

**A REPORT TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:
SINGAPORE'S CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND GREEN WAVE 2012**

Singapore organised a number of events to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity 2012 which included the Festival of Biodiversity, Green Wave and a Plant-A-Tree programme at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. This report features the activities conducted during these events.

The Festival of Biodiversity

This year, the National Parks Board (NParks) in collaboration with the Biodiversity Roundtable (a group comprising of local non-governmental organisations related to biodiversity), organised the Festival of Biodiversity on 26 and 27 May 2012 at the Botany Centre, Singapore Botanic Gardens. Launched by the President of Singapore, Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, this two-day event involved more than 40 partners comprising nature non-profit organisations, schools, private companies and government agencies.

Objectives

In organising the Festival of Biodiversity, NParks aimed to achieve the following goals:

1. To bring together different sections of the community to share and celebrate their efforts in biodiversity conservation
2. To celebrate IYB 2012 and commemorate Rio+20.



Figure 1. President Tony Tan fits the final piece of the mosaic as a symbolic act of launching the festival. From L to R: Minister of State for National Development, Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin; Veteran nature artist and NParks volunteer, Mr. Tham Pui San (who with the help of more than 30 volunteers created the mosaic); President of Singapore, Dr. Tony Tan; Chief Executive Officer of NParks, Mr. Poon Hong Yuen.

About 3000 people attended the two-day festival, participating in fun-filled and educational activities such as talks, workshops and guided walks. In line with this year's theme of marine biodiversity, the festival featured a marine biodiversity exhibition entitled "Follow the Tide: From Mangroves to Coral Reefs".

Other activities included:

1. Eight talks on freshwater swamp forest conservation, dragonflies of Singapore, development history and its effect on habitat loss et cetera;
2. Symposiums namely 'Conserving our Biodiversity' Symposium and Birdlife Symposium;
3. A "City in a Garden" photographic exhibition;
4. Eight art and crafts workshops;
5. Guided walks;
6. Three film screening sessions ;
7. Story-telling sessions;
8. Interactive booths by 16 groups, including the NParks, Nature Society of Singapore and Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research;
9. Additionally, two books were launched:
 - i. "Our Fragile Rainforest"
 - ii. "Caterpillars of Singapore's Butterflies"

Refer to the Annex 1 for full programme of the festival.



Figure 2. A lesson for the young ones about Singapore's rich biodiversity in one of the many interactive booths.

At the Biodiversity Festival, the Minister of State for National Development and Manpower, Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin announced new plans and initiatives to bring nature closer to the people as part of Singapore's transformation into a City in a Garden. The plans include a 30 km cycling loop around the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, a new nature park adjacent to the nature reserve and two look-out towers within the reserve. Other plans to bring nature closer and more accessible to Singaporeans include infusing biodiversity into urban spaces with species like the Crimson Sunbird and the Lesser Whistling Duck. Mr. Tan also announced that four cameras to be streamed live on the NPark's website will be installed at strategic locations at the Sungei Buloh Nature Reserve to allow the public to view live footage online – such as otters frolicking in a pond and migratory birds feeding at the wetlands.



Figure 3. Minister of State for National Development, Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin delivers the opening address at the festival.

Support of Green Wave Campaign 2012

For the fourth consecutive year, NParks supports Green Wave, a global biodiversity campaign of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that contributes to the Convention's Programme of Work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness. Targeted at children and youths around the world, the Green Wave aims to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and is celebrated annually on 22 May as part of the worldwide celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity.

Students in the participating schools all over the world will plant and/or water a tree at 10:00am local time, creating a figurative 'green wave' that goes around the world. An interactive map with stories and photos about the celebratory activities uploaded by the students to share their experiences will go live on *The Green Wave* website (<http://greenwave.cbd.int>) at 20:20 local time, thereby forming a second 'green wave'. This year, Green Wave was held on 18 May.

Objectives

In supporting the Green Wave campaign, NParks aimed to achieve the following goals:

1. To provide a platform for schools in Singapore to showcase and share their gardening and conservation efforts
2. To strengthen awareness and education on biodiversity
3. To promote and facilitate environmental-related programmes and activities about biodiversity

Activities

This year, schools can choose to either:

1. "Plant a Tree" - schools will plant a local native species in their school compound
2. "Care for Tree" - schools will weed, mulch and water their tree which was planted in previous years' Green Wave

Participating Schools

In total, 186 schools took part in Green Wave 2012 (Table 1). Refer to Annex 2 for the complete list of participating schools.

Table 1. Breakdown of schools which participated in Green Wave 2012.

Categories	Examples	“Plant a Tree”	“Care for Tree”	Total
Pre-school	– PAP Community Foundation at Pasir Drive Block 426 (Figure 4A) – My First Skool at Bishan Block 153 (Figures 4B, 4C)	64	6	70
Primary	– Lakeside Primary School (Figure 5A) – Punggol Primary School (Figure 5B)	34	11	45
Secondary		37	6	43
Tertiary		9	2	11
Private	– School of Science and Technology (Figure 6)	10	0	10
Special Education	– Lighthouse School (Figure 7)	6	1	7
Total		160	26	186



Figure 4. (A) Pre-school students from PAP Community Foundation at Pasir Drive Block 426 and (B, C) My First Skool at Bishan Block 153



Figure 5. (A) Primary school students from Lakeside Primary School and (B, C) Punggol Primary School



Figure 6. Private school students from School of Science and Technology.



Figure 7. Special education school students from Lighthouse School.

Plant-A-Tree Programme at Sungei Buloh Nature Reserve with Federation of Information & Communication Technology Service of Japan

On 22 May, 13 members of the Federation of Information & Communication Technology Service of Japan, in collaboration with Japan Eco Planning Service, took part in Plant-A-Tree programme at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve to celebrate the International Day of Biological Diversity (Figure 8). Twenty native trees, such as *Syzygium polyanthum*, were planted. These keystone tree species which attract insects and birds with their flowers and fruits were specially selected to enhance the biodiversity of the habitat.



Figure 8. Participants of the Plant-A-Tree Programme at SWBR.

Submitted by National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore

Dated: 30 July 2012

ANNEX 1

Programme for the Festival of Biodiversity

Programme Schedule

DAY 1: 26 May 2012 (Saturday)						
Time	Ridley Hall	Function Room (Unless otherwise stated)	Function Hall	Throughout the Botany Centre	Green Pavilion	Along the Level 1 walkway
9.00am - 10.00am						
10.00am - 11.00am	Art & Craft workshop: Origami Animals	Guided Tour: Rainforest (Nassim Gate Visitor Centre)				
		Film screening: <i>Singapore Got Wildlife Meh??</i>	9.00am - 12.00pm Symposium: Conserving Our Biodiversity - Nature for Communities, Communities for Nature			
11.00am - 12.00pm	Storytelling session	Guided Tour: Rainforest (Nassim Gate Visitor Centre)				
		Film screening: <i>Singapore Hornbill Project - The Return of the King</i>				
12.00pm - 1.00pm		NSS Awards Ceremony		9.00am - 6.00pm Interactive Exhibition Booths	9.00am - 6.00pm Follow the Tide-Singapore Marine Biodiversity Exhibition:	9.00am - 6.00pm "Biodiversity" photo exhibition
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Art & Craft workshop: Mini Underwater World	Film screening: <i>Hardy Driftwood and his adventures!</i>	Talk: Freshwater Swamp Forest Conservation			
2.00pm - 3.00pm	Art & Craft workshop: Painting Nature on a Tile	Talk: Bird and Butterfly Watching in Singapore: Using the Bird and Butterfly Applications	Talk: Dragonflies of Singapore			
3.00pm - 4.00pm	Storytelling session	Prize Presentation Ceremony for the "City in a Garden" Photography Competition Theme 3: 'BiodiverCity'				
4.00pm - 5.00pm	Official Launch of the Festival of Biodiversity (Function Hall)					
5.00pm - 6.00pm	End of Day 1.					
DAY 2: 27 May 2012 (Sunday)						
Time	Ridley Hall	Function Room (Unless otherwise stated)	Function Hall	Throughout the Botany Centre	Green Pavilion	Along the Level 1 walkway
9.00am - 10.00am		Guided Tour: Rainforest (Nassim Gate Visitor Centre)	9.00am - 12.00pm			
10.00am - 11.00am	Art & Craft Workshop: Diorama modelling	Film screening: <i>Singapore Hornbill Project - The Return of the King</i>	Public Symposium on Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation			
11.00am - 12.00pm	Art & Craft Workshop: Caterpillars & Butterflies!					
12.00pm - 1.00pm						
1.00pm - 2.00pm		Film screening: <i>Hardy Driftwood and his adventures!</i>	Talk: Macro World of Singapore	9.00am - 6.00pm Interactive Exhibition Booths	9.00am - 6.00pm Follow the Tide-Singapore Marine Biodiversity Exhibition:	9.00am - 6.00pm "Biodiversity" photo exhibition
2.00pm - 3.00pm	Art & Craft Workshop: FACT R.E.E.	Talk: Bodies of evidence: A Morbid Celebration of Biodiversity	Talk: Development History of the past 200 years and its effect on Habitat Loss			
3.00pm - 4.00pm	Art & Craft Workshop: Bookmark-making	Film screening: <i>Singapore Got Wildlife Meh??</i>	Talk: Going Home!			
4.00pm - 5.00pm	Art & Craft Workshop: Mobile-Making	Guided Tour: Rainforest (Nassim Gate Visitor Centre)	Talk: Conserving South-east Asia's Biodiversity: Mission Impossible?			
5.00pm - 6.00pm	End of Day 2. See you next year!					

ANNEX 2

List of participating schools for Green Wave 2012

School name	Plant a Tree	Care for Tree
Eton House Pre-School Pte Ltd	1	
Hampton Pre-School	1	
PCF Pasir Ris East Education Centre (Blk 216)	1	
PCF Pasir Ris East Education Centre (Blk 426)	1	
PCF Sparkletots Nanyang (Blk 922)	1	
PCF Sparkletots Eunos (Blk 620)	1	
PCF Sparkletots Eunos (Blk 134)	1	
PCF Radin Mas (Blk 21)	1	
PCF Bishan East (Blk 197)	1	
PCF Sparkletots Braddell Heights (Blk 335)	1	
PCF Bishan East (Blk 144)	1	
PCF Yew Tee Blk 690D-690C	1	
PCF Sparkletots Pasir Ris West (Blk 650)	1	
PCF Tampines Central Education Centre	1	
PCF Zhenghua Blk 528	1	
PCF Hong Kah North (Blk 319)	1	
PCF Yew Tee Education Centre (Blk 682)	1	
PCF Cashew (Blk 545)	1	
PCF Spaketots Childcare at Cashew (Blk 183)	1	
PCF Marsiling (Blk 15)	1	
PCF Educational Centre, Tampines Central Blk 713/714	1	
PCF Admiralty (Blk 624B)	1	
PCF Admiralty (Blk 581)	1	
PCF Tampines Changkat (Blk 318)	1	
PCF Marsiling (Blk 32)	1	
PCF Zhenghua Blk 455A	1	
PCF Sparkletots Tampines West	1	
PCF Punggol East (Blk 143)	1	
PCF Kampong Chai Chee Education Centre (Blk 135)	1	
PCF Yew Tee Branch (Blk 543)	1	
PCF Yew Tee Branch (Blk 608)	1	
PCF Yew Tee Branch (Blk625)	1	
PCF Hougang Branch (Blk 328)	1	
PCF Hong Kah North (Blk 276D)	1	
PCF Radin Mas Blk 87	1	
PCF Radin Mas 108	1	
PCF Woodlands Blk 601	1	
PCF Woodlands Blk 652	1	
PCF Woodlands Blk 824	1	
PCF Woodlands Blk 853	1	
PCF Woodlands Blk 875	1	
PCF Woodlands Sparkletots Child Care Centre Blk 677	1	
PCF Radin Mas Education Centre (Blk 70A)	1	
PCF Bishan North (Blk 441)		1
My First Skool at Blk 230, Compassvale Walk	1	
My First Skool at Blk 331 Sembawang Close	1	
My First Skool at Blk 487C Tampines St 45		1
My First Skool at Blk 63 Telok Blangah Heights	1	
My First Skool at Blk 2 Tanjong Pagar Plaza	1	
My First Skool at Blk 85 Whampoa Drive	1	
My First Skool at Blk 848 Woodlands st 82		1
My First Skool at Block 329 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3		1
My First Skool at Blk 331 Ang Mo Kio Ave 1		1
My First Skool at Blk 343 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3	1	
My First Skool at Blk 291A Bukit Batok St 24	1	
My First Skool at Blk 153 Bishan Street 13	1	
My First Skool at Blk 428 Clementi Ave 3	1	
My First Skool at Choa Chu Kang 2	1	
My First Skool at Blk 203D Compassvale Road	1	
My First Skool at Block 269 Compassvale Link	1	
My First Skool at Blk 667 Hougang Avenue 4	1	
My First Skool at Blk 601/613 Jurong West Street 62	1	
My First Skool at Blk 66 Kallang Bahru	1	
My First Skool at Blk 568 Pasir Ris	1	
My First Skool at Blk 803 Tampines	1	

School name	Plant a Tree	Care for Tree
My First Skool at Blk 302B Anchorvale Link		1
My First Skool at Blk 153 Rivervale Crescent	1	
My First Skool at Blk 796A Yishun Ring Road	1	
My First Skool at Blk 1 Haig Road	1	
Little Village	1	
Guangyang Primary School	1	
Pei Chun Public School	1	
Woodgrove Primary School	1	
Beacon Primary School	1	
Anglo-Chinese School (Primary)	1	
Fuhua Primary School	1	
Dazhong Primary School	1	
Cedar Primary School	1	
Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School	1	
Punggol Primary School	1	
Innova Primary School	1	
CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace	1	
Lakeside Primary School	1	
Farrer Park Primary School		1
Griffiths Primary School	1	
CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel	1	
Zhangde Primary School	1	
Holy Innocents' Primary School		1
Unity Primary School		1
Boon Lay Garden Primary School	1	
Chongzheng Primary School	1	
Anchor Green Primary School		1
Tampines North Primary School		1
Bukit Timah Primary School	1	
West Grove Primary School	1	
First Toa Payoh Primary School	1	
Bedok Green Primary School	1	
St Anthony's Primary School	1	
Greendale Primary School	1	
Canossa Convent Primary School	1	
Si Ling Primary School	1	
Temasek Primary School	1	
Tao Nan School	1	
St. Gabriel's Primary School	1	
Teck Whye Primary School		1
Geylang Methodist School (Primary)	1	
Lianhua Primary School		1
St. Stephen's School	1	
Pioneer Primary School	1	
Eunos Primary School		1
Damai Primary School		1
Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School		1
Saint Hilda's Primary School	1	
Jurong Primary School		1
Yangzheng Primary School	1	
School of Science and Technology, Singapore	1	
Chua Chu Kang Secondary School	1	
Yishun Town Secondary School	1	
Commonwealth Secondary School	1	
Admiralty Secondary School	1	
Chung Cheng High School (Main)	1	
Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School	1	
Sembawang Secondary School	1	
River Valley High School	1	
Woodlands Secondary School	1	
Hougang Secondary School	1	
Xinmin Secondary School		1
Catholic High School	1	
Bedok North Secondary School	1	
Bedok Town Secondary School	1	
Bukit Merah Secondary School	1	
Paya Lebar MGS (Secondary)	1	
Kranji Secondary School	1	

School name	Plant a Tree	Care for Tree
Zhenghua Secondary School	1	
Beatty Secondary School	1	
Swiss Cottage Secondary School	1	
Springfield Secondary School	1	
Tanglin Secondary School	1	
Whitley Secondary School	1	
Hai Sing Catholic School	1	
Yuan Ching Secondary School	1	
Broadrick Secondary School	1	
Boon Lay Secondary School	1	
Nan Hua High School	1	
Bartley Secondary School	1	
Clementi Town Secondary School		1
Dunman High School	1	
Henderson Secondary School	1	
Jurongville Sec School	1	
Juying Secondary School	1	
Victoria School	1	
Westwood Secondary School	1	
Peirce Secondary School		1
St Margaret's Secondary School		1
Crescent Girls' School		1
Chestnut Drive Sec		1
Pei Hwa Secondary School	1	
Greendale Secondary School	1	
Pioneer Junior College	1	
Victoria Junior College	1	
Catholic Junior College		1
Anglo-Chinese Junior College		1
Hwa Chong Institution (Junior College)	1	
Yishun Junior College	1	
St. Andrew's Junior College (SAJC)	1	
Tampines Junior College	1	
ITE College West	1	
ITE College East	1	
Singapore Polytechnic	1	
German European School Singapore – Main Campus (Secondary School)	1	
German European School Singapore – Primary School Campus	1	
Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah	1	
Singapore American School - Early Childhood Centre	1	
Singapore American School - Primary School	1	
Singapore American School - Intermediate School	1	
Singapore American School - Middle School	1	
Singapore American School - High School	1	
United World College of South East Asia	1	
French School of Singapore	1	
Katong School (APSN)	1	
Lighthouse School	1	
Woodland Gardens School	1	
Towner Gardens School (MINDS)	1	
Lee Kong Chian Gardens School	1	
Fernvale Gardens School		1
Eden School	1	