



**Young Reporters  
for the environment**

# *YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT*

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## CO<sub>2</sub> compensation for 2008

Since 2007, the Foundation for Environmental Education decided to establish a general compensation of the CO<sub>2</sub> emission from all its international flight travels. The Young Reporters for the Environment programme calculates each year the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by National Operators Meeting and International Coordination visits. For 2008 the programme compensated 252 euros. The funding derived from CO<sub>2</sub> compensation is entered into a CO<sub>2</sub> Fund administrated by the International Learning about Forests (LEAF) programme Coordination.

Schools involved in the environmental education programmes of FEE (LEAF, Eco-Schools and YRE) can through their national coordinator apply for funding from the CO<sub>2</sub> Fund for planting of trees. Schools from countries outside the FEE network can also apply for funding from the CO<sub>2</sub> Fund and a national NGO must apply on behalf of the school.

*More information on this page:*

*<http://www.fee-international.org/en/Menu/CO2+Offset>*

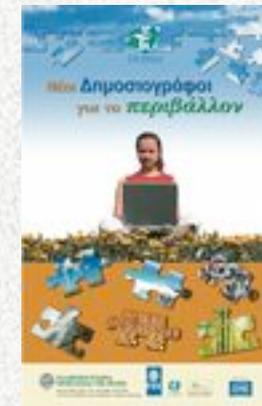


## Announcement

If you have suggestions for articles the International Coordination should report of in its Newsletter, as well as news you would like to share with the network, please be so kind to contact us.

## A new poster for YRE network in Greece

The Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN) has produced a new poster for Young Reporters for the Environment including the new logo of the network.



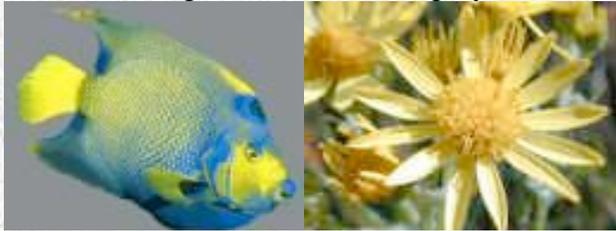
In Greece, the YRE network is supported by the Ministry of Education and the Directorate of Secondary Education of Messinia Prefecture. Sponsor of the network is the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE S.A.) which is Greece's largest telecommunications operator.

## 2010 : Biodiversity Target

*On December 20<sup>th</sup> 2006, the United Nations proclaimed 2010 as “International Year of Biodiversity”. To prepare this international year, Young Reporters for the Environment introduced the Biodiversity theme in its main environmental problems, and will present a special report on Biodiversity in every newsletter.*

### Biodiversity theme available on the YRE website

As explained on December 2008's newsletter, YRE added the “Biodiversity” theme this year. It is now available on the website and projects can now be registered in this category.



### What is Biodiversity ?

The term “biodiversity” has had many definitions in the past years, some more or less scientific. In 1992, during the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, “biodiversity” was defined as:

*“the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, 'inter alia', terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species (genetics), between species and of ecosystems”.*

This definition has been adopted by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which is an international treaty that was adopted in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

### Why is Biodiversity important?

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an Evaluation of the Ecosystems, ordered by the United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan, in 2000. It has been conducted between 2001 and 2005.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment released in March 2005, explained that human activities have taken the planet to the edge of a massive wave of species extinctions, further threatening our own well-being. For instance, current rates of loss are estimated at 100 to 1 000 times natural background levels.

*(www.millenniumassessment.org)*

These findings are confirmed by the statistics from the IUCN Red List of over 15 500 threatened species, which show that 23% of mammals, 12% of birds and 31% of amphibians globally are threatened.

*(www.iucnredlist.org)*

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment puts a special emphasis on how ecosystem services contribute to human well-being and concludes that humanity's future depends on healthy ecosystems.

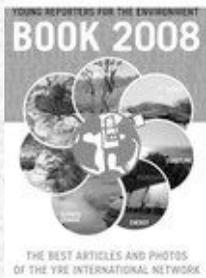
Have you ever considered that the glass of clear, cold, clean water coming from your tap may have been purified for you by a wetland or perhaps the root system of an entire forest? If we follow the chain of production for many products back to the source, we often arrive back at biodiversity.

The goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 is the subject of several key international agreements. Each recognises the rapid degradation of ecosystems and habitats, the increasing threat to many species populations and the urgent need to take action that will halt the decline in irreplaceable natural resources.

*(www.countdown2010.net)*



## A new name for the « YRE Book »



The “YRE Book”, which has been edited since 2004 is a real success in the YRE network. This is why the International Coordination wishes to find a more significant name for it.

All ideas are welcome !

*If you feel inspired, please contact us and send us your ideas at the International Coordination:*

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## YRE of the month : “Etnobotanical Study of Sierra San Miguel and La Jayona Mine”

Llerena and its region take up the south- east corner of the province making boundaries with the Andalusian lands of Córdoba and Sevilla.

The flora of this area is dominated by the ilex (quercus ilex) on limy ground and this is accompanied by kermes oak, retamo and small bushes such as the rock rose, cistus crispus,, pistacea terebinthus, crataegus monogina and ruscus aculeatus. In some ravines and shady places we can also find cork trees .

It is also important to stand out in this area called ' la campiña'a rich number of orchids because of their botanical value. There are over fifteen different species which prove rather valuable if we consider that here are just 36 of them in the whole province. This highland space has been proposed to be declared a natural Protected place because of its peculiar geological and climatic conditions. In the present project we have also include a study of the area surrounding La jayona mine, that has been declared Natural monument.

With this project we have aimed at promoting respect towards our surrounding environment and valuing the rich culture derived from the good use and exploitation of our natural resources. In order to get this aim, we have made an etnobotanical study of the zone combining the study of the flora with the investigation of popular traditions about the different uses we can make of plants.

Extremadura is a very rich place from a botanical point of view and it still preserves many traditions on

different plant usages that are alive in the memories of some old people. This popular culture will inevitably disappear if we don't keep record of it..

The investigation work was carried out by teams of student from different towns/villages. The project was developed in the following steps:

1.Elaboration of a flower catalogue

- We organized some outings to the countryside in spring and winter
- We took pictures of the flowers and plants
- We took notes on each plant's distribution, flowers and habitat

2.Etnobotanical investigation In this part of the Project we looked for information about the different uses of the plants that had been previously selected for catalogue. In order to get this information, the students interviewed old people from the different towns and then they made some cards with that information. The interviewees were invited to the school and they explained their knowledge about the different uses of the selected plants.

[...] *read the entire article here :*  
[http://www.youngreporters.org/article.php3?id\\_article=3949](http://www.youngreporters.org/article.php3?id_article=3949)

*I.E.S Cieza de león. Llerena. Badajoz. Spain.*

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The Young Reporters for the Environment International Coordination hopes you enjoyed reading this Newsletter, and Wishes you a **Happy New Year 2009!**