

Unofficial Translation of the Russian text

Activities to Celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May



Like all the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on 22 May Turkmenistan took part in the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the first global agreement on conservation of biological resources and their sustainable use. Turkmenistan acceded to CBD in 1996. National Reports have been prepared and published, the National Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the conservation of biodiversity of Turkmenistan has been developed as part of the joint projects between the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Every year, the Secretariat of the CBD announces the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity, paying special attention to critical issues. Thus, the theme for 2009 was Invasive Aliens Species. The main national newspaper *Neytralnyi Turkmenistan* (№138, 23 May, 2009) published an article by Shirin Karryeva, Expert on the CBD Working Group and SBSTTA National Focal Point, dedicated to this theme and to the problem of invasive alien species in Turkmenistan.

On 22 May 2009, school № 9 of “Gyavurs” village of Akbugday district, Ahal region, held an event dedicated to the International Day for Biological Diversity. The organizers of the event were: employees of the Kopetdag state Nature Reserve (A. Potaeva, T. Rotauru, M. Atabayev), Manager of the Programme of the UK Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Ministry of Nature Protection on “Important Bird Areas of Turkmenistan” (Shirin Karryeva).

Over 60 teachers and school children participated in the event. The students were divided in two teams, who prepared various skits, poems, songs about nature, dances. A contest was held between the teams. Representatives of the Kopetdag Nature Reserve and the Programme “Important Bird Areas of Turkmenistan” made a presentation about biodiversity of the country and the region, and about the Convention. The most outstanding students, as well as teachers and school administrators received commemorative awards and gifts on behalf of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, the Programme “Important Bird Areas of Turkmenistan” and the UNDP/GEF Project “Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in the Hazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian coast”. “Watan”, the main radio station, reported on this event in its evening programme.

Outdoor activities were carried out aimed at garbage removal and raising awareness on fire protection measures. There was also a presentation to raise public awareness on biodiversity of the region.

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