectare land reclamation scheme in Fleetwood, Wyre opened. This has transformed a former redundant power station site into the leisure and recreational facility known as Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park.

## Surrey

Stocksigns, a Surrey-based sign company, which manufactures bespoke and standard signage participated in World Environment Day 2004 by organizing a number of activities for staff on 11 June. The aim was to increase environmental efforts within the company and to raise money for the local charity – Wildlife Aid – which is involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured British wildlife. Activities included: a staff car-sharing scheme; promotion of a new recycling scheme (incorporating domestic recycling, plastic and aerosols); construction of bird tables at the back of the factory; books and clothes swaps; a cake stall; and staff donations to ‘dress down’.

## UZBEKISTAN

### Tashkent

The International Fund of Ecology and Health (ECOSAN) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan organized, on 1 to 10 June, a festival to commemorate World Environment Day 2004. ECOSAN's initiative was supported by the Government of Uzbekistan and was in line with its programme of large-scale activities, held throughout the Republic. Activities included thematic exhibitions, a flower exhibition, painting competitions, presentations on ecology and health, as well as meetings and film showings on the environment at recreation camps and city and rural parks. A series of TV and radio programmes on environmental protection and sustainable development were also organized.

On 5 June, the popular morning radio show *Assalom, Uzbekistani!* devoted its entire programme to the environment, while the Yoshlar radio station, which broadcasts to the entire territory of Uzbekistan and neighbouring countries, organized an ecological radio-marathon.

The educational institutions in the Republic held meetings for students and faculty on the theme Youth and the Environment with the participation of leading scientists and ecologists from the Tashkent ECOSAN Club.

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## ARGENTINA

### Buenos Aires

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Florencia Tederina Ecoclub organized in the district schools a competition of children's paintings to express how man relates to the environment. The jury consisted of two well-known teachers in the plastic arts field. Painting kits were given as prizes to the winners.

## BRAZIL

### São Paulo

As part of the global celebration of World Environment Day 2005, the São Paulo Rail Rapid Transit Company – Metrô de São Paulo – organized a two-day discussion panel, which focused on the relationship between transportation, environment and sustainable development of large metropolitan areas such as São Paulo and neighbouring cities. An exhibition was also held at the company's headquarters and a four-day distance learning programme on environmental issues was broadcast.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

In 2004, using the theme *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*, John Gray Recyclers commemorated World Environment Day in Grand Cayman by introducing plastic recycling into all the schools on the Islands. The project entitled *Plastic Six Pack Holder Recycling* reflects the importance the organization attaches to the concept "ReUse" and "Recycle" because, to a great extent, marine debris consists of plastic items and six pack holders that strangle marine life such as turtles and birds. These holders were

taken to Bodden Beverages in Grand Cayman for "ReUse" and any left over were sent to the Hi-Cone Plant in the United States for Recycling. John Gray Recyclers also undertook a Clean-up of Barkers National Park – the first National Park in the Cayman Islands. They also undertook various media activities to promote the day.

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, John Gray Recyclers worked on the naming of the rare trees in the Park and cleared the area of some of the dead trees that had been felled during Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. The Cayman Islands' National Trust are helping with the naming of the trees, and have helped John Gray Recyclers find two very rare trees already.

## CHILE

### Santiago

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, ecology students in Chile's Central University designed, planted trees in a city square.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

An environment plan of the government's environmental policy was presented on the occasion of World Environment Day 2005 in the Dominican Republic. A coalition of environment groups, for the second year running, organized a celebration under the gardens of the Cibao Theatre and the Santiago monument. Various activities, (artistic, educational and for fun) were undertaken to develop awareness on the environment and "protected areas". The aim was to fight deforestation caused by those who want to commercially "exploit" such areas, which have a very high ecological value and are recognized as biosphere reserves.

## EL SALVADOR

### Santo Tomas

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, a three-kilometre group bicycle ride was organized in the municipality. The streets were closed and school children between the ages of 7 and 18 years were invited to participate.

## GUYANA

### Georgetown

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, Banks DIH Limited – a Food and Beverage Manufacturer in Georgetown – sponsored a banner competition for local secondary schools. Fifteen schools entered the competition based on the World Environment Day theme: **Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!** The Company provided the schools with the materials, paint and brushes. Each school was required to form an Environmental Club and undertook a school-based project that promotes environmental awareness. The competition's first to third place winners received prizes.

## HAITI

In 2004, the worldwide theme *Wanted! Seas and Oceans: Dead or Alive?* was transformed to *SOS! Let's Save our Mountains, Coasts and Seas*. Activities were held in all the large coastal cities, including the capital Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Jacmel, Cayes and Jérémie. Amongst the activities undertaken

were: a press conference on 4 June to mark the launch of Environment Week (organized by the Ministries of Environment, Public Health, Public Works, Agriculture and Planning in collaboration with Civil Society, the City Hall of the Metropolis, and environmental associations); statements by the Prime Minister and the mayors of the cities concerned; development of educational materials distributed to members of the country's coastal associations; clean-ups of important canals, drains and sewage openings in the metropolitan area and the bigger cities in the country; an awareness building campaign; a parade through all the cities targeted followed by the cleaning of beaches and forests; hoisting of promotional banners at all major intersections in the capital and provincial cities; broadcasting of awareness-building public service announcements in the capital and other targeted cities; distribution of leaflets, brochures and posters to targeted groups; environmental excursions to nature sites around the capital; launch of two nationwide competitions: one to decide on three zones where botanical centres would be set up and another to select an environment anthem.

## MEXICO

### Mexico City

As part of 2005 World Environment Day, PLANETA.COM presented the fifth annual Colibri Ecotourism Achievement Award at the Xochimilco Gardens. The Colibri is presented to a leading catalyst working toward ecotourism



COLIBRI ECOTOURISM AWARD



in Mexico, and the winner of the annual award receives a trophy, diploma and a \$1,000 cash award from the president of Canyon Travel.

### **Monterrey**

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, Mundo Fest organized a free concert with Celso Piña, Genitalica, Fonka Tonka, Reyes del Camino and Los Primos. The public was requested to leave the Macroplaza clean after the music event.

### **PERU**

#### **Huancavelica**

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Regional Department of Health of Huancavelica organized a poster competition with the participation of educational institutions for pre-primary and primary levels in Huancavelica City.

### **ST. MAARTEN**

In cooperation with Enviro I, the umbrella organization of environmental foundations of St Maarten, Ocean Care Foundation organized a beach and a shoreline clean-up at Great Bay (Philipsburg). Educational activities for children were also organized to raise awareness of various environmental issues. Ocean Care also organized a reef clean-up at Little Bay.

### **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

#### **Arima**

The GLOBE Trotters Environmental Club in Arima, undertook a number of activities to celebrate World Environment Day 2005, including: a poster competition among schools on the theme "Green Cities" from 2-27 May; a week-long celebration in which NGOs visited the school and interacted with the students; the wearing of a pin (a green leaf) by every student on 3 June; participation in an environmental walk/run around Queen's Park Savannah on 5 June; and a special school assembly on 3 June in which the Club highlighted the significance of the week's activities.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **CANADA**

For more than 30 years, Canadian Environment Week has been held during the first week of June to coincide with World Environment Day. In 2004, the Government of Canada launched the Commuter Challenge – a friendly competition between Canadian communities to encourage as many people as possible to use sustainable and active modes of transportation. All one had to do was make a commitment to walk, jog, cycle, in-line skate, take the bus, carpool or telework during Environment Week.

#### **Brampton, Ontario**

As part of their commitment to reduce pollution and waste prevention, the Community Environment Alliance hosted "Let's e-cycle" days in Peel to mark World Environment Day 2005. The event focused on reducing e-waste, which has become a prime concern in the community. Individuals and businesses dropped off their used equipment at one of the event locations and got an overview on the issue of e-waste and its potential impacts. As students constitute the primary consumers of electronic gadgets, they were engaged in discussions on what the problem is and how it can be addressed to make the community safer, healthier and more sustainable. In this



Atlanta,  
USA, 2005

vein, there was a student contest entitled: ***Electronic waste: Present and future: Am I Doing It Right?*** Students identified key concerns about e-waste and provided viable solutions to deal with it. They submitted entries in visual, collage or written format. Three winners selected from three categories -- elementary, middle and high school -- received prizes and recognition.

### New Brunswick

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the New Brunswick Climate Change Hub and the Cape Jourimain Nature Centre hosted ***Our Climate - Our Change*** on 4 and 5 June. The event coincided with Canadian Environment Week and Clean Air Day marked on 8 June. The public was invited to take part in a weekend of informative, interactive and fun-filled activities on climate change, at the Cape Jourimain Nature Centre – an environmental education and eco-tourism facility that offers programmes for a variety of audiences about natural and human history, green technologies and energy efficiency. The Falls Brook Centre's Climate Change Bus, a traveling exhibit on climate change and energy efficiency, which has its own onboard wind turbine and solar panels, was at the Centre for the weekend. Interactive exhibits from Science East, as well as various environmental presentations, film screenings and a mini-trade show on energy efficiency were offered. The event also encouraged Canadians to take the Government of Canada's One-Tonne Challenge.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Atlanta

In tribute to World Environment Day 2005 and its theme ***Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!***, the Captain Planet Foundation compiled a DVD, containing four episodes of *Captain Planet and the Planetegers*, the world-renowned children's animated television series that educates while it entertains children of all cultures about critical global environmental and social issues.



San Francisco, USA, 2005

### Berkeley

To coincide with World Environment Day 2005, the organization Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility presented the 2005 Lewis Mumford Awards for Peace, Environment and Development.

### Connecticut

To coincide with World Environment Day, at its convocation on 2 June 2005, Quinebaug Valley Community College gave a tree sapling to each graduate of the college to plant.

### New York City

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project organized the free screening of two documentaries entitled *Last Voyage of the Leatherback?* (East Coast premiere) and *Deadly Sounds in the Silent World*. The screenings were followed by a panel discussion concerning the role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in preventing the extinction of endangered leatherback sea turtles and marine mammals. The event addressed the theme of World Environment Day 2004: ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*** on the eve of the UNCLOS meeting, which was held on 7 to 11 June.

## Providence, Rhode Island

The Ocean Project (TOP) is a relatively new and unprecedented public awareness initiative among more than 520 aquariums, zoos, science, technology and natural history museums, as well as conservation organizations and government agencies. The aim is to significantly increase the success of ocean conservation by creating in people a lasting, measurable, top-of-mind awareness of the importance, value and sensitivity of the oceans.

TOP launched this new initiative on the occasion of World Environment Day 2004 on 5 June and World Ocean Day on 8 June.

## San Francisco

Organic Bouquet Inc., the world's first organic floral company, based in Marin, California commissioned the legendary gospel singer Edwin Hawkins (four-time Grammy winner, "O Happy Day") to write the theme song for World Environment Day 2005. The song, entitled *United Nations, Together We Can*, was donated to help promote the event and future World Environment Day events around the globe.

National Public Radio (NPR) promoted World Environment Day 2005 on its broadcast *Living on Earth*. These announcements were heard on KQED radio locally as of 16 April and were

aired on more than 320 stations throughout the United States. The broadcast continued through the first week of June.

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, The Vote Solar Initiative showed visitors the Moscone Convention Center's 675 KW solar electric rooftop – one of the largest solar electric rooftops in the United States. The presentation focused on solar success stories and on innovations in solar energy from around the world, as well as on the leadership role of cities in promoting clean energy.

Leave it to food-loving San Francisco to come up with more than 100 taste-tempting ways to help the environment. That's the number of restaurants who participated in the numerous events in San Francisco from 1 to 5 June to observe World Environment Day 2005. The restaurants focused attention on sustainable cuisine by offering at least one dish made with organic and locally produced ingredients.

On 5 June 2004, the City of San Francisco had organized a series of events to launch its preparations for hosting World Environment Day in 2005. One of the events was the showing of the movie *Ocean Wonderland* at the local SONY IMAX/3d film theatre in downtown San Francisco.

## Sausalito, California

In support of the United Nations' World Environment Day 2005, eCycling Day by the Bay was declared on 4 June. Businesses and the general public dropped off unwanted or unused electronic items, such as: computers; mainframes; monitors; printers; cables; telephones; printed circuit boards; and consumer electronics. This day was an opportunity for residents and businesses of the nine Bay Area counties to work with the city of San Francisco, the International community and all globally concerned citizens to prevent adding to our already over-extended landfills.



# WEST ASIA

## IRAQ

### Baghdad and Halabja

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, two celebrations were organized. An event was held in the north of Iraq where the main topic was: The effects of chemical weapons on the environment in Halabja City. The second celebration took place on 5 June in Baghdad where more than 200 people, including representatives of different ministries and the media, attended the event, which focused on the issue of marshlands.

## KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

### Manama

A new 500-kilogram steel monument was erected at the King Faisal Corniche in Manama, Bahrain on 3 June. The 18-foot symbolic structure was installed to mark World Environment Day 2005, and depicts eight individuals carrying the globe. The sculpture is made almost entirely of scrap steel except for the continents, which are made out of recycled aluminium cans. The Hussaini Drawing Society for Islamic Arts was behind the project and received support from the Manama Municipal Council and the Manama Municipality. The Atlas Construction and Transportation Company made the sculpture for free on behalf of the Society.

## LEBANON

### Beirut

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, *Environment & Development* magazine organized a School Artistic Festival at the



Manama , Bahrain, 2005

UNESCO palace in Beirut on 6 June. Schools from all over Lebanon presented artistic shows that reflected environmental issues in the form of a song or a play. The Festival was accompanied by a free-style art show of drawings and figures portraying the Green Cities theme.

## PALESTINE

The Environmental Education Centre (EEC) has been celebrating World Environment Day since 1992. In 2004, EEC celebrated this occasion together with the Bethlehem Peace Centre (BPC) – an organization with which they have been cooperating since the year 2000.

EEC and BPC had an open day on 5 June with lots of environmental and recreational activities. Their target group were students from 12 different schools from the Bethlehem area. The students were chosen from the environmental clubs EEC and BPC established in their schools. The programme began with a presentation about biodiversity, followed by group discussions on local and global environmental problems.





**Manama , Bahrain, 2005**

## **QATAR**

The Kainat Foundation in Doha, Qatar – a non-governmental organization working with young people to raise environmental awareness – undertook a number of activities to commemorate World Environment Day 2004, including: a mock world parliament on the environment; a poster and photography competition; an essay writing competition; a tree planting exercise; and a clean up campaign.

## **SYRIA**

### **Homs**

The Syrian Red Crescent Organization, Homs Branch, invited photographers from around the world, amateur or professional, to participate in its 2005 World Environment Day Photo Gallery which was exhibited in the Museum of Azzehrawi Palace on 5-9 June.

## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

### **Abu Dhabi**

In 2005, the Arabian Construction Company in Abu Dhabi, observed World Environment Day on 5 June at its work sites with a clean-up drive; a display of banners on recycling, minimizing and reusing waste; an environment awareness talk by Project Manager; a sapling planting activity; and waste segregation. Posters on energy conservation were displayed throughout the work site, and a prize presentation ceremony to individuals who took initiatives to raise environmental awareness was organized.

### **Dubai**

To celebrate World Environment Day 2005, the Emirates Marine Environment Group and the Dubai Municipality held an environmental award event for the children of Dubai, who have been supporting the Marine & Wildlife project on a conservation beach area in Dubai. The children had been planting mangrove trees, cleaning beaches and learning the importance of marine & wildlife conservation.