



UNDP Intranet

Bulletin

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Announcing the winners of the Equator Prize!

On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the Equator Initiative partnership announced the winners of the Equator Prize for excellence in community-based biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction at a press conference at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The announcement was followed by celebratory reception hosted in partnership with Aveda and Triballink.

The winners of the Equator Prize were selected from a pool of 25 finalists by a Jury of pre-eminent individuals in the fields of biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. The creative approaches taken by these five local communities to create sustainable livelihoods from the biological diversity in their surrounding environment provides inspiring proof that there are viable routes to achieving the MDGs.

The five initiatives honoured are:

- In Madagascar, the Village of Andavadoaka demonstrates how communities can organize to manage a valuable resource, in this case the octopus fishery, so that it can provide sustainable benefits over the long term.
- Shidulai Swarnivar Sangstha uses riverboat-based educational resource centers throughout **Bangladesh's** Ganges river delta to deliver information on sustainable agricultural practices and current market prices.
- In Guatemala, the women of Alimentos Nutri-Naturales have reinstated the Maya nut as a staple source of nutrition, thereby conserving the Maya nut forests in the buffer zone to the Maya Biosphere Reserve.
- Shompole Community Trust in Kenya conserves the inimitable vastness and beauty of the grasslands and savannahs to fuel a robust profit-driven ecotourism venture benefiting the Maasai people.
- In Ecuador, in the Galapagos UNESCO World Heritage Site, the women of Isabela Island's "Blue Fish" Association are marketing a local delicacy, tuna smoked with guava wood, as a way of promoting alternative use of marine resources and controlling an invasive plant species.

The US\$ 30,000 awards will be distributed on June 5 2007, World Environment Day, in Berlin as part of a special day of programming designed to send a strong message to the Group of Eight countries on the importance of preventing biodiversity loss and climate change.