

Press Release

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Contact:

Vu Hoang Anh (Ms)
German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
6th Floor Hanoi Towers
49 Hai Ba Trung Street
Hanoi, Viet Nam
T +84 4 9344 951 (Ext.113)
M +84 906 25 69 99
E anh.vu@gtz.de

GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION DAY IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE

Dong Hoi/Phong Nha-Ke Bang, 3rd June 2010 – German Development Cooperation (GDC) organisations and its partners yesterday celebrated the International Biodiversity Action Day 2010 in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. Under the motto ‘Biodiversity and Development’ around 100 children aged 13 to 14 years and selected from different schools in the National Park’s buffer zone took part in excursions and a bio-monitoring activity. Spread across different locations, including the Nuoc Mooc Eco Trail, the Botanical Gardens and the Animal Rescue Center, the pupils were encouraged to increase their understanding about the various animal and plant species. One aim of the Action Day was for children to become sensitized to their environment and learn about the specific ecosystems that surround them in their daily lives. It is hoped that they will in future have an opportunity to be more closely involved in biodiversity conservation efforts in the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.

The International Biodiversity Action Day 2010 is organized by German Technical Cooperation’s (GTZ) Nature Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park Region Project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Further coordinating partners also include German Development Service (DED), Cologne Zoo and National Park authorities. The Biodiversity Action Day is part of a larger event in Dong Hoi and the National Park. Under the overall coordination of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), festivities are also planned for the International Environment Day, as well as the National Ocean Day and the National Island Day and will run until 6th June 2010.

Following on from the excursions, a selection of pupils today took part in a drawing competition to capture their impressions. One of the participants, 14-year old Vo Thi Ngoc Anh, said she enjoyed the Biodiversity Action Day: “I had a chance to reflect about the need for protecting our ecosystem, biodiversity and wild animals.” Mr. Nguyen Van Huyen, Vice Director of the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park agreed: “The bio-monitoring excursion yesterday gave the students an opportunity to improve their practical knowledge about biodiversity. I expect to have these kinds of activities more often.” The drawings will be exhibited as part of future GTZ project activities.