

MELTING ICE: A HOT TOPIC?



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World Environment Day • 5 June 2007

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World 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 Fidal 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.

YEAR	HOST CITY	COUNTRY
2007	Tromsø	Norway
2006	Algiers	Algeria
2005	San Francisco	USA
2004	Barcelona	Spain
2003	Beirut	Lebanon
2002	Shenzhen	China
2001	Torino/Havana	Italy/Cuba
2000	Adelaide	Australia
1999	Tokyo	Japan
1998	Moscow	Russian Federation
1997	Seoul	Republic of Korea
1996	Istanbul	Turkey
1995	Pretoria	South Africa
1994	London	United Kingdom
1993	Beijing	China
1992	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
1991	Stockholm	Sweden
1990	Mexico City	Mexico
1989	Brussels	Belgium
1988	Bangkok	Thailand
1987	Nairobi	Kenya



Message of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are causing our world to get warmer. Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are higher than at any time for the past 600,000 years, and the rate of increase is accelerating.

The most dramatic evidence of climate change is found in the polar regions. The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the global average. The extent and thickness of permanent Arctic sea ice is diminishing; areas of permafrost, frozen for centuries, are thawing; and ice caps in Greenland and the Antarctic are melting faster than anyone anticipated.



Climate Change :

For the people and ecosystems of the Arctic, the implications are profound. Retreating sea ice is reducing habitat for vulnerable Arctic species. The changes will also affect Arctic indigenous communities who depend on the natural world, not just for food, but for their cultural identity.

However, this is not just a polar issue. The theme for World Environment Day 2007 -- "Melting Ice: A Hot Topic!" -- reflects the impact that climate change is having in all regions. As sea levels rise, inhabitants of low-lying islands and coastal cities throughout the world face inundation.



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A Threat to Our Security

The world's insurance companies are paying out more and more each year to compensate for extreme weather events. As glaciers retreat, governments are casting an increasingly anxious eye at future water supplies. And for the one-third of the world's population living in drylands, especially those in Africa, changing weather patterns linked to climate change threaten to exacerbate desertification, drought and food insecurity.

Society's dependence on fossil fuels is jeopardizing social and economic progress and our future security. Fortunately, there are many policy and technological options available to avert the impending crisis, but we need

increased political will to use them. Developed countries in particular can do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage energy efficiency. They can also support clean development in fast-growing economies such as Brazil, China and India, as well as adaptation measures in those countries that face the greatest hardships from climate change.

On this World Environment Day, let us recognize the need to slow the momentum of the dramatic environmental changes we are seeing at the poles and around the globe. And let each of us pledge to do our part to fight climate change.



Melting Ice : A Serious Challenge

**Message of the King of Norway
His Majesty Harald V**

Norway is honoured to have been chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme to host the international celebrations of the World Environment Day in 2007. This annual event is an important recognition of today's global interdependence and the responsibility that we all share for securing human welfare today and tomorrow.

As a Polar nation, Norway hopes that the official World Environment Day slogan Melting Ice—A hot Topic? will inspire a range of activities and events all over the world. Man-made global warming – as illustrated by melting ice – is one of the most serious challenges shared by the world today.

The Arctic sea ice cap is declining rapidly. Science warns us that melting glaciers in the polar regions would lead to severe sea level rise. Disruption of the Polar Regions will interfere with their vital roles in regulating earth's climate, ocean cycles and the life supporting role of migratory species. It is appropriate that 2007 also marks the start of the International Polar Year, an internationally coordinated effort to promote polar research. Today, ice melting is taking place in all regions of the world. Shrinking mountain glaciers in Asia, Africa, the Americas and in Europe will affect freshwater supplies, with consequences for food production and human health.

Climate change and environmental degradation call for solidarity with those who are particularly vulnerable to its effects. Climate change will mean different things to different people. It can mean hunger for the African farmer coping with drought. It can mean migration for the islander coping with sea level rise and stormy weather. It can mean a loss of traditional culture and lifestyles for indigenous peoples, including in the Arctic where toxic chemicals from other regions pose an additional threat to life and health.

It is Norway's hope that World Environment Day activities can be many and diverse, reflecting the whole range of steps that need to be taken over time to reverse global environmental trends. The World Environment Day should be creative and forward-looking, focusing on possible solutions, building new partnerships and alliances at home, in the work place and in the local community. Norway hopes that the World Environment Day and the celebrations going on all over the world, will give impetus to global efforts to solve global environmental challenges securing human welfare and our common future.

I wish you good luck with World Environment Day 2007 celebrations.





**Message of Achim Steiner, Executive Director,
United Nations Environment Programme**

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How Much Hotter Does it Have to Be?



World Environment Day 2007 focuses on the challenges facing the people and ecosystems of the Arctic and Antarctic as a result of rapid environmental and climatic change. In doing so it also links to the wider world where glaciers are shrinking and an increasing number of extreme weather events are triggering more frequent droughts and floods.

In focusing on the polar regions we hold up a mirror to the accelerating impacts sweeping the whole planet from the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These seemingly remote regions vividly illustrate the interconnectedness of all life on Earth—bringing home to the six billion people alive today how mutually reliant and linked we all are to landscapes and ecosystems both near and far.



The Arctic and Antarctica may be the Earth's climate early warning system—feeling the heat first—but we know it does not end there. Ocean circulation, the key driver of regional and global weather systems, is inextricably linked with melting and freezing processes in and around the poles. The polar regions are also a kind of protective shield, reflecting heat back into space that would otherwise be absorbed on Earth. There is also growing concern over so-called 'positive feedbacks' including the potential release of massive amounts of the powerful greenhouse gas methane, which is stored in the Arctic permafrost.

So, what happens in the Arctic and the Antarctic as a result of climate change is of direct interest to us all—from someone living

in the Congo River Basin, the Australian outback and in rural China, to suburban dwellers in Berlin, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro or Washington DC.

At the same time, the actions of those living outside the polar regions is of direct interest to Arctic peoples. The vast majority of emissions that are contributing to melting ice are being generated on the roads and in the factories, homes and offices of the industrialized and, increasingly, the rapidly industrializing economies.

We are currently locked into a vicious and ever widening circle. Our common responsibility is to make it a virtuous one—to underline that



overcoming the profligate burning of fossil fuels is not a burden but an opportunity. Switching to a cleaner and more efficient development path can not only liberate us from the overarching threat of climate change, it can free us from dependency on a finite and, some might say, politically disruptive resource.

There are signs that this switch can—and is indeed starting to—occur as result of several central factors finally coming into play. Firstly the economics of inaction and the economic benefits of action have in recent months moved to the fore. A review by Sir Nicholas Stern, published in advance of the climate convention talks held in Nairobi in late 2006, has changed the landscape forever in this respect. It states that if no action is taken, we risk raising average global temperatures by more than 5 degrees Centigrade from pre-industrial levels, and this would lead to the equivalent of a minimum loss of 5 per cent of GDP annually.

In contrast, the costs of acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts could cost as little as 1 per cent of global GDP each year. A major US accountancy firm recently concluded that the world would have to sacrifice just one year's economic growth over the next four decades to reduce carbon emissions sufficiently to curb global warming.

The Stern Review also estimates that reducing emissions would actually make the world better off. One estimate indicates that, over time, a shift to a low carbon global economy would trigger benefits of \$2.5 trillion a year. Findings like this take climate change beyond the portfolio of the environment minister and firmly into the in-tray of the world's finance ministers and heads of state.

The second factor is the issue of energy security—or, one might say, energy insecurity—due to the global dependence on fossil fuels. Countries are increasingly recognizing that the benefits of renewable energy sources, low- or zero-emission coal-fired power stations and energy efficiency extend beyond the atmosphere to national security.

Others are also starting to grasp another notion of security, which includes the link between extreme weather events like floods and droughts to wider national and regional issues.

Climate change is magnifying existing disparities between rich and poor and aggravating tensions over fragile or increasingly scarce natural resources such as productive land and freshwater. It increases the potential to create a new class of displaced people known collectively as environmental refugees.

You do not have to take my word for that. Cristina Narbona, the Spanish environment minister, was asked at the recent climate change talks why her country was investing in a new partnership between UNEP and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to assist Africa adapt to climate change. Her response was clear. Spain links the increasing numbers of people from Africa who are risking life and limb in flimsy boats to sail to the Canary Islands with environmental degradation including those from climate change.

Finally the science of climate change is now indisputable, and has been further underlined in the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in February this year. The findings put a full stop behind the scientific debate as to whether humankind is influencing the climate and now beg the question of what we are going to do about it.

Collective and decisive political will is the final—and still missing—piece in the jigsaw puzzle. While many sectors of society are moving to address climate change—including local authorities, industry, the financial sector and civil society—the collective political process is moving frustratingly slowly.

At the climate change meeting in Nairobi some steps were taken under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNEP and UNDP's just-mentioned new partnership aims to assist developing countries to secure a share of the clean energy projects that are starting to flow from the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism. It will also offer a rapid response so countries in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere can insulate their economies against climate changes that are already underway.

Furthermore, the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund was agreed, and there were other positive signs, not least on issues like avoided deforestation where there was productive and fulsome debate. However, no agreement was achieved on the deep and sustained cuts in greenhouse gas emissions needed to stabilize the atmosphere, an agreement which is also vital for maintaining confidence and investment in the blossoming carbon markets. If Nairobi was not the place, then where and when will this action on deeper cuts in a post-2012 world emerge?

It was John Tyndall, the English physicist, who recognized the power of carbon dioxide and water vapour to change the Earth's climate. That was over 100 years ago in his seminal paper of 1863. We cannot wait another 100 years to act. Indeed there are some respected observers who claim we have as little as a decade or so to do so. Six months from now, on the Indonesian island of Bali, governments will resume the climate talks. I sincerely hope that Bali will be the watershed where science, security issues and economics combine to produce wide-ranging political action.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day is Melting Ice: A Hot Topic? Thus it is fitting that the main celebrations are being hosted by Norway on the edge of the Arctic Circle. The logo underlines the global theme by asking a polar bear, an African farmer, a Pacific islander, an insurer and businessman, two indigenous children and ultimately 'Yourself' the rhetorical question of whether indeed this is the topic of our time.

Perhaps we should have added a further person—namely a politician. World Environment Day has at its heart the empowerment of the individual citizen. UNEP urges everyone to embrace this year's theme and put the question to their political leaders and democratically elected representatives: just how much hotter does this topic need to become before governments across the globe commit to acting together?



Ice : A Lifeline to the World's Water Supply

Message of H. E. Helen Bjørnøy, Minister of Environment, Norway

The Norwegian Government is honoured to host the international World Environment Day 2007 celebrations in recognition of the hot topic of melting ice.

Ice plays a critical role in shaping our planet's environment. Ice reflects a share of the sun's heat back into space, cooling the planet. Ice holds large parts of the world's freshwater supplies, and is a vital part of the ecosystems that sustain both human life and wildlife.

Earth's ice cover is changing dramatically. Shrinking ice cover is a clear sign of global warming. Global ice melting accelerated during the 1990s, which was also the warmest decade on record. Ice is melting at sea, on land, and in the ground, with shrinking mountain glaciers and thawing permafrost. Ice melting is not limited to the polar areas, where it is melting at a dramatic pace. Ice is melting in all regions.

It is our hope that the World Environment Day will focus on all the ways in which climate change – and melting ice – affects people's lives all over the world, whether this be in the form of sea level rise, land erosion, drought, floods, storms or other threats to livelihoods and lifestyles. We need to remind ourselves that a healthy and stable environment and a rich natural resource base are essential for human welfare, development and security. We need to join forces to communicate that this is something worth defending and fighting for, as an international community and as individuals. This much we owe to ourselves and to future generations.

As a polar nation, Norway is highly aware of the Arctic's vulnerability and its important role in the global climate system. In addition, the fragile Arctic is the final dumping ground for the persistent toxic chemicals that threaten human health and nature everywhere, making toxic chemicals another global priority issue. The Polar Regions are also of global importance as breeding grounds for fish stocks and migratory species.

There is an urgent need to take action. We must change the warming trend within the next couple of decades. If we don't, we will likely see changes that make Earth a different planet than the one we know. Further global warming of 1°C defines a critical threshold. To keep within this threshold, global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by the middle of this century. To meet global environmental challenges we need commitment not only at the political -but also at the corporate and grassroots - levels. We don't need one response; we need many responses. Norway is therefore glad to join forces with the United Nations Environment Programme in making the World Environment Day an occasion for broad mobilization and action for life on earth, all over the world.





About Polar Regions

International Polar Year 2007–8 provides us all with an opportunity to learn more about the polar regions, the threats they face and their significance to the global climate and human development.

The polar regions are among the world's last wilderness areas. In comparison with most other places in the world their environment is clean and large areas are relatively unspoiled.

Polar environments are among the most extreme on the planet, with limited sunlight, extreme temperatures, short growing seasons, sea ice, snow cover, glaciers, tundra and permafrost. They are rich in living and non-living natural resources that are important to the rest of the world such as fisheries, oil and gas.

Many polar ecosystems have unique features that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human activities. As such they require special precautionary and protective measures.

Polar regions are important indicators of the state of global well-being. They are vital to global processes linked to the atmosphere, sea currents and circulation, the global climate and biodiversity. Changes in the polar environment will drive changes elsewhere on the planet.

Generally, the state of the polar environment remains satisfactory. Human activity has had less impact than elsewhere. However, the polar ecosystems are under pressure from development, growing use of natural resources, and external factors such as long-range pollution and climate change.

Global climate models indicate that global warming induced by the greenhouse effect will be most acute in polar regions, resulting in changes in the extent of sea ice, increased thawing of permafrost, and melting of polar ice masses, with profound world-wide environmental, economic, social, cultural and political implications.

Parts of the polar regions are already warming at a rate of two to three times the global average. Most of these areas are in the Arctic, but one region of Antarctica, the Antarctic Peninsula, is also warming.

The polar regions are a natural 'sink' for toxic chemicals which are produced around the world. In the Arctic, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are transported by air and ocean currents from more southerly latitudes. They accumulate in organisms at the top of food chains, such as marine mammals and sea birds, presenting a threat to the animals themselves, the ecosystems they inhabit and to humans who use them for food.

The Arctic

There are important geographical and political distinctions between the Arctic and Antarctic. The Arctic is a partially-frozen ocean surrounded by a diversity of landscapes influenced by seasonal snow cover and permafrost, including ice, sparsely-vegetated barren lands, tundra, wetlands and forests.

The Arctic Ice Cap consists of glaciers, ice sheets, icebergs and sea ice (multi-year sea ice, old sea ice, first-year sea ice and recently formed sea ice). Sea ice covers approximately 7.5 to 15 million square kilometres of the Arctic Ocean, with an average thickness of about three metres. During the summer, 10 to 15 per cent of the Arctic Ocean is not covered by ice.

The Greenland Ice Sheet is the largest Arctic glacial mass. It constitutes 10 per cent of the world's total freshwater reserves. Melting of sea ice will not increase sea levels, but if all the Greenland ice were to melt, the sea level in the world's oceans would rise by 7 metres.

There are low numbers of known species in the Arctic compared to mid-latitudes, but large and widespread populations of key species, several of which are of major importance to indigenous and local cultures and economies. The Arctic is highly sensitive to disturbance and pollution and much of its human population and culture is directly dependent on the health of the region's ecosystems.

The Antarctic

Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean. It is the coldest, windiest, highest and driest continent on earth. Close to 99 per cent of the continent is covered by an ice-sheet with an average height above sea level of approximately 2,500 metres.

The Antarctic ice sheet has an average depth of around 2,000 metres. The largest depth that has been measured is approximately 4,700 metres. The amount of ice in Antarctica constitutes about 91 per cent of the world's total. If all Antarctic ice were to melt, sea level would rise by more than 60 metres.

Antarctica has no native terrestrial vertebrates, but large populations of marine birds and seals which go there to breed. A large proportion of the world's seals are found in the ocean surrounding Antarctica. In the summer season both toothed whales and baleen whales are present in the Antarctic marine environment.

Around 45 species of nesting birds are found south of the Antarctic Convergence, all of which are connected to the marine ecosystem. Penguins constitute 85 per cent of the biomass of Antarctic seabirds, and the Adelie penguin constitutes in itself half of the penguin stock. The small crustacean, krill, is the basis of the Southern Ocean food web which supports fish, marine mammals and birds.

Antarctic has no indigenous population. However, the number of transient scientists and scientists and staff in permanent all-year research stations is increasing, as well as the number of tourists.

50 Little Known Facts About climate change

The Earth has warmed by approximately 0.75 °C since pre-industrial times. Eleven of the warmest years in the past 125 years occurred since 1990, with 2005 the warmest on record. There is overwhelming consensus that this is due to emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), from burning fossil fuels.

Examination of ice cores shows that there is more CO₂ in the atmosphere than at any time in the past 600,000 years. Between 1960 and 2002, annual anthropogenic global emissions of CO₂ approximately tripled. They rose by about 33 per cent since 1987 alone.

Warming in this century is projected to be between 1.4 and 5.8 °C. The impacts of climate change are already visible. Examples include: the shrinking Arctic ice cap; accelerating sea level rise; receding glaciers worldwide; thawing permafrost; earlier break-up of river and lake ice; increasing intensity and duration of tropical storms; lengthening of mid-to high-latitude growing seasons; and shifts in plant and animal ranges and behaviour.

In the Arctic, as peat bogs thaw they release methane, an even more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂. Scientists are increasingly concerned about the possibility of abrupt climate change, including reductions in ocean currents, such as the Gulf Stream which warms Europe, and changed patterns of rainfall, such as the monsoon seasons, which would affect food security for billions of people.



Ask a polar bear...

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the global average. The area of the Arctic Ocean covered by ice each summer has been shrinking, and the remaining ice is becoming less thick. Because more heat is absorbed by the sea than by ice, a feedback is created which results in further melting. Since 1980, between 20 and 30 per cent of sea ice in the European Arctic has been lost.

Polar bears depend on sea ice, where they hunt seals and use ice corridors to move from one area to another. Pregnant females build winter dens in areas with thick snow cover. They have not eaten for five to seven months when they emerge with their cubs in the spring. They need good spring sea-ice conditions for their own and their cubs' survival.

During the past two decades, the condition of adult polar bears in the Hudson Bay area in Canada has declined, with a reduction of between 15 and 26 per cent in average adult body weight and the number of cubs born between 1981 and 1998. Some climate models project that there may be an almost complete loss of summer sea-ice in the Arctic before the end of the century. If this happens, polar bears are unlikely to survive as a species.

Ask a farmer...



Although crop yields may increase in some areas due to climate change, the negative effects are likely to dominate as warming increases. Africa is especially vulnerable, and studies warn that there may be a significant increase in hunger.

Poor communities are most directly dependent for their livelihoods on a stable and hospitable climate. They often rely on rain-fed subsistence agriculture, and are deeply dependent

on climatic phenomena, such as the Asian monsoons. They are also most vulnerable to extreme weather events such as droughts and tropical storms.

As glaciers melt in the world's great mountain ranges, water supplies to rivers will be affected. In Europe, eight out of nine glaciated regions show significant retreat. Between 1850 and 1980, glaciers in the European Alps lost approximately one-third of their area and one-half of their mass.

In China, highland glaciers are shrinking each year by an amount equivalent to all the water in the Yellow River. The Chinese Academy of Sciences says that 7 per cent of the country's glaciers are vanishing annually. By 2050, as many as 64 per cent of China's glaciers will have disappeared. An estimated 300 million people live in China's arid west and depend on water from glaciers for their survival. As sea levels rise, inhabitants of low-lying islands and coastal cities face inundation. In December 2005, a small community living in the Pacific island chain of Vanuatu became perhaps the first to be formally moved as a result of climate change.

Climate change also threatens marine habitats and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. The oceans have absorbed approximately half of the CO₂ produced in the past 200 years, producing carbonic acid and lowering the pH of surface sea water. This could affect the process of calcification by which animals such as corals and molluscs make their shells from calcium carbonate.

Ask an islander...

In the past 100 years, global sea level rose between 1 and 2 millimetres a year. Since 1992 the rate has increased to about 3 millimetres a year, primarily through thermal expansion of warming oceans and freshwater flowing into the oceans from melting ice.

Melting ice is responsible for a significant portion of the observed sea level rise, with the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets the largest contributors. The Greenland Ice Sheet is melting faster than new ice is being formed. In the Antarctic, three large sections of ice shelves in the Antarctic Peninsula have collapsed over the past 11 years, followed by a marked acceleration and thinning of glaciers that were held back by the shelves.



As sea levels rise, inhabitants of low-lying islands and coastal cities face inundation. In December 2005, a small community living in the Pacific island chain of Vanuatu became perhaps the first to be formally moved as a result of climate change.

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Ask an insurer...



In 2005 the Munich Re Foundation estimated economic losses due to weather-linked disasters. Such as tropical storms and forest fires, at more than US\$ 200 billion, with insured losses at more than US\$ 70 billion. This compares with 2004, the previous most costly year, when economic losses totalled around US\$145 billion and insured losses reached some US\$ 45 billion. Continued global warming is expected to cause shifts in the geographic range (latitude and altitude)

and seasonality of certain infectious diseases, including vector-borne infections such as malaria and dengue fever, and food-borne infections, such as salmonellosis, which peak in the warmer months.

Some health impacts may be beneficial. For example, milder winters may reduce the seasonal winter-time peak in deaths in temperate countries. However, many of the same countries are seeing hotter summers. In 2003, France experienced an estimated extra 15,000 deaths due to a heat wave that claimed as many as 35,000 people across Europe. Overall it is likely that the negative health impacts of climate change will far outweigh the positive effects.



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Ask an indigenous person...

Arctic communities, including indigenous people striving to maintain and adapt traditional lifestyles, are particularly vulnerable to environmental change. The Arctic is home to some 4 million people, of whom roughly 10 per cent (400,000) are indigenous. Concentrations vary, from the Inuit, who comprise 85 percent of the population of the Nunavut territory in Canada, to the Sámi, who account for 2.5 per cent of the population in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula.

Widespread melting of permafrost in Alaska and Siberia is causing serious damage to buildings, pipelines, roads and other infrastructure. Climate change means shorter ice seasons for traveling on winter roads, and warmer and less predictable weather, causing more forest fires in some regions.

Agriculture in the Arctic is severely limited. Subsistence economic activities are therefore mainly hunting and fishing, reindeer herding, trapping and gathering. Warming throughout the Arctic is a problem for reindeer herders and hunters who travel on frozen rivers and through snow. More melting and freezing of snow also makes food less accessible to caribou and reindeer, affecting the economies and cultural integrity herders and hunters.

Sea-ice changes and related increased coastal erosion are also causing damage, necessitating the relocation of some coastal communities (such as in Shishmaref, Alaska), and affecting indigenous marine hunters and fishers.



Ask yourself...

There are many options available to avoid catastrophic climate change. These include worldwide improvements in energy efficiency and a shift to low-carbon and renewable resources such as solar and windpower, bio-energy and geothermal energy. There is also potential for capturing and storing CO₂, while a number of analysts consider that nuclear power could play a significant role

In 1995, installed global wind power capacity was 4,800 megawatts of electricity. At the end of 2005 the figure had increased twelve-fold to more than 59,000 megawatts. The Global Wind Energy Council estimates that over a third of the world's electricity could be generated by wind by 2050.

A low-greenhouse gas future will also need to include social __ changes. Millions of households now use the sun to heat water, with an increasing number also harnessing solar energy for electricity. In Iceland, abundant hydropower and geothermal energy is being channelled into developing hydrogen from water as a major energy source to replace fossil fuels. In Brazil, ethanol made from sugar cane has replaced about 40 per cent of the country's need for petrol.

From Vietnam to Australia, Kenya to Mexico, people are banding together to plant trees, many of them as part of the UNEP Plant For The Planet: Billion Tree Campaign. Trees can slow climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide as they grow. They also help to reduce pollution, keep cities cool, protect water catchments and reduce soil erosion.

77 ways to celebrate World Environment Day

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, towns and villages

I

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

J

Join an environmental group

K

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

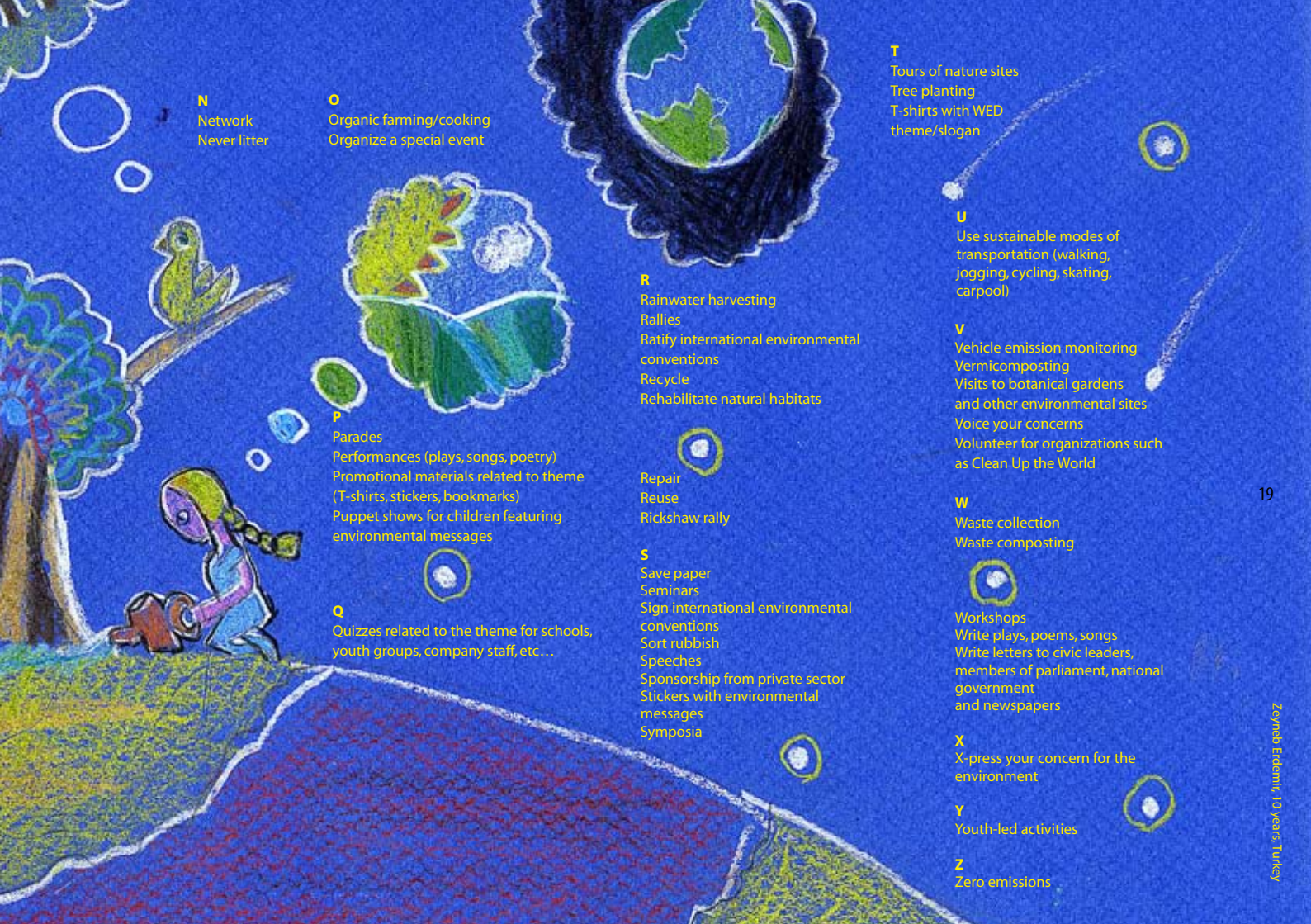
L

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

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

R
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/slogan

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

V
Vehicle emission monitoring
Vermicomposting
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

W
Workshops
Write plays, poems, songs
Write letters to civic leaders,
members of parliament, national
government
and newspapers

X
X-press your concern for the
environment

Y
Youth-led activities

Z
Zero emissions

I N S P I R I N G E X A M P L E S

World Environment Day can be celebrated in many ways. The following are a selection of inspiring examples of how World Environment Day was celebrated in 2004 with the theme/slogan: *Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?*; in 2005 with the theme/slogan: *Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!*; and in 2006 *Deserts and Desertification: Don't Desert Drylands!*

AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algiers

In 2006, with the theme deserts and desertification, the choice of Algeria as the host of the main international World Environment Day celebrations, was most appropriate.

One of the many events was a workshop in Ghardaia - a 2,000-year-old city in the Sahara desert. The workshop brought together experts who produced a call to action on the fight against desertification, which, in turn, led to the drafting of a charter on the world's deserts. In Algiers, the UNEP publication *Global Desert Outlook* was launched. The report highlights the fragileness of desert environments and the pressure they face from forces such as climate change and human activity. UNEP used the occasion to launch a publication on tourism and the deserts. The President of Algeria graced the main event where he delivered a speech on the Day's theme and presented prizes to the winners of UNEP's Children's Painting Competition and to the Algerian journalist who wrote the best articles on the WED theme. In the City centre the public celebrated the Day with a parade, marching bands, flower girls and a hot air balloon which carried the WED slogan *Don't Desert Drylands!*

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 re-use and addresses the water situation in Botswana, which is at a critical stage. It is the most practical method to complement 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

In 2005, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Virunga launched two studies on environmental issues of 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 tools for planning.

EGYPT

Cairo

In 2006, 5.5 tons of expired and dangerous goods, that had been stored for more than 15 years in the warehouses of the Cairo airport, were safely disposed of and destroyed.

Hurghada

World Environment Day 2004 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, festivities began in the 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.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa

In 2005, Midroc Gold Mines organized an environmental awareness training activity for its employees, the local community and schoolchildren. A total of 300 participants took part in the colourful event on 5 June when 600 trees were planted by community groups, the company's management and its employees at three different sites. On 6 June, a photo exhibition of the 2004 World Environment Day celebrations was held.

Ethiopia

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GHANA

Accra

In 2004, Earth Service, an environmental NGO in Ghana launched UNEP's Plant for the Planet campaign. 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

In 2004, the day was marked by week-long festivities in Dadaab Refugee Camp in North Eastern Kenya. The refugees, the host community and aid agencies participated in plastic waste 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 reinforced the message with T-shirts and caps and awarded prizes for environmental achievements during the year.

Kakuma

World Environment Day 2005 was celebrated in the Kakuma refugee camp – a city of 87,000 refugees in northern Kenya – with a tree planting and clean-up exercise with emphasis on reducing plastic bags. The 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 camp clean.

Nairobi

World Environment Day in Nairobi is usually 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, to name a few. Since 2003, artistically painted city buses have been adorned with colorful messages on the theme. The Kenya Bus Company and Crown Berger Paints offered buses and donated paint for the creative visualization of the 2005 slogan **Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!** In 2006, 11 school buses and 13 UN staff buses were decorated with WED posters.

Nairobi



LIBERIA

Monrovia

The Environment Theme Group of Liberia, under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the support of UNEP, UNDP and UNMIL, led the 2005 celebrations in the capital 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. The march culminated at City Hall with the delivery of remarks by the EPA, the UN, academia and NGOs. UNHCR adopted the theme **Green your camps: Improve Natural Resource Management** whereby major stakeholders planted trees in a transit camp.

LIBYA

Tripoli

In 2004, 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* in collaboration with the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief, the Canadian Embassy, scouts and guides, and others. With the support of the private sector, the Canadian Embassy organized a drawing competition.

MALAWI

Mulanje

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

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo

Environment Minister Luciano de Castro celebrated World Environment Day 2005 by inaugurating a landfill for the disposal of industrial waste at Mavoco in Boane District – 20 km from 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 (4-10 June) 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 made to 4x4 vehicle owners to assist with the campaign by taking volunteers into the dunes. Quad bikes were made available and the Municipality awarded certificates of appreciation to participants and donors.

NIGERIA

Lagos

In 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. The Nigerian Environmental Society organized the Ride-for-life Green Concert. The 5 km trip started as a moving train from the Bar-beach end of Lagos and ended at Ikeja. The event aimed to raise awareness among the public and government authorities of issues, such as 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 ride was coordinated by the Federal Road Safety Corps.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town

In 2004, Cape Town hosted the Youth Environmental School (YES) programme using the Day's theme. The programme took place from 31 May - 4 June with 48 organizations and 65 speakers presenting 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 free of charge and open to primary and special schools in the City. To ensure that all schools had an equal opportunity to participate, especially marginalized schools, bus transport was made available. On 5 June, an Eco-Schools Teacher's Workshop, with about 160 teachers, learners and service providers, was organized.



South Africa

Pretoria

South Africa celebrated National Environment Week 2005 under the theme *Our environment belongs to all who live in it*. The National Assembly debated the subject with special emphasis on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, H.E. Marthinus van Schalkwyk, officially designated the first group of Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI) nicknamed the "Green Scorpions". EMIs 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 2005, Environment Minister, H.E. Drocella Mugorewera, launched environment week, which was dedicated to protecting areas around the River Nyabarongo, so that soil is not washed away into the river.

SOMALIA

Berbera

Every year, Yovenco 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, activities in line with the 2005 theme, were carried out in Mbabane'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 raise awareness about the Day; a tree-planting and clean-up campaign at Manzini City; a launch for the rehabilitation of public parks; declaration of a wetland as a protected area in Nhlhlangano Town; a seminar at the University of Swaziland; and the main celebrations at Pigg's Peak Town on 4 June.

TANZANIA

Dar es Salaam

In 2005, the Mabibo Women's Environmental Management Society organized solid waste collection, road sweeping and a tree planting exercise.

TOGO

Lomé

In 2004, the National Consumers and Environmental Alliance of Togo – a network of 13 NGOs – organized a meeting, which touched on issues affecting oceans and seas by the region's largest industrial companies as well as the agricultural overuse of chemical fertilizers in coastal regions and near rivers. The meeting called on the government and the public to take appropriate action to protect marine ecosystems. On 5 June, more than 4,000 people marched through the main streets of the capital. 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

In 2005, 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.



Tanzania

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

In 2004, eight high-profile Australians made a national plea over clear-felling. More than 300 people attended a public meeting in Perth 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 held in Melbourne and Sydney. In Hobart, the Day was celebrated on the Parliament House lawns with dancers, bands, stalls and speeches.

Each Year, World Environment Day is celebrated amongst Toyota's 3,000 employees in Australia with competitions, sausage sizzles and free tree seedlings handed out. In 2005, Toyota's internal focus was "waste". Approximately 2,500 re-usable "Green Bags" were handed out to employees.

Australia



In keeping with the 2005 Green Cities theme, Toshiba Australia 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, employees were given a china mug to replace foam cups, which will be banned from Toshiba Australia Pty Ltd's sites.

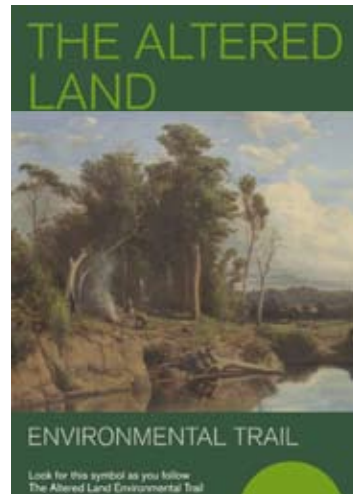
In 2005, Clean Up the World (CUW) invited members to consider the impact of the planet's growing urban populations with the theme *Green Cities, Green Communities*.

Brisbane

In 2005, the faculty of Environmental Sciences at Nathan Campus, Griffith University, celebrated with an initiative entitled *Redeeming Our Pledge to Save the Environment and Make Green Cities*. Students gathered at the City Center shopping mall to conduct awareness activities on 'Green Shopping'. They asked people to reject the disposable plastic bags and go for 'Green Bags'.

Melbourne

In 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.



Nelson Bay

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

Oyster Bay

In 2006, Point Preschool organized a low waste lunch challenge where all the children invited their family to bring a "Low Waste Lunch". The waste that could not be recycled from the week before and on the day of the challenge was weighed separately. The aim was that there will be less waste and that this will encourage the parents to always send a low waste lunch.

Perth

Perth, in partnership with the town of Victoria Park, the City of South Perth and the Claise Brook Catchment Group, hosted the 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 Kings Park bushwalk; and workshops at City Farm. A 20 per cent discount for bike hire was offered by Close About Bike Hire for visitors to Point Fraser on the day.

Portland

In 2005, on 2 June Alcoa Portland Aluminium hosted an event that brought together 10 primary schools and 15 community partners to experience environmental learning. Some 350 students participated in environmental activities and were treated to a waste wise/healthy lunch. The aim was to support environmental education and the

development of future environmental leaders. Activities 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.

In 2004, Hannaford's Events, a company that owns a new theatre product called Flames of the Forest (FOTF), which was pioneered with Conservation Volunteers Australia, organized a theatre/dining and cultural event set in the rainforests of tropical north Queensland. FOTF also 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.

St. Kilda, Victoria

In 2004, Coast Care and Quicksilver Board Riders Club, hosted an environmental rehabilitation and education day at 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.

Sydney

In 2005, the advertising firm Saatchi and Saatchi created pro bono a radio public service announcement for the United Nations Information Centre in Sydney. In keeping with the year's theme *Green Cities*, the PSA focused on urban air pollution.



BANGLADESH

Dhaka

In 2004, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh inaugurated an environment fair at Oamani Memorial Auditorium and distributed prizes to the winners of the children and youth painting and essay writing competitions.

On 5 June 2006, the Department of Environment organized an environmental Fair at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in which government, NGOs and educational institutions took part, and a three-day national seminar and discussion on 5-7 June. Also organized were a children's painting competition on 16 May at Shishu Children's Academy; a rally and procession on 4 June in which thousands of men, women, and children, boy scouts and girl guides and environment protection campaigners participated; an essay competition on the theme: **Don't Desert Drylands!**; the production of souvenirs and stickers in the six divisions and 64 districts of Bangladesh to create awareness on the environment.

CHINA

Beijing

In Beijing, activities in 2004 included the launch 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; the launch in the Great Hall of the People of the *I love China and I love Seas and Oceans – Campaign for Environmental Protection by China's Youngsters* sponsored by the Song Chingling Foundation and SEPA. *China Environment News* devoted a whole page to the Day, and the 2003 China State of Environment Report was released by SEPA on 3 June.

Shenzhen

In 2005, Hitachi Global Storage Technologies hosted a celebration entitled *Green City, Green Home* at the Red Forest Eco-Park. Activities included a clean-up of waste left by tourists in the Park, an environmental quiz and a photo exhibition.

China



INDIA

Chandigarh

In 2004, Theatre Arts, in association with the State Bank of India, organized a street play entitled *Prakrati ke Dushman*. The performance depicted environmental problems such as 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.

India



Maharashtra

The Tekdi Group organized *Earth Events 2005* from 22 April (Earth Day) to 5 June. The events were an attempt to bridge the time between these two days and included the launch of a Digital Desktop Eco Calendar on 5 June available on their website as a free download. The calendar featured important Eco Events of the year as well as environmentally important days. As in previous years, the Day's activities began with tree planting exercises at their branches around the world and will go on until December depending on local planting seasons.

Mount Abu

In 2006, a concert was held to sensitize local citizens to the environmental cause. Eight new songs, with environmental messages, were presented by the visually-challenged children of the local Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind.

Mysore

The Quality Inn Southern Star celebrated World Environment Day 2004 by 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

In 2005, the Postal Department of India brought out a First Day Cover – an envelope bearing a commemorative cachet of stamps depicting the work of the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation.

Trivandrum

In 2005, the Forum for Environmental Writers 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. A popular TV discussion on environment was also broadcast.

INDONESIA

South Kalimantan

In 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. Tests undertaken gratis on 6-7 June helped raise awareness of the need to maintain vehicles to prevent air pollution. The EPA distributed posters, leaflets and stickers, which describe how important it is to maintain vehicles.

Yogyakarta

In 2005, Sylva Indonesia, the Indonesian Forestry Student Association, celebrated the Day with a tree planting exercise. A project entitled *An Eco-Corridor for a Green City* was 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 local government, NGOs, civil society and the media.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH 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 local and central governments, NGOs, industry and the armed forces, among others. The Vice Prime Minister and the Environment Minister delivered statements and committed themselves to take action to protect the environment.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Uijongbu

In 2004, 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.

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur

In 2005, Bangsar Village Shopping Centre undertook a campaign to educate and reinforce the concept of recycling. The 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 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 color 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.



Malaysia

Malaya

In 2004, the Environmental Education Programme of the University of Malaya launched at the Rimba Ilmu Botanical Garden the second Children's Art Show, which was organized by the University, the Malaysian Nature Society and the Impact Art Programme. An exhibition of 50 paintings on nature by a group of children was produced, and a silent auction of the paintings was held with 60 per cent of funds raised donated to the Botanical Garden.



Penang

In 2004, the World Fish Centre organized an awareness programme for its staff. Posters were placed in strategic locations in the office complex and articles about the year's theme, *Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?* were circulated. A special staff meeting was organized and staff members were treated to a short video on the state of the oceans. This led to discussions on how staff can help protect the environment.

MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar

In 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

In 2005, the Youth Awareness Environmental Forum (YAEF) arranged a banner exhibition at Ratnapark. On 4 June, the Secondary Level Valley Speech Competition Programme was held – 34 schools participated. YAEF distributed posters with slogans on topics such as water conservation, plastic use reduction, stop chimney brick industries and stop the stone crusher industries. The 5 June events, organized by YAEF and Environment Cycle Radio FM, started at City Hall with the Valley Bicycle Rally, with the aim of turning into action the World

Environment Day slogan. On reaching the YAEF headquarters, a discussion on *Environment Protection in Nepal* was held. On 6 June, song and dance performances on the environment took place.

NEW ZEALAND

In 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.

Wellington

In 2006, Stop Child Poverty Campaign planted trees at the local facilities for underprivileged and at risk children. This action benefited the children directly as it beautified their environment.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad

In 2005, Gogi Studios published the book *The Garbage Monster* on the theme of environment protection and cleanliness. The book, authored by the famous Pakistani cartoonist, Nigar Nazar, was colorfully illustrated and included 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.

Karachi

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

In 2006, the Foundation for Progress held a national seminar under the theme *Drylands Rehabilitation – Poverty Alleviation*. The seminar was



Pakistan

organized with the collaboration of the Department of Environment and Alternate Energy and the Government of Sindh. The event was held under the Foundation's programme 'Building Partnerships, Promoting Sustainability'. The objective was to foster cooperation and build bridges between the government, the private sector and civil society. The seminar was one of the largest gatherings on the occasion in the country, with about 200 delegates from 84 public and private sectors and national, multinational and international organizations. They discussed ways of rehabilitating and sustaining the drylands of Pakistan. There were messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Minister for Environment. The Seminar's outcome and proceedings will be synthesized and the recommendations submitted to the relevant authorities for consideration and necessary implementation.

Peshawar

In 2004, the Human Resource Social Welfare Society International celebrated the day with an environmental award ceremony. The ceremony was the culmination of a three-month campaign, which commenced on Earth Day (22 April) and 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. An environmental message was broadcast throughout the day on a local TV station.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Alotau, Milne Bay Province

In 2005, Conservation International (CI) organized a Green and Clean Day. Students, town authorities, businesses, prison inmates and the public came together to clean up the town and plant trees. 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 and youths painted waste drums with clean and green messages.

Port Moresby

On 3 June 2004, the Department of Environment and Conservation launched the official celebrations at Port Moresby National High School 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. One of the most important events was a tree planting, with a number of dignitaries planting 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

Manila

In 2006, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) worked with member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to develop a series of indicators for rice production in the region. When implemented, the indicators will allow each country to monitor and compare the environmental impact of its rice production with that of its neighbors, and either correct any problems or improve

on existing practices. It is the first time anywhere in the world that a series of environmental indicators is being developed to monitor the impact of agricultural production on such a large regional basis. The five indicators being developed focus on: production, biodiversity, pollution, land degradation, and water.

Muntinlupa City

In 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 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.

Tagbilaran

Every year, on the Sunday nearest 5 June, a "Green Families and Green Communities' fair, with educational, aesthetic and recreational activities for environmental consciousness is held. Booths for green products and exhibits are put up. A programme attended by national leaders, members of provincial environmental groups, scouts, students and city government dignitaries and employees. In the evening, there is a solemn multinational handshake and hugs ceremony centered on a poem-prayer titled *Earth Synergy: A Giant Leap for Humankind*, which has been translated into 15 languages. The national event site is rotated around the country and in 2006 it was Tagbilaran City in Bohol.

SINGAPORE

In Singapore, on 27 May 2005 the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources met with 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 e.g. trains and buses – 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 NGO Singapore Environment Council 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. One of the leading supermarket retailers – NTUC FairPrice – launched the FairPrice Green

Singapore



Bag, a reusable and environment-friendly tote bag made of 100% polypropylene. Carrefour put up signs to identify green products on their premises and encouraged shoppers to use their own bags for purchases and sold eco-friendly bags at a discount.

In 2006, a four-month long public consultation was launched in on 30 May to gather ideas and feedback for Singapore's proposed National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS). NCCS is being developed to determine how Singapore's private and public sectors can address the issue in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.

On 2 June 2006, Singapore's Environment Council held a public screening of the Japanese movie *Fireflies: River of Light*. Funds raised went towards environmental activities organized by Singapore's Green Volunteers Network. *Fireflies* is a story about an elementary schoolteacher who successfully led his students to clean up the town's river and raise fireflies to fly over it once again, despite strong opposition from parents, the school and even the city itself.

Starting on 5 June 2006, 14 of Singapore's retail chains promoted the use of environment-friendly reusable bags. Carrefour gave away reusable bags to 200 shoppers and retailers incorporated the *Why Waste Plastic Bags? Choose Reusable Bags!* message in their newspaper advertisements.

SRI LANKA

Galle, Southern Province

In 2004, Rainforest Rescue International launched an awareness programme for 10 selected schools in Galle and Matara districts. 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



Sri Lanka

the main coastal towns in the country. The main event took place at the Town Hall on 5 June and was followed by a tree planting. A beach clean-up was organized by the Matara Municipal Council, the University of Ruhuna and various environmental organizations. The film *Biodiversity and the Sea*, screened at the main bus station, attracted more than 1,000 participants.

TAHITI

In 2004, the Ministry of the Environment of French Polynesia organized a variety of events, including radio public service announcements, a film screening and a poster competition. Environmental associations and young people from the federation for non-denominational charities participated in the unveiling of billboards aimed at building awareness about the need to protect Panenoo Valley.

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, geared towards less advantaged children, was also associated with the programme. Open-days were also organized at various diving clubs around the islands, so as to raise awareness amongst vacationers to the need to protect 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 and genetically modified organisms. The exhibition was held on 4 to 6 June 2004 at Pakkad Palace.

Lampang

In keeping with the 2005 theme ***Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!***, the Lampang Environmental Office brought together 360 organizations, including 16 local schools in Payao. Activities included a clean up of canals and public roads and the planting of native trees and shrubs. The schools were involved in a symposium and an exhibit on environmental protection. Also organized were interactive community partner displays, enviro arts and crafts and quizzes on sustainable development, as well as a concert. Leaflets were distributed to raise awareness about the Day and the role of the public in protecting the environment.

VIETNAM

Ho Chi Minh

In 2005, as they have done in past years, the newspaper *Liberated Saigon* celebrated with articles related to the Day’s theme, ***Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!***

On 2 June 2006, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Ministry of Agriculture and the Voice of Ho Chi Minh produced an radio soap opera on the environment for rural Vietnam. It was launched in Hanoi by the Minister of Agriculture. This was followed by a site launch on 5 June in Can Tho city. The drama series, broadcast twice a week for a year, incorporated environmental issues using education-entertainment (E-E) methods.

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Brussels

In 2004, Green Week, organized by the European Commission (EC) and the Director-General (DG) of the Environment, took place on 1-4 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. The awards, in keeping with the theme *seas and oceans*, were announced in the European Commission's Communication on a European Union strategy to reduce atmospheric emissions from seagoing ships. The objective is to give positive publicity to 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.

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

CYPRUS

Nicosia

In 2006, UNDP's initiative on the island, Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT), participated in an environmental stakeholder fair entitled *Ecoforum 2006* on 5-7 June. The Fair featured a series of lectures on desertification and on

the environmental principles of the global compact, an exhibition of NGO environmental projects supported by UNDP-ACT and workshops for environmental businesses and environmental NGOs. In parallel, they are providing small grants for four-month environmental projects, such as the Olive Tree Rescue project and the Management of Artificial Wetlands project.

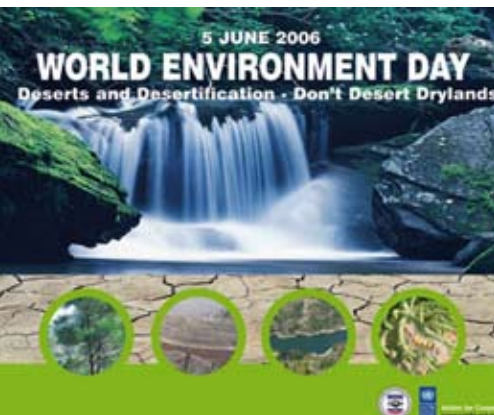
FINLAND

In 2004, Lassila & Tikanoja produced a 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

In 2006, the Environment Online Programme celebrated by planting trees, playing their self-made wooden musical instruments and flying kites. This was organized at ENO schools in 75 countries.

Nepal



Groups were invited to register their tree planting event and join the celebrations. These activities marked the end of the school year 2005-2006.

Helsinki

In 2006, the UN Association of Finland created a website on the WED theme of deserts and desertification. The site targeted Finnish students and their teachers.



FRANCE

Paris

In 2004, the City Council of Paris put an 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

In 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 activities to benefit charities. 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 promote their activities and achievements and to highlight the problems that they are facing and to illustrate possible solutions.

GERMANY

Hamburg

In 2004, the United World Philharmonic Youth Orchestra launched on its web site a seven-minute video-clip. The orchestra played the second movement *Jeux de Vagues* of Claude Debussy's *La mer*, which was synchronized with images of seas and oceans.

GREECE

Athens

In 2004, the Athens Environmental Foundation, the Athens Olympic Organizing Committee and UNEP undertook, with Jean-Michel Cousteau, a special event in Piraeus. Activities included a clean up of beaches, 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 removed large amount of debris from the seabed, including cars and refrigerators. 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 Cousteau and his team who were leading the expedition.

In 2006, the Hellenic Tennis Federation (HTF) organized a junior tennis tournament entitled *The Green Tennis Tournament*. The event took place in all tennis clubs in Greece on 5-6 June, and involved young people between 8 and 18 years of age. In every category, there was an 'Environment 2006' winner. In support of the HTF program 'Poverty and Environment', every player gave two pounds for a child in a developing country that had been adopted by a school or family in his/her area.

Zakynthos

In 2005, the Department of Ecology and Environment, the Technological Education Institute of the Ionian Islands and the Municipality of Zakynthos organized a city open day, under the slogan **Nature is You**. Cars were not allowed within the city limits and public transport was free. A bicycle tour, street events, concerts, bands and theatre plays were also organized.

IRELAND

Lorraine

In 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.

ITALY

Rimini

In 2006, Ambiente Club with the Common of Bellaria -- Igea Marina organized a film festival prize *Environment-Sail* as part of the Bellaria-Igea Marina Film Festival on 1 to 5 June. The Festival, in its 24th year, established a new prize dedicated to the environment. The winner is chosen from all the documentaries and films about the environment submitted for consideration.

NORWAY

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

In 2005, Arad and Tulane Universities organized a series of Urban Environmental Forums including workshops, trainings and tours of sewage plants and landfills. Experts from various sectors – government, NGO, universities, private sector and citizens) discussed urban environmental issues. The Conference, attended by people from six countries, was organized under the WED theme **Green Cities**.

RUSSIA

Nazran

In 2005, International Medical Corps (IMC) organized clean-up campaigns (rubbish and waste removal, renovation of communal places, cleaning of river beds and springs, tree planting) 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. 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. 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)

In 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 2004. For the first time, more than 51 municipalities participated in the Green Week with more than 200 activities including exhibitions, films, conferences, visits to factories, theatres, competitions (photos, flowers, painting), and ecological agriculture exhibits.

SWITZERLAND

Gland

In 2004, the three environmental organizations based in Gland – IUCN, Ramsar and WWF –hosted an open house to help put Gland on the map as a world centre for conservation and sustainable development. Some 1,000 people passed through the doors of the IUCN Headquarters where they were entertained and educated by an extensive marine exhibition and a multitude of imaginative children’s games in line with the theme **Wanted! Seas and Oceans**



- *Dead or Alive?* A film on IUCN's marine programme was shown and a water-themed improvisation staged. There were guided tours through IUCN's natural garden. The day ended with more than 130 prizes being given out in a tombola draw that included prizes donated by local commercial and IUCN suppliers. The open house has grown every year in scope and vision and the public has responded accordingly.

Zurich

In 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 were some of the issues addressed. At several city squares and 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 OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Bangor

In 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 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 nature. Each activity, carefully designed to be both fun and educational, took about an hour to complete and was suitable for all ages.

Belfast

In 2006, Price WaterhouseCoopers partook in a week of activities to increase awareness and raise money. The funds will be used for building a well in Burkina Faso, volunteering on a local nature reserve for a day, training staff through a number of speakers and raising more money by having a fair-trade stall.

Dorking

In 2005, the Dorking Decongestion Forum organized a non-single occupant Vehicle Day, with the participation of 20,000 people; a Cycle Fun Day with 15,000 people; and a black tie Gala Dinner.

Hemel Hempstead

Every year Epson Telford Limited has an Environment Month to coincide with World Environment Day. In 2004, Epson used 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. Activities included a poetry competition with local schools using the slogan ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*** The prize-winning school received an Epson Printer and the top three winning pupils received prizes. In-house, an environmental quiz was held (also with a prize) using the WED 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. Events are organized by 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 and expanded the event from one to two weeks. The partnership of organizations supported more than 350 local events across the city.

In 2006, Hyder Consulting organized a number of activities for a week including getting rid of plastics cups and introducing glasses and mugs; buying reusable bags for staff to avoid using disposable plastic bags for lunch; wearing green for a pound a day where money raised went to charity; monitoring the use of printers by asking staff not to make photocopies needlessly – with a prize for the department that used the least amount of paper; a sustainable travel to work day where staff were encouraged to use public transport, car share, walking or biking and therefore be eligible for a free breakfast; and having a staff children's drawing competition about deserts and the environment. The London office organized a raffle to raise awareness and donations for every drink taken from the kitchen that day to remind staff of the value of water.

London



In 2006, the Church of England launched the first stage of 'Shrinking the Footprint', an environmental campaign, which began by measuring the current energy use of its 16,000 churches and planning on how to reduce it in the future. The Church works with the Conservation Foundation on environmental initiatives and the Foundation used 5 June to launch a funding scheme to help local community environmental projects throughout the UK with the support of a mobile phone company. The Foundation prepared a script for the BBC on the subject of World Environment Day, which included details of the main theme for the day.

Merseyside

On 4 June 2006 at Mersey Ferries Seacombe Ferry Terminal and on 5 June at Merseytravel's headquarters, Merseytravel invited its staff and the public to attend an exhibition. The event offered participants an opportunity to find out what they can do at home and at work to protect the environment, e.g. where they can get grants and volunteer, how they can save energy and water, pick up freebies such as energy saving light bulbs and 'Save a Flushes' and more. Participants found out what NGOs, local groups and Merseytravel are doing to help the environment. A staff photography competition was held and the winning photographs were displayed at the exhibition. Attendees were given the chance to make a pledge to 'Promise the Earth' and to highlight the need to cut down water use. There was also a themed quiz with the winning prize being a water butt for collecting rainwater, and the on-site restaurant sold special dishes over the week.

In 2006, Newcastle City Council teamed up with the 12th Annual Newcastle Community Green Festival, and the Environment Agency to organize activities across the City. The Festival, held on 3-4 June attracted over 12,000 visitors. More than 25 environmental projects and organizations were involved. BBC Radio Newcastle and other media

conducted live broadcasts from the Fair. Other activities included a 'River-Bank Raid,' where volunteers pull rubbish out from the banks of the River Tyne during low tide; a community litter-pick in the City; and a Public Transport, Clean Green Alternative conference on 5 June. An information pack was produced to provide teachers with information about deserts and desertification. The Environment Agency produced a WED pack for local businesses and information promoting WED was distributed at the Newcastle Farmers' Market on 2 June.

Preston

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



Scotland

In 2006, the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) Green Team called for volunteers to join the clean up of the city centre. The event was an opportunity to raise awareness of the public, businesses, tourists and the community at large to the need to keep Edinburgh clean. Members of the Green

Edinburgh

Team hoped that their actions would show the community how big an issue litter has become. Littered streets damage business and tourism opportunities and costs Scottish Council taxpayers £65 million a year. In conjunction with the Keep Scotland Tidy initiative and Visit Scotland and to raise awareness on the adverse effects of litter on the natural environment and to local tourism, EICC provided biodegradable litterbags to conference delegates.

Swansea

In 2006, Swansea Women's Centre had an open afternoon where women were provided with information on how they can reduce their environmental footprint, sell sustainable products and provide local organic food buffet.

Surrey

Stocksigns, a Surrey-based sign company, which manufactures bespoke and standard signage organized activities for staff on 11 June with the aim of increasing environmental efforts in 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 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'.

Telford

In 2006, Epson Telford Limited challenged Telford primary schools (final year pupils) to create posters that reflect the **Don't Desert Drylands!** initiative. The top three schools received Epson printers and equipment as prizes and the winning pupils were given an appropriate prize to acknowledge their creativity.



West Sussex

In 2006, Quest Overseas challenged local primary schools to create pictures that reflect deserts. Quest's Research and Education manager visited the schools to hand out prizes and talk on the subject with particular reference to the project run in Kenya by the organization which is helping to provide year round water to small rural villages. Winning pupils were awarded prizes and also had trees planted in Kenya on their behalf.

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UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent

In 2004, the International Fund of Ecology and Health organized on 1-10 June a festival. ECOSAN's initiative was supported by the Government and was in line with its large-scale activities held throughout the Republic. Activities included thematic exhibitions, a flower exhibition, painting competitions, presentations on ecology and health and meetings and film showings on the environment at recreation camps and city and rural parks.

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

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

St. John's

The Environment Division in the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Environment, in conjunction with the National Solid Waste Management Authority, organized a poster competition among the primary schools in Antigua and Barbuda. The competition was in joint recognition of World Environment Day 2006, the conference of the third Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition (CEF-3) and the 12th annual Wider Caribbean Waste Management Conference (RECARIBE 2006). These were hosted in Antigua from 5 - 9 June. The themes for the postcard competition were based on the WED theme ***Deserts and desertification - Don't desert drylands!***, and ***Start recycling... reduce the littering.***

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires

In 2005, the Florencia Tederina Ecoclub organized in 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.

La Rioja

On 5-8 June 2006, a regional meeting on youth and sustainable development was organized with more than 80 young people from the provinces of Catamarca, Jujuy, Salta, Santiago del Estero, La

Rioja and Tucuman participating. They prepared an action plan for training in environmental issues and the implementation of projects in the country.

BRAZIL

Brasília

On 5 June 2006, the President of Brazil, His Excellency Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, launched National Week of the Environment and announced several programmes for the sustainable development of the Amazon. A number of ministers were present at the ceremony, including H.E. Marina Silva (Environment), H.E. Márcio Thomaz Bastos (Justice), H.E. Paulo Sérgio Passos (Transport), H.E. Guilherme Cassel (Agricultural Development), and H.E. Pedro Brito do Nascimento (National Integration).

The Brazilian report on Integrated Assessment and Planning of the Soybean Sector in the Influence Area of Highway BR-163 was also launched. This document is part of a UNEP-led initiative on Capacity Building for Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development, which aims to enhance capacities of countries, particularly developing and transition countries, to undertake planning for sustainable development, with particular focus on agriculture, poverty alleviation, environmental management and sustainable trade promotion.



On 8 June 2006, the Brazilian Government and UNEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides the legal framework for the development of a series of integrated environmental assessments known as the Global Environment Outlook Brazil series. The assessment will be produced in association with the Brazilian National Water Agency and the Institute for the Environment and Natural Resources, among other non-government institutions and experts.

São Paulo

In 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 held at the company's headquarters and a four-day distance learning programme on the environment was broadcast.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

In 2004, using the theme ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?*** John Gray Recyclers introduced plastic recycling in 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 marine debris consists of plastic items including six pack holders that strangle marine life such as turtles. The 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. A clean up of Barkers National Park, the first National Park in the Cayman Islands, was also undertaken. In 2005, John Gray named 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 Islands' National Trust are helping with the naming of the trees and have helped find two rare trees already.

CHILE

Santiago

In 2005, ecology students in Chile's Central University designed, built and planted trees in a city square.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In 2005, a plan of the government's environmental policy was presented, and 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 artistic and educational activities 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' areas, which have a high ecological value and are recognized as biosphere reserves.

EL SALVADOR

Santo Tomas

In 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

In 2005, Banks DIH Limited – a Food and Beverage Manufacturer – sponsored a banner competition for secondary schools in which 15 schools participated under the theme: **Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!** The Company provided the materials, paint and brushes, and each school was required to form an Environmental Club, which would undertake a school-based project that promotes environmental awareness. The competition's first to third place winners received prizes.

Ruimveldt

In 2006, Banks DIH Limited sponsored two projects: an essay competition for the Annai Secondary School students in an indigenous community located over 200 miles from the capital Georgetown, and the Company's third annual WED secondary schools' banner competition with the theme Deserts and desertification. The staff participated in a 'Green Walk' and the Company donated to the Botanical Gardens garbage bins, which were painted and designed by the children of the Banks' employees.

HAITI

In 2004, the global theme ***Wanted! Seas and Oceans: Dead or Alive? was transformed to SOS! Let's Save our Mountains, Coasts and Seas.*** Activities were held in the large coastal cities such as Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Jacmel, Cayes and Jérémie, and included: a press conference on 4 June to launch 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 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; 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



COLIBRI ECOTOURISM AWARD

Mexico City

In 2005, PLANETA.COM presented the fifth annual Colibri Ecotourism Achievement Award at the Xochimilco Gardens. The award is presented to a leading catalyst working toward ecotourism in Mexico, and the winner of the annual award receives a trophy, a diploma and a \$1,000 cash prize from the President of Canyon Travel.

In 2006, a green area was inaugurated with native plants from the region named Xoxhotla Papalotl (butterfly garden), where for the last 15 years the work on environmental education has stood out. The “Encounter” was the name of the special presentation, which brought together different artistic expressions and the connection of humankind with deserts.

The National Company of Folkloric Dance and the Company Eros Ludens (contemporary ballet) put on a show whereby the writings of the Mexican poet Carlos Gomez provided a story about different concepts of deserts and desertification. A pinch of reality was brought in with the projection of two videos with images of the state of deserts and drylands around the world, especially in Mexico.

2006 was the first time that UNILEVER and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean joined forces to promote World Environment Day. The event was held on 10 June in the ecological park Xochitla. UNILEVER and 3,000 of its employees and their family members gathered at the park where the President of UNILEVER

and a representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) planted a tree. The programme included discussions on desertification and a contest where attendees had to tour different stands – at each of these points they had to collect hints to solve a puzzle on deserts and desertification.

Monterrey

In 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 event.

Oaxaca

In 2006, PLANETA.COM presented its sixth annual Colibri Ecotourism Achievement award to a leading figure working toward responsible tourism in Mexico. In support of the World Environment Day theme Planeta.com updated its online desert guides.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua celebrates Environment and Natural Resources Week by National Law, and it is carried out every year during the first week of June. In 2006, activities took place from 3-9 June with the opening ceremony taking place in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. A video-conference was organized to address the conflict of dry lands in Central America. An exhibition for businessmen that work with recycled, organic and cleaner production was presented with the National Institute of Small and Medium Business. A cycling competition for environmental quality protection was organized and various universities held conferences on the environment.

PARAGUAY

In 2006, the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through Project Wild Paraguay, presented on 27 June a dance performance entitled Y amai

(Water for life, in Guarani). Y amai is a collective creation from the National Ballet and the non-governmental organization, Survival Earth Friends. The performance was produced as part of the campaign Water for Life and the Day's theme. A photographic exhibition on National Parks, such as Rio Negro, Paso Bravo, San Rafael and Medanos del Chaco was also organized.

Asuncion

The United Nations Information Centre led a group to conduct four events to celebrate World Environment Day 2006. Activities on 5 June began with a conference on desertification, soil management and water resources. The event, held at the Universidad Autonoma de Asuncion, was attended by the Minister of Environment, representatives of academia, the United Nations and about 300 participants.

On 7 June, some 600 people attended a nine-hour conference in Santa Rita, one of the largest agricultural areas of the country. The following week, a similar round was conducted in Filadelfia (attendance 450), an agricultural enclave in the middle of the main desert area located 600 km north of the capital. A fourth conference was held in Oviedo on the refilling zone of the sub-soil water resource Acuífero Guarani (believed to be the second largest in the world). The events were

Paraguay

supported by the Ministry of Environment, the Senate, the National University of Asuncion, Metropolitan University, Autonomic University, the NGO Sobrevivencia, Itaipu Binacional Hydro-electrical power generator and the UNESCO Committee.

PERU

Huancavelica

In 2005, the Regional Department of Health of Huancavelica organized a poster competition with the participation of educational institutions for pre-primary and primary schools.

ST. MAARTEN

In 2005, and in cooperation with Enviro I, the umbrella organization of environmental foundations of St Maarten, Ocean Care Foundation organized a beach and shoreline clean up at Great Bay in Philipsburg. Educational activities for children were also organized to raise awareness of environmental issues. Ocean Care also organized a reef clean up at Little Bay.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Arima

The GLOBE Trotters Environmental Club, 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 competition between Canadian communities to encourage people 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

In 2005, as part of its commitment to reduce pollution and waste prevention, the Community Environment Alliance hosted Let's e-cycle days in Peel. 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 specific 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 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 form. Three winners selected from three categories – elementary, middle and high school – received prizes.

New Brunswick

In 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 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 aptain Planet Foundation compiled a DVD containing four episodes of *Captain Planet and the Planetegers*, the world-renowned children's animated television series that educates and entertains children of all cultures about critical global environmental and social issues.

Berkeley

In 2005, the organization Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility presented the 2005 Lewis Mumford Awards for Peace, Environment and Development.

Connecticut

At its convocation on 2 June 2005, Quinebaug Valley Community College gave a tree sapling to each graduate of the college to plant.

Nevada

In 2006, Father Darrell Rupiper was in residence at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Incline Village from 27 May to 4 June to preach at weekend masses, conduct workshops, and to lead a spiritual ritual. The first workshop on 31 May focused on *The Earth as Sacrament: Finding God in Things Created*. The topic of the second workshop on 1 June was *Finding Our True Place in the Earth Community*. On 3 June, Father Darrell led a spiritual ritual celebration entitled *Our Sacred Creation Story*, and in late afternoon, a Eucharistic mass was conducted. In collaboration with religions around the world, St Francis of Assisi Parish used the period 27 May-4 June to learn what Catholics can draw from their depository of faith and put their faith into action.

New York City

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project organized the free screening of two documentaries: the East Coast premier of *Last Voyage of the Leatherback?* and *Deadly Sounds in the Silent World*. The screenings were followed by a panel discussion about 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 **Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?** on the eve of the UNCLOS meeting held on 7-11 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 initiative on the occasion of World Environment Day 2004 and World Ocean Day.

Sacramento

In 2006, the Sacramento Area Earth Day Network organized the River City Run – a 10k-m run/walk that benefited local sustainable living projects. The event started and finished in Old Sacramento and traveled along the two major rivers. Last year, the money raised was awarded to eleven local sustainable living projects.

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 and writer of O Happy Day) to write the theme song for World Environment Day 2005. The song, entitled *United Nations, Together We Can*, was donated to promote the event and future World Environment Day events around the globe.

In 2005, National Public Radio (NPR) promoted World Environment Day on its broadcast *Living on Earth*. Announcements were heard on KQED radio as of 16 April and were aired on more than 320 stations throughout the United States. The broadcast continued until the first week of June. In 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



San Francisco

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.

On 5 June 2004, the City of San Francisco organized the showing of the movie *Ocean Wonderland* at the local SONY IMAX/3d film theatre in the downtown area.

Sausalito, California

In 2005, e-Cycling Day by the Bay was declared on 4 June. Businesses and the public dropped off unwanted or unused electronic items, such as computers, mainframes, monitors, printers, cables, telephones, printed circuit boards, and consumer electronics. The day was an opportunity for residents and businesses of the nine Bay Area counties to work with the city of San Francisco and the international community to prevent adding to our already over-extended landfills.

WEST ASIA

IRAQ

Baghdad and Halabja

In 2005, 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. A second celebration took place on 5 June in Baghdad where more than 200 people, including representatives of various ministries and the media, attended the event, which focused on the issue of marshlands.

JORDAN

Amman

In 2006, UNDP and the Ministry of Environment launched Jordan's national strategy and action plan for combating desertification in the country at a special event on 5 June. The event featured statements by the Minister of Environment and a presentation on the strategy.

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Manama

In 2005, a new 500-kilogramme steel monument was erected at the King Faisal Corniche in Manama on 3 June. The 18-foot symbolic structure, depicting eight individuals carrying the globe, 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 Municipality. The Atlas Construction and Transportation Company made the sculpture for free on behalf of the Society.

LEBANON

Beirut

In 2005, *Environment & Development* magazine organized a School Artistic Festival at the UNESCO palace 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 with the Bethlehem Peace Centre (BPC). EEC and BPC had an open day on 5 June with lots of environmental and recreational activities. Their target was students from 12 schools in 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.

QATAR

In 2004, the Kainat Foundation in Doha, Qatar – a non-governmental organization working with young people to raise environmental awareness – organized 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 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; 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

In 2005, the Emirates Marine Environment Group and the Dubai Municipality held an environmental award event for children, 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 and wildlife conservation.