

Press release
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GEO Biodiversity night

On Saturday, 22nd May, Biodiversity exploring night to be held in Riga city park Bisumuiza organized by the magazine GEO in cooperation with the Natural History Museum of Latvia and the Faculty of Biology (University of Latvia).

In Bisumuiza – one of the most interesting parks of the city – chosen experts of the Museum and the University will help to collect, count and study variety of arts of plants, snails, mushrooms and birds. After dark professor Voldemars Spungis will show how the alluring and collecting of insects is done in a scientific way - using the light traps.

Experts have valued Bisumuiza as one of Riga's richest parks in terms biological diversity; it is unique also because of it's relatively close location to the city centre. Also worth of noting is that the site of park is partly located on a sand dune, which has still maintained it's functions and qualities of habitat.

Biodiversity is the variation of life forms on the Earth. The relevance of biodiversity to human health is becoming a major international issue, as scientific evidence is gathered on the global health implications of biodiversity loss. The new economics is trying to measure the value of nature's resources. For example, a group of researchers from Cornell University has estimated that fruits from the plants pollinated by bees bring in 14.6 million dollars a year. The evaluation of the nature may seem cynical, but it is the only way to raise the awarness of us Earthlings of the consequences we will face if (or rather when) certain species will disappear.

UN has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. 22nd May is the International Day of Biodiversity. On this day countless events aimed at exploring the biodiversity of the planet Earth will take place throughout the world, including countries where the magazine GEO is published. *GEO Activity Day 2010* is supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

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