

Belize observes Green Day

By Adolph Lucas Jr.
Staff Reporter

Programme for Belize, one of a number of conservation organizations operating in Belize, took time out last Friday, May 22 to observe International Day for Biodiversity with the planting of a number of trees across the country.

Staff members visited a total of 15 schools in the Belize River Valley area and the Orange Walk District to help plant trees and to participate in a number of activities geared toward promoting awareness in conservation.

The initiative is dubbed Green Wave and was carried out under the theme, "One School, One Tree, One Gift to Nature."



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climate change.

The schools also participated in a poster poem competition where the best poster poem will earn the student a new laptop computer.

Programme for Belize also participated in a field trip to Hillbank and La Milpa Field Stations

school were also distributed. The students also had the opportunity to plant a mahogany tree in their area.

The tree planting activity is part of the Green Wave Initiative where each school in the entire planet was asked to plant a tree and give

nature a gift with—the goal of planting one billion trees by 2010, which is designated as International Year for Biodiversity

Every year, the world joins the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity in celebrating the International Day for

Biological Diversity.

This year the focus is on invasive alien species to raise awareness about the rapid increase of biological invasions by alien species due to global environmental change and the transportation of animals and plants by humans.

Pacheco explained that in Belize there is an effect of invasive alien species such as Tilapia which displaces the local bass snook and the water lily that is clogging up water drainages.

"We are all being encouraged to plant native species and to



Programme for Belize and children from Indian Church Village plant trees.

keep non-native plant and animal species away from our pristine ecosystems" Pacheco said..

In Belize City the Belize Audubon Society planted 2,000 trees, while students at St. Mary's Primary School planted 50 Mayflowers Trees at the Memorial

Park also on Friday, May 22.

Funding for the Green Wave Initiative was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (U.N.D.P.) through its Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Program and Programme for Belize.