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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
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24 March 2011

## **Estonian report on the celebrations of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity**

Dear Mr Ahmed Djoghla

I would like to submit Estonia's celebrations report about the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB).

Estonia was celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity as well as 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of nature conservation. Hundred years ago the first protected area was created in Estonia. Therefore many activities and events were organised.

Please see the list of activities below. These included ones that were especially planned for the IYB as well as to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of nature conservation or both.

Please find the report attached.

Lilika Käis  
NFP of CBD in Estonia

## Estonian report on the celebrations of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity



### November 2009

#### **11 November to 31 January**

Exhibition "**Estonian fish**" and IYB-lecture "Little-known fish species in Estonia" in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

#### **24 to 25 November**

Estonian First Conference on Phylogenetics and Systematics „**Origins of Biodiversity and Informatics**“. Dedicated to the 150 years from publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. Conference was opening event for the IYB in Estonia.

Web-page: <http://natmuseum.ut.ee/668737>

## 2010

### February

#### **10 February to 25 April**

Exhibition "**Bird nests and eggs**" and IYB-lecture „Invasive species – a threat to biodiversity?“ in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

### March

#### **19 March**

Seminar „**Biodiversity and Nature Tourism**“ in the University of Life Sciences in Tartu.

Web-page: <http://loodusturism.wikispaces.com/>



Seminar „Biodiversity and Nature Tourism“ discussions. Photo: Aivar Ruukel

#### **31 March to 14 April**

Poster conference in Tallinn University dedicated to the IYB and to the 100th year anniversary of nature conservation in Estonia. Presentations were held in the framework of the course “The Sustainable Baltic Region”. The presentation day titled “UN International Year of Biodiversity/Estonian Nature Conservation 100” took place on March 31.

## April

8 to 9 April



Estonian XI Ecology Conference “**Biodiversity and Ecosystems**” was dedicated to the IYB.  
Web-page: <http://www.lote.ut.ee/geo/okoloogiakonverents>



Opening of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems conference

## April to **October**

Estonian Nature magazine yearly nature photo competition “**Eesti Looduse fotovõistlus**” 2010 was dedicated to the IYB. There was a special category and prizes for the photos best representing Estonian biodiversity richness as well as its poverty. It was also required that the photo's have explanations by the authors. See the outcomes under October. Web-page: <http://www.eestiloodus.ee/teema26.html>

## **April to October**

Scientific education centre AHHA was holding an interactive education programme about climate change titled “**Into the forest**”. It took place in Tartu from April 16 to June 27, and in Tallinn from July to October. There was a public lecture on the 14th of April in Tartu given by Darwin's great-great-great grandchild Randal Keynes "Darwin, the natural world and his garden". Web-page: [www.ahhaa.ee](http://www.ahhaa.ee)

## May

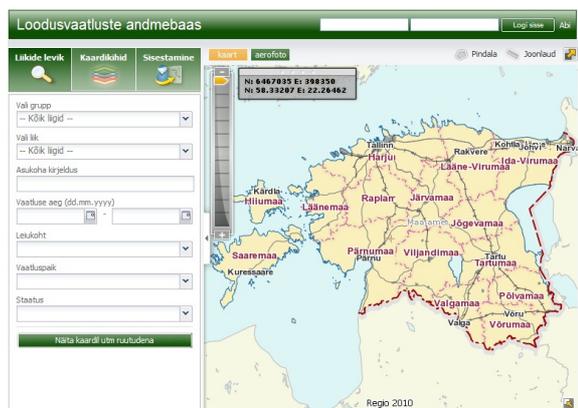
May was a National Nature Conservation month. There were many activities taking place concerning nature conservation topics. May 9<sup>th</sup>, was Nature Conservation Day that opened nature conservation month and ended with the International Environmental Day in 5 June 2010.

## **During May**

**Competition for adults** in Nature Observation Database <http://loodusvaatlused.eelis.ee>, dedicated to the IYB. Competition was about collecting information about threatened species in Estonia and submitting the data in the interactive web-based GIS database.

## 7 to 9 May

**Competition for the schoolchildren** in Nature Observation Database <http://loodusvaatlused.eelis.ee>, dedicated to the IYB. Competition was about collecting information about threatened species in Estonia and submitting the data in the interactive web-based database.



Snapshot of Nature Observation Database GIS-solution

## 5 May to 5 September

Exhibition „**Mammoth was here**” and IYB-lecture "Mammoth in Northern Europe" in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

## 15 May

The European Night of Museums. There are events dedicated to the International Year of Biodiversity in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

## 22 May

Estonian Environmental Board organised **hiking trips** to different Estonian nature conservation areas **to celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity**:

- Harju county - Paunküla landscape conservation area;
- Hiiu county - Kõpu landscape conservation area as well as Tahtkuna nature conservation area;
- Ida-Viru county - Uljaste landscape conservation area as well as Uhaku and Kalina karst areas; - Jõgeva county- Alam-Pedja nature conservation area;
- Järva county - Saarjõe landscape conservation area and Rõugu farmstead dendrarium;
- Lääne county - Silma nature conservation area;
- Lääne-Viru county - Lahemaa national park;
- Põlva county - Räpina polder;
- Pärn county - Kastna landscape conservation area;
- Rapla county - Jädivere and Vana-Vigala parks as well as Selja-Põdra limited-conservation area;
- Saare county - Viidumäe nature conservation area;
- Tartu county - Endla and Järvelja nature conservation areas;
- Valga county - Mustjõe landscape conservation area;
- Viljandi county - Soomaa national park;
- Võru county - Karula national park.

## 27 to 29 May

International scientific conference "**Nature Conservation beyond 2010**" in Tallinn that was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of nature conservation in Estonia. The logo of IYB was featuring in the web-page of the conference. The conference focused on themes that are very topical within CBD like ecosystem

goods and services, ecosystem approach in management, conservation and climate change, biodiversity, private sector and businesses. The President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, gave the opening speech.

Web-page: <http://www.ncbeyond2010.eu/>



Poster of the conference "Nature Conservation beyond 2010"

## July

### **19 to 22 July**

XIII Conference-Expedition of the Baltic Botanists „**Seminatural communities**“.

## August

### **13 to 14 August**

Conference „**Nature conservation history**“ in Saaremaa was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of nature conservation in Estonia. It was one of this year's central events in celebrating the anniversary. A new documentary about the nature conservation was shown at the conference. On the first conference day there was a free concert titled 100 Years in the Protection of Nature in Kuressaare castle park. After the concert thematic workshops were held for people interested in nature.



Concert "100 Years of nature conservation". Foto: Aet Truu

### **25 to 26 October**

International seminar in Rakvere "**Seminar on European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity (ELN-FAB) In Baltic Sea Region**".

Web-page: <http://pmk.agri.ee/pkt/index>

## September

### **1 September to 15 November.**

Computer drawing competition for schoolchildren entitled "**Biodiversity**" ("**Elurikkus**"). It was organised to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of nature conservation

in Estonia. It aimed at conveying the term biodiversity and its importance to wider audience. The topics included biodiversity related issues e.g depicting the components of biodiversity, showing the threats and problems connected with it such as climate change, species disappearance, alien species etc. The competition had four age categories. Altogether 4435 young artists participated. From the best drawings an exhibition was compiled that is currently shown in different institutions.

See the winning pictures: [http://joonistaja.eenet.ee/konkurss/2010\\_voidutood.html](http://joonistaja.eenet.ee/konkurss/2010_voidutood.html)



a) The poster of the computer drawing competition biodiversity; b) First price in the category for the 11-13 years, titled: The children of Mother Earth Author: Tuuli Jürgenson (13).

## 6 September to 8 November

There was an essay writing competition for schoolchildren titled “**Adventures in the Book of Nature**”. It was organised as a cooperation project to celebrate the Year of Reading, the 100th anniversary of nature conservation in Estonia and the International Year of Biodiversity. The aim of it was to draw the children's attention to the issues of nature and environmental conservation, make them interested in reading nature related literature and writing about it, as well as discussing about different environmental and nature topics. Almost 500 people participated with more than 700 essays. The competition was held in 5 age categories. See info: <http://btv.eelis.ee>



Kultuuriministeerium, Keskkonnaministeerium, Eesti Kirjanduse Selts ja Keskkonnaamet kuulutavad välja loodusteemalise omaloominguvõistluse „Seigeldes looduse raamatus“.

Announcement of the essay competition Adventures in the Book of Nature.

## 8 September 10 November

There was a nature conservation competition titled “**Our own protected area**” for schoolchildren (7 and 8 graders). During the first part of this competition in the autumn, the children were designing their own protected areas. It was organised by European Commission's representation in Estonia, Tartu Environmental Education Centre and Science Centre Archimedes to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity. Fifteen teams from nine counties participated and nine teams reached the finals. The finals will take place outdoors in June 2011. Web-page: [http://archimedes.ee/meieomakaitseala/?menyy=Elurikkuse võistlusmäng](http://archimedes.ee/meieomakaitseala/?menyy=Elurikkuse_voistlusmang)



a) Snapshot of the competition web-page;



b) Children presenting their work at award ceremony.

## Second week of September

There was an environmental week in National TV (ETV2) where environmental and nature movies were shown. Animated logo of the International Year of Biodiversity was played before the films.

## 7 to 29 September

Exhibition "**Fungi**" with IYB-lecture "Fungi in our cultural history" in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

## October

### 6 to 31 October

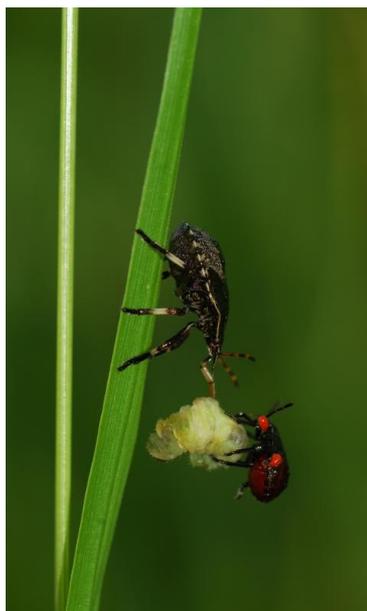
Exhibition "**Fungi**" in Estonian Museum of Natural History

### 7 October to 7 November

Exhibition „**Mosses**“ in Estonian Museum of Natural history with a lecture on 21 October.

### 25 October

Final date to submit the photos to the Estonian Nature magazine photo competition dedicated to the International Year of Biodiversity. See the winners: [http://www.loodusajakiri.ee/eesti\\_loodus/teema16](http://www.loodusajakiri.ee/eesti_loodus/teema16)



a) Photo winning main prize in biodiversity category. Author: Aivar Sökk; b) Photo receiving 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the category of biodiversity. Author: Sven Zacek

**26 October**

Environmental education conference „**Biodiversity teaches**“ in Lihula gymnasium, Läänemaa. The aim of the conference was to introduce the opportunities and methods in biodiversity related education. The meaning and importance of biodiversity was emphasized. Issues how environmental education centres and schools cooperation can help the teaching natural sciences were discussed. The experience of different schools in teaching the biodiversity issues was shared.

**26 and 29 October**

Special edition about biodiversity between the national daily newspaper Postimees in Estonian and in Russian. Postimees is one of the biggest national newspapers. Available at:

[http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1143800/lhl\\_26.10.pdf](http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1143800/lhl_26.10.pdf)



Snapshot of the special biodiversity edition between national newspaper Postimees.

**November**

**4 to 28 November**

Exhibition "**The Bloodless Hunt**" and IYB-lecture "Nature caught on camera" in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

**17 November**

Academy of Sciences organised a scientific seminar titled "**2010 – International Year of Biodiversity**". The presentations of the seminar included topics about the red list species, species databases and collections as well as informatics part of it, the geological collections, zoos etc. During the seminar the issue how to improve the science-policy interface was discussed. Policy makers, scientists and journalists took part in the seminar.

**December**

**8 December to 27 February 2011**

Exhibition "**Decay**" and IYB-lecture "Cheating decay" in Estonian Museum of Natural History.

**18 December**

Official final concert and reception of the 100<sup>th</sup> years of nature conservation in Estonian National Opera house.

## Other activities and web-resources connected to biodiversity

\* Estonia translated and animated the logo of IYB as well. There was also information about the IYB on the web-page of the Ministry of Environment <http://www.envir.ee/1111672>. There was also advisory committee convened and IYB communication web-list created in order to exchange the information and promote IYB. There were also interviews in TV and radio discussing IYB.



The logo of IYB in Estonian

\* Web-page for IYB <http://www.envir.ee/elurikkus2010/> was created (only in Estonian).



Snapshot of the IYB web-page

\* Web-page giving information about 100th anniversary of nature conservation activities in Estonia <http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/lk100>

\* The State Forest Management Centre organized a campaign „Loodusega koos“ (Together with Nature) in <http://rmk.ee/loodusega koos>, to celebrate 100th anniversary of nature conservation in Estonia.

\* There was a Forestry Week from 24 to 30 of April organized by the Estonian Society of Foresters titled “Forest Feeds and Covers You”. Web-page: <http://www.metsaselts.ee/index.php?sisu=tekst&mid=366&lang=est>

\* 1 May “Teeme ära” (“Let's Do It”) campaign for clean up/mend/put in order different places (incl protected areas) all over Estonia. Dedicated to the nature conservation year. Web-page: <http://teemeara.ee/>

\* Further development and promotion of Estonia's eBiodiversity gateway to scientific species names, classification and specimens deposited in museum collections (<http://elurikkus.ut.ee>). This website is designed both, for scientists as well as general public, interested in country's biodiversity information. Similar portal is planned for fossil taxa that are found from Estonia, educating people about the biodiversity in geological past (provisional site at <http://geokogud.org/species>).

\* There have been articles in newspapers and journals e.g. in Environmental Education pamphlet [http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/public/images/stories/Keskkonnaharidus/Keskkonnaharidusleht\\_kevad\\_2010\\_web.pdf](http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/public/images/stories/Keskkonnaharidus/Keskkonnaharidusleht_kevad_2010_web.pdf). There were articles in the journal of [Eesti Loodus](#) in May as well as in Metsaleht (forestry info newspaper between weekly newspaper) about IYB.

\* The information about IYB was also given in the web page of Estonian national Clearing-House Mechanism of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-CHM) <http://btv.eelis.ee>