

# awards and events

## equator prize



Five community groups from the tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America won the UN-backed **Equator Prize** for initiatives to alleviate poverty while conserving biodiversity. The winners, who will each receive \$30,000, were selected from 25 finalists chosen from more than 300 original nominations. The village of Andavadoaka in Madagascar was honoured for managing an octopus fishery to provide sustainable long-term benefits. In Kenya, the Shompole Community Trust was rewarded for conserving scenic savannah as part of a profit-making ecotourism venture for the local Masai people. In Guatemala, the women of Alimentos Nutri-Naturales won the prize for reinstating the Maya nut as a staple source of nutrition and thus conserving the nut forests in the buffer zone next to a biosphere reserve. The women of Isabela Island's "Blue Fish" Association, who work within the World Heritage-listed Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, were rewarded for marketing a local delicacy—tuna smoked with guava wood—to promote the alternative use of marine resources and control invasive plant species. The fifth winner, Shidulai Swarnivar Sangstha, uses riverboat-based educational resource centres throughout the Ganges River delta in Bangladesh to deliver information about sustainable agricultural practices and market prices.  
<http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/>

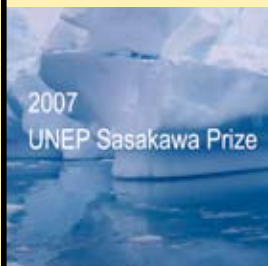
Through its Awards Programme, the Banksia Environmental Foundation aims to raise the profile of current environmental issues facing Australia and recognise those whose initiatives are an encouragement and an example for others to follow. In 2007, the 53 finalists across 11 awards included large and small corporations, individuals and government departments. The Origin Gold **Banksia Award** went to Westpac (bank) for its outstanding achievement in the area of corporate sustainability. The Gold Banksia goes to the 'best of the best' selected from the winners of each Banksia Category Award. (See People for the Banksia International Environmental Award). <http://www.banksiafdn.com/>



The 2007 UNEP **Sasakawa Prize** has two winners: Jeunesse Park from South Africa, the CEO of Food and Trees for Africa (FTFA) and Abul Hasanat Mohammed Rezwan of the Bangladeshi NGO Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (SSS). The joint winners have been awarded the prize for their work in the area of climate change, the theme of this year's prize. Among other activities, Jeunesse Park of FTFA won the award for the invention of a carbon calculator, the first South African calculator of its kind that provides a high level estimation of one's 'carbon footprint'. SSS won the award for a range of activities: devising bicycle pumps which reduce CO2 emissions, portable solar home systems; and for bringing environmental awareness through libraries and training centres to isolated communities in Bangladesh. The UNEP Sasakawa Prize is awarded annually and is worth a total of US\$200,000. This year the prize is shared between the joint winners and the award ceremony will be held in October in New York.



Foundation For the Future has named geneticist Dr. Spencer Wells the 2007 winner of the **Kistler Prize**. The prize, worth US\$100,000 is awarded annually for original work that significantly increases knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the human genome and society. Dr. Wells is being honoured for a body of work in the science of population genetics, culminating in the design and implementation of national Geographic and IBM's Genographic Project, a five-year effort now under way to map humanity's genetic journey to populate the planet. Dr. Wells is the Director of the Project. The prize, comprising the cash award and a 180 gram gold medallion, will be formally presented at a ceremony in Washington, USA on 20 September.  
[www.futurefoundation.org](http://www.futurefoundation.org)



A 70-hour music extravaganza, covering 120 territories, seven continents and going on for 24 hours attracted a 1 million live audience and more than 8 million online viewers for what was billed as the largest live-music event ever. Initiated by former US Vice President Al Gore, the concerts were set to trigger a global movement to combat the climate crisis. The proceeds from the **Live Earth** concerts will create the foundation for a new, multi-year global effort to combat the climate crisis led by the Alliance for Climate Protection chaired by Mr Gore.  
<http://www.liveearth.org/>



With the theme of "Progress and Prospects on Water: Striving for Sustainability in a Changing World" World Water Week kicks off in Stockholm in August. Organized annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), **World Water Week** is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. Water is at the very centre of most climate-related effects, and climate issues take centre-stage this year.  
[www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)



**World Maritime Day 2007 - 27 September.** This year the theme is 'IMO's response to current environmental challenges'. This gives the International Maritime Organization the opportunity to focus on its environmental work - past and present - and to intensify its efforts to help protect and preserve the environment before it is too late.

