



Report of International Year of Biodiversity Celebrations 2010

2010 International Year of Biodiversity – Yemen’s contribution:

The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) is a year-long world-wide celebration of biological diversity declared by the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. The main goals of the International Year of Biodiversity are to:

1. Enhance public awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to biodiversity
2. Raise awareness of the accomplishments to save biodiversity that have already been realized by communities and governments
3. Promote innovative solutions to reduce the threats to biodiversity
4. Encourage individuals, organizations and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss

As a part of Yemen contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), UNDP Yemen has successfully organized a comprehensive Biodiversity campaign, containing series of awareness events, dedicated for improving public awareness on biodiversity conservation and protection. Specific focus has been given to school students, teachers, local policy makers, members of local council, media men, women groups, fishery communities in coastal areas & general public.

Yemen celebration Campaign on IYB has been designed to be a participatory exercise among four UNDP funded projects serving four line-ministries and agencies working in environmental areas. The line ministries are the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), the environment protection Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Fish Wealth (MoFW) and the Disaster Management unit (DMU). UNDP Projects contributed to the IBY campaign are:

1. Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SNRMP),
2. Strengthening Socotra’s Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Project
3. Economic Diversification Support Programme – Fisheries Duration.
4. Disaster Preparedness, Management & Recovery Project Duration.

Yemen celebration program of IBY has been designed to include an awareness convey associated with a extensive Biodiversity campaign, containing tours to protected areas, Biodiversity exhibition, cleaning campaigns, tree plantations, distribution of awareness materials, bird watching, environmental songs and plays, painting competitions, environmental games for school students and prize distribution. These activities were generally organized under one theme titled “Biodiversity is Life Biodiversity is our Life”. However, each individual activity was organized under its own specific theme and the following list shows the titles of themes corresponds to activities undertaken during the campaign:

1. Tree Plantations: “Plant a tree Plant a Life”
2. Cleaning campaign: ‘Care for Your Coast”:
3. Biodiversity Exhibition: “A Glance”
4. Biodiversity painting: “Quick thought”
5. Biodiversity Quiz: “Little things do matter”
6. Biodiversity games: “Environment does teach”
7. Biodiversity presentations and lecturers: “A chat with our environment”
8. Tour to protected areas: “Know your ecosystem”
9. Skit/Play: “Save the Seas Save Fish”
10. Disaster preparedness prog: “Prepare for the unexpected”

The awareness biodiversity convoy has been established in two groups where the first one travelled from Bura’a and to bypass through Al-Khokha, Al-Makha and Bab-Almandb and ended up at Aden Wetlands. The second group of the biodiversity convoy came from Socotra Archipelago and bypassed through Al-Mukalla to end up at Aden wetlands. Total distance traveled by the groups of biodiversity convoy is 1500 km and is shown in Map1 which also shows the costal cities targeted by the convoy.

A detailed description of activities undertaken during Yemen celebration of IBY is presented below.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of Yemen celebration on IYB took place in Al-Hodieda Cultural center and was attended by H.E. the Governor of Al-Hodiedah- Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabaly in the presence of Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative, members of Biodiversity convoy, number of high Governorate officials, including representatives of line ministries such as Water and Environment (MoWE), the environment protection Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Fish Wealth (MoFW), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, among many others,.

More importantly, the ceremony was attended a gathering of 1500 schools students, 50 school teachers and other 50 persons, representing women groups, nongovernmental organizations, the media, and local communities, who were the mainly target audience of this festival, see side table.

Table on type & No of activities undertaken during the launching ceremony				
City	Students received prize	Number		
		People attended	Speeches delivered	Persons honored
Hodieda	12	1600	3	20

The opening ceremony was initiated by reciting Holy Quran followed by three speeches delivered by the General Director of EPA, General Director MoFW and Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative. In her speech to the attendants of opening ceremony, Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP RR appreciated the collaborative efforts by which Conservation, Development and Poverty alleviation issues has been addressed while ensuring active participation of the broad range of stakeholders. In this context she said “it is noteworthy that for the first time different projects under



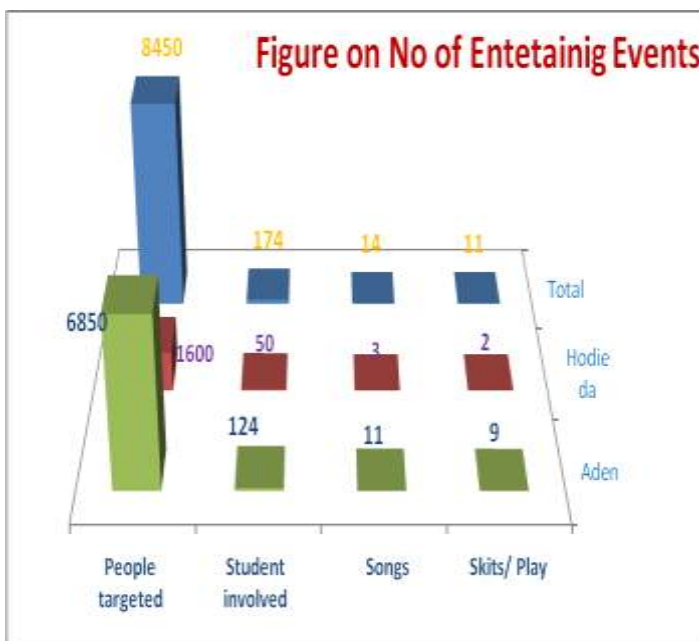
environment, poverty reduction and disaster reduction are collectively contributing to demonstrate linkages of biodiversity with poverty reduction and disaster management”. Other speakers of the launching ceremony highlighted the importance Yemen and calling for halting misuse of biodiversity assets through concert actions and more investment on protection of Yemen biodiversity.

The centerpiece of the opening ceremony was the award presentations to the selected winners of painting competition as well as the honoring of students, teachers and local staff against the excellent organization of the entire celebration activities.

In Hodieda, a total of 12 students from six schools were presented with prizes in recognition of outstanding paginating they developed during painting competitions organized across all schools within Al-Hodieda city. In addition, 20 persons representing teachers and local staff were honored against the excellent organization of the entire celebration activities. Active involvement to this festivity came from Schoolchildren of Al-Hodidah who delivered several plays and composed songs calling for collaboration among all peoples for biodiversity protection and halting birds and mammals capturing.



Skit & Play



Under this activity, an approximately 174 students from Aden & Al Hodieda have presented around 11 skits/ comedian plays and 14 composed songs calling for environment protection and halting birds and mammals capturing. These events has collectively targeted a total of 8450 persons, representing broad range of people, including schools students, school teachers,



parents, nongovernmental organizations, the media men, policy makers, among others, see side figure.

As shown by the figure, around 124 students has been involved in performing about 9 comedian plays along with 11 songs, highlighting the importance of wetlands protection, impact of air pollutions, importance of Biodiversity and importance of green belts among others. These activities have collectively targeted a total of 6850

persons mainly from school children and children parents specially mothers. In Al-Hodieda, a total of about 50 students have actively participated in presenting at least 2 comedian plays 3 songs with specific focus on biodiversity conservation and halting birds and mammals capturing. Al-Hodieda entertaining party was attended by high government officials and UNDP staff, including H.E. the Governor of Al-Hodieda, Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabaly, Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative, and the members of biodiversity convoy among many others.



Painting Competition & Exhibition



Two Painting Exhibitions have been organized in Al Hodieda and Aden cities as a major part of Yemen celebration Programme of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The two exhibitions were the final outcome of two competition events which had been organized one-week prior to the launch of opening ceremony of 2010 IYB of Yemen.

As reflected by the side-table, students from both cities have collectively produced and nominated a total of 246 paintings which were forwarded to two evaluation committees for identification of winning ones.



Out of these paintings, the evaluation committees have identified only 28 paintings as winning ones, though they have decided to display whole paintings produced by students in the painting exhibitions organized in Aden and Al-Hodieda cities. The painting exhibition of Al-Hodieda included around 120 paintings and out of which only 12 had won. Al-Hodieda painting exhibition was opened by H.E. the Governor of Al-Hodiedah, Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabaly and Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative. The exhibition was attended by around 2000 people, representing school students, teachers, local officials, media men, members of the biodiversity convoy and number of local Governorate officials. As for Aden exhibition, it was visited by more than 5000 people representing various target groups. Aden exhibition displayed not only paintings, but also traditional products produced by Al-Heswa women groups.

Facts and Figures on painting competition & exhibition

	Student involved	No	
		Prizes for Winners	Exhibition Visitors
Total	246	28	7000
Hodida	120	12	2000
Aden	126	16	5000



Biodiversity Quiz and Games

Under this activity, a total of 1567 students were engaged in several Quiz and Game competitions throughout the cities of Hodieda, Aden, Sana'a, and Al-Mokha. These competitions were a sort of brain-storming by which school children learnt about several biodiversity issues. A break-down of games and quiz completed across cities is shown in the fact sheet presented aside.

Facts and Figures

	Games	No	
		Quiz	Student involved
Hod	12	18	550
Aden	12	18	844
Sana'a	2	3	55
Al-Mokha	0	0	118
Total	26	39	1567



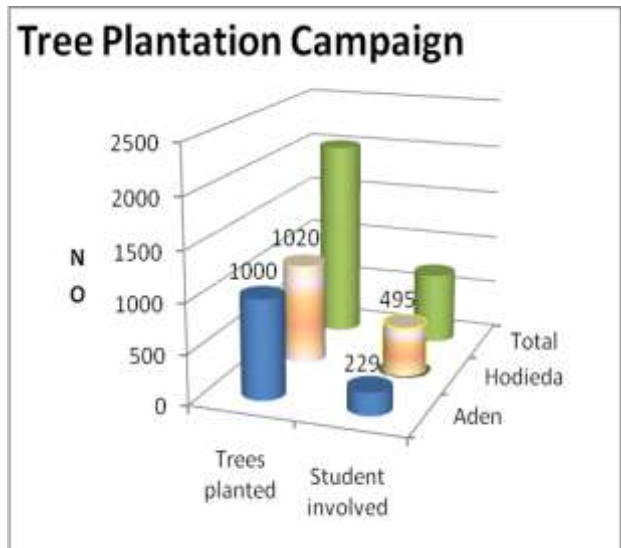
Tree Plantations



Under the theme titled “Plant a tree Plant a Life” and responding to the international initiatives calling for planting one billion trees world –wide, two plantation campaigns has been organized by school students from Al-Hodiedah and Aden Governorates. Al-Hodidah tree planting campaign was launched on 11th of December 2010 at Otman Ibn Afan School in the presence Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative, in addition to number of school students, teachers, local officials, media men and the members of the biodiversity convoy. Al-Hodidah tree

planting campaign was organized by around 495 schools students with vast majority of them (66%) were female and 34% were males. In total, school students of Al-Hdieda planted about 1020 trees in their school yards, see side figure. To ensure water availability for tree planted, a water network of 2851 m long was established within the school yards of all schools targeted by the campaigners. Schools contributing to Al-Hodidah planting campaign were Al-Zubairy, Othman, Hail, Al-Said Complex, Al-Thawra and Khawla schools.

As for Aden planting campaign, it was organized by approximately 229 school campaigners from six schools(Marib, Noor AIDien Qasem, bdulbari Qasem, Ahmed Khalifa, Al-Baihany and Raidan Schools) representing males and females at equal footing.





The campaign was organized under the theme “Greening our schools greening our life”. Under this greening initiative, the students successfully planted 1000 trees in their schools yards which is contributing to country celebration of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

In total, the whole students from both cities planted a total of 2020 during their Greening Initiative, which took place during the country

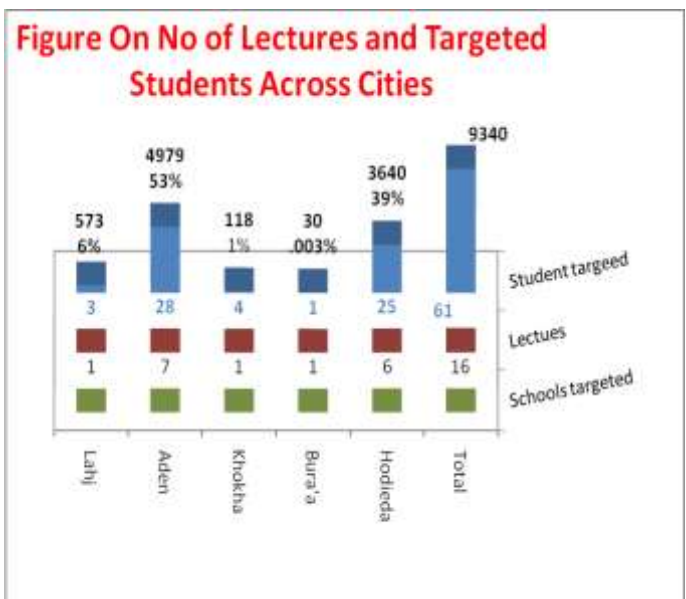
celebration of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. In addition, a water-network for a total distance of 5651 m established within school yards of Al-Hodidah and Aden for the

The entire plantation campaigns of Aden and Al-Hodiedah cities had received excellent coverage from both the printed and audio-visual media. The national TV and Radio, broadcasted part of the celebration ceremony in its main news broadcast. Al-Thawra daily news paper of the 13th of December 2010 presented news articles on IYB in general and on plantation activities in particular.



Biodiversity Lecturers

Of most important activity undertaken throughout Yemen celebration of 2010 IYB were two lecturing-awareness Programmes and were dedicated for two target groups, the school students and fishery community. As presented by the side Figure, school awareness Programme has successfully targeted a total of 9340 of school students from Hodeida, Bura'a, Khokha, Aden and Lahj cities. Through this



special event, a total of 65 lectures addressing mainly the importance of Yemen terrestrial and marine biodiversity, Yemen Protected areas, biodiversity convention and natural disasters preparedness have been delivered to target students within 16 schools from five coastal cities located along the red sea and Gulf of Aden. Of total students (9340) benefitted from lectures, the vast majority came from Aden followed by Al-Hodeida and Lahj at shares of 53 percent (4979 students), 39 percent (3640 students) and 6 percent (573 students) respectively. Students from Bura'a and Al-Khokha towns were a very minor accounting less than 2%.

On the other hand, the second lecturing-awareness Programme have targeted local communities from four fishery villages located in Hodeida, Khokha, Mokha and Aden cities. Under this event, four lectures have been addressed to around 800 persons local fishery community, illuminating the importance of local community partnerships for the protection of nature reserves and the important of marine biodiversity for sustaining fishery resources in addition to revealing the critical impact of natural disasters on the fragile biodiversity habitats.

As a part of this event, significant quantities of awareness materials, publications and kits have been distributed to schools management, environmental clubs, students, fishery communities, media men, women groups, local offices, high local officials and individuals. Quantity and type of awareness materials distributed include the following:

- 1432 copies of 2010 IYB Celebration Booklet (Arabic(816) and English(616)
- 1032 copies of a Booklet on Yemen Protected Areas.
- 1032 copies of Booklet on Yemen Biodiversity .
- 1032 copies of Al-Heswa Protected Area Guide, promoting several aspects of Aden wetlands.
- 616 copies of a Booklet on Waterfowl in Yemen.
- 1012 copies of Brochure on Bura'a Protected Area

Table on No of Lectures and Targeted Fishery Communities Across cities

Cities	No targeted Student	Lectures
Hodieda	200	1
Khokha	200	1
Khokha	200	1
Aden	200	1
Total	800	4



- 4000 copies of a leaflet on Bura'a Protected Area
- 780 copies for 20 Environmental Post Cards addressing several biodiversity issues distributed to Aden and Hoieda school clubs
- 711 copies for one poster on Poster on Bura'a Protected Area distributed publicly
- 826 copies of Brochure on Socotra distributed publicly
- 822 copies of Environmental Maps quiz
- 1036 copies of Cross-Word Puzzles to students during whole competition events
- During the various events undertaken within the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, an approximately 2930 students from Al-Hodieda, Bura'a, Khokha, Mukallah, Bab-Al Mandab, Aden and Sana'a received 2930 of commemorative t-shirt plus 2930 caps embossed with 2011 IYB symbols.
- 27 Banners installed



Tour to protected areas



Under the theme “Know your ecosystem”, two tours to Bura'a and Al-Heswa Protected areas have been undertaken during Yemen 2010 IYB celebration Programme. The tour to Jabal Bura'a National Park (JBNP) was led by Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UNDP Resident Representative, accompanied by the core team of the biodiversity convoy (16 persons) in addition to four persons from EPA local branch and 12 students from school environmental clubs in Al-Hodieda.



to conserve the unique biodiversity of Jabal Bura'a National Park.

The tour was then attended on-site reception organized by 30 students from Bura'a schools who presented some poem and songs welcoming the visit and calling for Biodiversity conservation. Following this event, the members of biodiversity convoy distributed brochures, posters and awareness raising materials, highlighting various biodiversity aspects, to school students of Bura'a and the public gathering who received biodiversity convoy. On the other hand, the RR and members of Biodiversity Convoy raised some queries to school students Bura'a to know about their knowledge and understanding on biodiversity issues. The second tour was organized to Al-heswa Protected Area and was attended by Mr. Mohamed Al-Naseree, the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP office, members of Biodiversity convoy, number of local staff officials, including staff members of EPA and Ministry of education.

During the tour to Bura'a PA, the RR had an opportunity to view the pleasant and amusing places of JBNP and to get some answerers from local community as regard her queries on social lives of Bura'a people who lives in very isolated areas at the top of the mountain. Also she had the opportunity to known about biodiversity conservation interventions undertaken by the SNRMP project, including future interventions



Cleaning campaign

Under the theme “Care for Your Coast” a total of 1020 students from 12 schools completed two cleaning campaigns in Aden and Al-Hodieda cities. Al-Hodieda campaign were completed by about 340 students from six male and female schools, while Aden Campaign were undertaken by 100 students. Another group of 580 students from Aden schools launched six school campaigns through

Facts & figures

City	Student involved
Aden	680
Hod	340
Total	1020



which they managed cleaning school yard of their schools.

During these cleaning campaigns, Al-Hodieda campaigners realized the importance of coastal and came into conclusion on the urgent needs to protect Al-Hodiad mangrove sites from over grazing by camels.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of Yemen celebration on IYB took place in Aden city at Al-Heswa Protected area. It was attended by the Deputy Governor of Aden- Mr. Al-Dulee, Mr. Mohamed Al-Naseree, the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP office, members of Biodiversity



convoy, number of local staff officials, including representatives of line ministries such as, the environment protection Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, among many others,.

As shown by the side table, the closure ceremony was attended by a gathering of 700 persons from schools students school teachers and representatives of local women groups, NGOs, media men, and local communities. The ceremony was initiated by reciting Holy Quran followed by five speeches by the General Director of EPA Aden, General Director of Ministry of Education, Deputy Governor of Aden, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP office and team leader UNDP Experts Group. In his speech to the attendance of closure ceremony, Mr. Mohamed Al-Naseree, the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP office appreciated Other speakers of the closure ceremony highlighted the importance Yemen and calling for halting misuse of biodiversity assets through concert actions and more investment on protection of Yemen biodiversity.

Table on type and number of activities undertaken during the Closing ceremony

City	Students received prize	Number		
		People attended	Speeches delivered	Persons honored
Aden	16	700	6	70

General Director of Ministry of Education, Deputy Governor of Aden, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP office and team leader UNDP Experts Group.



The award presentations to the selected winners of painting competition as well as the honoring of



students, teachers and local staff in recognition excellent organization of the entire celebration activities was of major important activities made during the closure ceremony. Under this activity, a total of 16 students from six schools of Aden city were presented with awards in recognition of outstanding paginating they developed during painting competitions organized across all schools of Aden city. In addition, 70 persons representing teachers and local staff were honored towards their excellent contribution to the success of the entire celebration activities. Active involvement in this events made by school children of Aden who delivered several plays and composed songs calling biodiversity protection.

Lessons learned

Contributing Projects:

Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SNRMP), Phase II, Duration: 2010-2012;
Budget: USD 1.15 million (UNDP \$ 0.80 m & GoY \$ 0.25 m)

The project aims to reinforce sustainable management of natural resources. The project will capitalize on the achievements and capacities built in phase I of SNRMP and enhance them, through implementation of a set of integrated interventions focusing on: (1) enhancement of national and local capacities for sustainable management of natural resources; (2) improvement of women and local community livelihoods through skill enhancement, participation in income-generating activities and small businesses; and (3) enhancement of general public and school children's awareness on environmental sustainability and protected areas.

Strengthening Socotra's Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Project
Duration: 2008-2013; Budget: USD 3 million (UNDP \$ 0.95 m, GEF \$ 0.95 and AFD through GoY cost-sharing \$1.10 m)

The project contributes to the goal of creating a sustainable and well-governed path of development for the Socotra archipelago that ensures the conservation of its globally important biodiversity. The project aims to effectively mainstream biodiversity management considerations into the current process of decentralizing governance. The objective will be achieved through five project outcomes consisting of various interventions namely in the areas of good governance, application of biodiversity mainstreaming tools, support of non-governmental organizations, local livelihoods benefit from biodiversity conservation, and support to marine and fisheries sectors.

Economic Diversification Support Programme – Fisheries Duration: 2010-2014; Budget: USD 3.32 million (UNDP: \$2.7 m & GoY \$ 0.6 m)

The fisheries component of the Economic Diversification Support Programme (EDSP) addresses the sustainable development of the fisheries sector (1) by developing a National Fisheries Strategy as an input into the national planning process and (2) by strengthening the technical & analytical capacity of the MoFW through carrying out a number of policy studies related to fisheries management. These would include attention to: (1) Sustainable fishery resource management; (2) Livelihood enhancement strategies; (3) Gender equity and women empowerment; (4) Fish/Fishery export trade potentialities and (5) Small-scale fisheries development. The interventions of the project responds to the MoFW primary aim “to manage fish and other marine resources in a way that is biologically, environmentally and economically sustainable”, and are aligned with national priorities reflected in the UNDAF and UNDP County Programme Action Plan (CPAP, 2007-2011), in particular promoting pro-poor economic growth and economic diversification, sustainable natural resource management, and gender equality and women's empowerment

Disaster Preparedness, Management & Recovery Project Duration: 2003 – 2010; Budget: USD 1,469,372

This project aims to provide support to the Government of Yemen in its exerted efforts to successfully respond to the scale of vulnerability and recurrent localized disasters, which include earthquakes, floods, droughts and various epidemics through disaster mitigation, disaster response and recovery. The project supports reduced risk and impact of natural and man-made disasters to enhance national security and stable of economic growth, enhancement of the policy and disaster

management planning and implementation, setting up of an appropriate coordination mechanism for disaster migration and response that will be linked with key actors, enhancement of the disaster management information base and raising awareness levels among the decision makers, school children and the public.

