

## CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (BIO-DIVERSITY) 13, Cancun, Mexico – 2<sup>nd</sup> report

The BK delegation was very active during the first week of COP13. We participated as speakers in a number of side events and also attended some very interesting ones. Delegates and volunteers from other organisations actively visited the BK kiosk at the CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) fair.

Sister Yolanda Moreno from Mexico was invited to speak at the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) side event hosted by CEE (Center for Environment Education), UNESCO and the FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education). This event took place Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and the title was “Handprint: Positive Action for Sustainability”. The panellists were:

- Dr Meenakumari: National Biodiversity Authority, India (Chairman)
- Mr. Neil Pratt: senior environmental affairs officer, CBD secretariat,
- Ms. Karen Keenlyside: IUCN CEC member and Parks Canada climate change advisor, and
- Ms. Yolanda Teran Maigua, Indigenous women's organization Andes, Chinchasuyu and member of informal advisory committee on CEPA (Education and public awareness), CBD.



Figure 1. Yolanda Moreno giving BK's views on the topic “Handprint: Positive Action for Sustainability”

The event concentrated on the need to accelerate the momentum and to move society from awareness to action, taking advantage of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) processes. This will facilitate the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets for a sustainable future, as we approach the closure of UN Decade on Biodiversity by 2020. The concept of “Handprint” was presented in this context. It provides one of the powerful tools in the pursuit of actions towards biodiversity conservation. Capturing positive action, the concept/tool links generations, inspiring the young in particular. Each finger of the handprint indicates one of the objectives of ESD: Awareness, Knowledge, Values, Skills, and Participation by individuals or groups – All together contribute to actions that are represented by the Hand Print. The BK's contribution emphasized the importance of positive thinking and that for a better world, the younger generations should be educated so that they can relate with nature in a better way.

Karen Keenleyside, from the initiative "Nature for all", requested the audience to remember and to share when or how they felt in love with Nature. Many shared wonderful experiences and memories from childhood.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December, our friend from "Saving our sharks" Mr. Fidel Ladrón de Guevara Bravo spoke on importance of protecting sharks. This talk took place at the CEPA side event "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Education for Sustainable Development" organized by the CEE. The other panellists were:

- Karen Keenleyside: IUCN CEC member and Parks Canada climate change advisor,
- Patricia Charvet RCE Curitiba, Brazil,
- Mr. Laurent, WWF, Africa (chairman of the session), and
- Dr Shailaja Ravindranath, Sr. Programme Director, CEE and Regional Director, CEE South regional office Bangalore.



Figure 2. Panellists: "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Education for Sustainable Development"

The busiest day for the BK's delegation was Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. That day, we had first a side event hosted by the BK and also one of our close friends was invited to a CEPA side event organized by the CEE.

The title of the CBD side event organized by the BK was "Awakening Biodiversity Consciousness - The role of human awareness preserving biodiversity"

The panellists were:

- Katia Cordourier (Eco Bahia),
- Luis Lombardo (Saving our sharks),
- Dr Shailaja Ravind-ranath (CEE), and
- Andrea Gutierrez (BK).



Figure 3. Panellists and audience in CBD side event organized by BK Environment Initiative.

All the panellists mentioned the importance of education and the need to change our relationship with nature and also, the urgent need to become “more human”. The need for us to respect all forms of life to be able to survive in this changing world was addressed. A very interesting concept presented was that perhaps, humans are not at the top of the pyramid

of life on this planet but one more in the circle where humans are one among all beings. During the questions and answers, the audience thanked BK for organizing such a different and unique event within the COP.



Figure 4. Katia Courdourier presenting at the side event organized by CEE.

After our side event, we all ran to hear Ms. Katia Cordourier at the CEE side event “Biodiversity education in schools”. Katia shared interesting experiences from her work with children and the local community. Other speakers in the event were:

- Prof. Carolina Lopez from RCE Mexico,
- Bernard Coombs, UNESCO, ESD expert at UNESCO, Paris,
- Teppei Dohke, IUCN, Japan, and
- Mateusz Banski, CEPA, CBD.





## CEPA fair

Our kiosk at CEPA allowed us to speak to many people this year as many of the visitors were interested in our work. They really liked the idea behind the photography challenge “BioClick” organized by BK. The visitors were also inspired to post their pictures.

Figure 5. Irene Artavia (BK, Costa Rica) at the BK’s kiosk at CEPA fair.

## People we shared some time with:



Picture 6. Representatives from India Government and CEE with Yolanda Moreno (BK, Mexico)



## During the weekend

The first week at COP13 ended with a face-to-face meeting with biodiversity and Mexican history...



Figure 7. Walking in nature.



Figure 8. Archaeological site in Tulum.



Figure 9. Sunrise at the beach. (Tulum)

End of report