

France
French Nature and Biodiversity Week
International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 22 May 2014

The Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Ms Ségolène Royal, stands up for biodiversity during French Nature and Biodiversity week. This nationwide festival is held from 21st to 25th May around IDB.

The 2014 edition proposes thousands of free events to suit all ages. Vegetal biodiversity, in all forms, is to be discovered across French territory, metropolitan and overseas.

Individual initiatives drawing inspiration from the French example have sprouted up in Belgium, Portugal, Germany, Ivory Coast. French-speaking Switzerland is holding more than 200 events. All information is available at :

<http://www.fetedelanature.com/>

Together with the initiators and partners of the festival, the minister launched on 20th May this special week during a press conference held at the National Museum of Natural History : she invited French citizens to be part of the wide array of events available. Her speech and invitation are to be found on the website of the Ministry of Sustainable Development :

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

More importantly, on IDB, Ms Royal spotlights biodiversity issues to be addressed by humans who are an integral part of biodiversity, with a lifelong potential and duty to act for biodiversity. Please note:

- The launching of a conference "*l'homme peut-il s'adapter à lui-même*" (Is self-adaptation possible for humans ?) organised by Professor Gilles Boeuf who holds the chair "Sustainable development, energy, environment and society" at the *Collège de France* and bringing together scientific searchers and nature experts. This question will be examined as regards to options for the future and possible margins of acceptance.

It is essential to disseminate and promote knowledge, share available data and stimulate public debate in order to act effectively.

- A visit to an eco-friendly Parisian school that has banished the use of pesticides and runs kitchen gardens with the pupils.

Environmental and biodiversity education is essential for the wellbeing of children who will later be decision-makers as grown-up citizens. This is the reason why the report of the *Recteur de l'académie de* (chief executive of the local education authority of) Poitiers emphasising the need to develop biodiversity education will be soon be implemented :

<http://ww2.ac-poitiers.fr/eedd/spip.php?article28>

These initiatives address Target 1 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity targets of the strategic plan of the CDB : "*By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably*",

as well as Target 1 of French strategy for biodiversity 2011-2020 : "*Generate interest in, enrich and share a common nature-oriented culture*".

Specifically, on this date of high symbolic value, in support of the implementation of this national strategy, the *Observatoire national de la biodiversité* (French Observatory for Biodiversity), placed under the authority of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, launches the third edition of its annual publication of indicators in order to enhance the debate on biodiversity status.

For 2014 edition of IDB Day, the Observatory's online space dedicated to biodiversity indicators presents about sixty updated and more fully documented indicators including new biodiversity indicators on coral reef or soil biodiversity :

indicateurs-biodiversite.fr