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This electronic newsletter is meant as a way to inform the community on all aspects of DIVERSITAS. It is published every 3 months. **Deadline for the reception of the material for the next issue is May 31st 2006.**

A DIVERSITAS General

10-13 May 2006 - Paris, France

DIVERSITAS Scientific Committee meeting. (Invitation only)

19-20 April 2006 - Paris, France (UNESCO)

GEO S&T committee meeting. DIVERSITAS is invited to present briefly its plan for the implementation of its task BI-06-02 on biodiversity monitoring. (N. Jürgens, A. Larigauderie) ([GEOSS](#))

22-24 March 2006 - Bangkok, Thailand

Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), annual intergovernmental and scientific planning meetings. DIVERSITAS will be represented by K. Noone, ex-director of IGBP.

20-31 March 2006 - Curitiba, Brazil

Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity **COP 8**. [more...](#)



DIVERSITAS is taking part in a side event on the consultation for an IMoSEB, scheduled March 29, 2006.

21-22 February 2006 - Paris, France

First **international steering committee meeting** for a consultative process on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity. This initiative, called **IMoSEB**, follows-up on the Paris international conference "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" (January 2005) and on the call made by the French president J. Chirac at that conference. The incentive to explore a new mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity was supported both by the Paris and the DIVERSITAS Oaxaca conferences' participants. The executive secretariat for the IMoSEB consultation will be ensured by D. Babin of the IFB (Institut Français de la Biodiversité) and A. Larigauderie of DIVERSITAS. The 18 month consultation will be chaired by M. Loreau (Canada, current chair SC- DIVERSITAS) and A. Oteng Yeboah (Ghana, former chair SBSTTA). [more...](#)

26 January 2006 - Washington DC, USA

P. Daszak, M. Donoghue, L. Jackson, A. Larigauderie, R. Naiman and C. Perrings met with the heads of NSF BIO, GEO and DEB to present the latest developments within DIVERSITAS, and explore various funding mechanisms within NSF.

January 2006

Céline Vass was appointed as Science Officer at DIVERSITAS headquarters for the next 6 months. She has a master in "Pest management, applied entomology" and a DESS in "International agriculture economics, with emphasis on sustainable development". She held a position as research assistant in the department of Zoology, in Oxford, UK. In addition to administrative support, she will be in charge of the development of this news letter and of the DIVERSITAS annual report 2005.

December 2005

Kerstin Schmidt-Verkerk moved to Los Angeles where she is starting a PhD, while remaining in charge of the update of the DIVERSITAS website.
Antoine Escalas went back to student's life after working hard on the Oaxaca conference.

9-12 November 2005 - Oaxaca, Mexico

First **DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference**: Integrating biodiversity science for human well-being. DIVERSITAS-OSC1 attracted an international audience of 600

scientists and policy makers from 60 countries representing many facets of biodiversity science and policy. The conference got an important exposure in the media including an editorial in *Science* (vol 310 p. 243) and 108 papers in the press worldwide (for complete press coverage, please consult the following link: <http://www.diversitas-international.org/link5.html>). A programme of the conference is also enclosed in this letter.

This was the first time, since the launch of DIVERSITAS in 2002, that DIVERSITAS convened its entire community and it was the first international scientific conference, entirely dedicated to the multiple facets of biodiversity science. [more...](#)

14-15 December 2005 - Geneva (WHO), Switzerland

GEO II: DIVERSITAS has applied for Participating Organisation status within GEO, the Group on Earth Observations. DIVERSITAS was represented by N. Jürgens and A. Larigauderie at the meeting. DIVERSITAS has been given a mandate to coordinate some of the biodiversity tasks of the GEO work plan to begin the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)

B Core Projects and Networks

29-31 May 2006 - Stockholm, Sweden

bioSUSTAINABILITY: European Biodiversity Science-Policy Interface workshop

The aim of the workshop is to bring together individuals from the policy sector and scientists, including representatives from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, to discuss how to devise an effective framework for improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity use and conservation with particular focus on Europe. Contact: [Alison Holt](#)

May 2006 - Sishuan, China

Preparatory Journey for a joint NSFC-DFG Research Proposal on a Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning Experiment in a Subtropical Forest at Dujiangyan. Workshop organised by **ecoSERVICES** and funded by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

27-30 April 2006 - Paris, France

Scoping meeting on the genesis of biodiversity to discuss the content of a new DIVERSITAS project on evolutionary biology (systematics, population genetics, paleontology, etc.). Organised by M. Donoghue. (Invitation only)



26 April 2006, Richmond, UK

Plant Diversity Challenge Conference organised by The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and Plantlife International. **A. Holt and D. Raffaelli, as representatives of bioSUSTAINABILITY and DIVERSITAS**, will attend the conference. Representatives from NGOs, botanical and mycological societies, research institutions, the UK government and statutory agencies have been invited to attend the meeting, which will consist of presentations summarising progress towards the objectives of Plant Diversity Challenge, supported by papers on each of the 16 targets. The conference will also present the opportunity to discuss future challenges for the conservation of plants and fungi, and how these can be met by 2010.

2-3 March 2006 - Stockholm, Sweden

Second Scientific Committee meeting of bioSUSTAINABILITY, organised by A. Holt (executive officer) and D. Raffaelli (chair). The scientific committee was joined by representatives of Vetenskapsrådet and Formas Research Councils and SwedBio, an NGO, and also met with representatives of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

20-21 September 2005 - Cambridge, United Kingdom

7th International BIOECON Conference on "Economics and the Analysis of Ecology and Biodiversity". Meeting co-organised by DIVERSITAS **ecoSERVICES**. Contact: [Erwin Bulte](#), Department of Economics, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

7-10 September 2005 - Danum, Borneo, Malaysia

Biodiversity and Carbon storage. Meeting organised by DIVERSITAS **ecoSERVICES**. [more...](#)

Contact : [Andy Hector](#), University of Zürich, Switzerland.

4-6 September 2005 - Kota Kinabalu, Borneo, Malaysia

Next Generation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning Research. Meeting organised by DIVERSITAS **ecoSERVICES**. [more...](#)

1-4 September 2005 - Borneo, Malaysia

BioMERGE Workshop: Adaptive Synthesis Workshop III: "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning - Cross Biome Syntheses". [more...](#)

C News from the National Committees and regional networks

25-28 March 2006 - Toki Messe, Niigata, Japan

DIWPA (DIVERSITAS in Western Pacific and Asia) 2nd EAFES International Congress. Main Theme: Global Environmental Change and Ecosystems in East Asia. [more...](#)

9-12 March 2006 - Vienna, Austria

Meeting of the European Platform on Biodiversity Research Strategy on "Europe's Mountain Biodiversity" Presentation of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment of DIVERSITAS [more...](#)

9-10 March 2006 - Brussels, Belgium

BIODIVERSITY BELGIUM: Scientific Workshop and Open Conference: "SOS Invasions" [more...](#)

6-8 March 2006 - Paris, France

Le réveil du Dodo II - Les Journées Francophones des Sciences de la Conservation de la Biodiversité [more...](#)

30 November 2005 - 1 December 2005- Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia

DIWPA (DIVERSITAS in Western Pacific and Asia) Workshop: Synergy between Carbon Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Rain Forests. This 2nd workshop aimed to disseminate the concept of synergy between carbon management and biodiversity conservation in production forests. The Kyoto Protocol incorporates the vital role of forests and wetlands in its mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gases, favouring fast growing plantations. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) emphasizes the conservation and sustainable use of forest and wetlands that harbour biological diversity. Guidelines need to be developed to deal with these mutually exclusive requirements. [more...](#)

D DIVERSITAS products

The agroBIODIVERSITY Science Plan is out. This document is co-authored by L. Jackson, K. Bawa, U. Pascual and C. Perrings. The agroBIODIVERSITY network is chaired by [Louise Jackson](#). An interdisciplinary network is needed to monitor biodiversity, to understand ecosystem services provided by biodiversity and to guide

decision making and policies regarding biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. The science plan aims to provide a frame within which to coordinate investigation and from which to broaden research. [more...](#)

freshWATER network paper: "**Freshwater biodiversity: importance, threats, status and conservation challenges**". Dudgeon, D., Arthington, A.H., Gessner, M.O, Kawabata, Z., Knowler, D., Lévêque, C., Naiman, R.J., Prieur-Richard, A.-H., Soto, D., Stiassny, M.L.J. & Sullivan, C.A. (2005)
Biological Reviews 81: pp 1-20 published on-line 12 December 2005. [more...](#)

GMBA: New book out: "**Land Use Change and Mountain Biodiversity**", E. Spehn, M. Liberman, C. Körner (eds. CRC), 2005.
 The chapters of "Land Use Change and Mountain Biodiversity" derive from a peer-review process that followed presentations offered at 2 GMBA workshops, one in Tanzania, and the other in Bolivia. More than 50 researchers actively participated at these events, discussing information from all major mountain regions, with a particular focus on the Andes and on African mountains. [GMBA](#)

E Other Relevant Meetings and Products

19 January 2006 - Washington DC, USA

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Publication of technical assessment volumes

The four "foundation" reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment were released. They are the products of the four MA working groups and examine Current State and Trends, Scenarios, Policy Responses and Multi-Scale Assessments. A summary report, containing the Summaries for Decision-makers of the four technical assessment volumes, was also released. [more...](#)

GMBA coordinated and contributed to the chapter on the status and trends in Mountain Ecosystems of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Körner, C., Ohsawa, M. et al, 2005: Mountain Systems. Chapter 24 in: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Current State and Trends: Findings of the Condition and Trends Working Group. Ecosystems and Human Well-being, vol. 1, Island Press, Washington DC. [more...](#)

The proceedings from the Paris conference "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" in January 2005 are now printed in French and in English and available online on the [IFB](#) website.

F ESSP News

DIVERSITAS is a member of the [Earth System Science Partnership](#) , which includes: [DIVERSITAS](#) , [IGBP](#) , [IHDP](#) and [WCRP](#) .



9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China

ESSP: Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges: An Earth System Science Partnership Global Environmental Change **Open Science Conference.** Click [here](#) to download the first call. [more...](#)

7-8 November 2006 - Beijing, China

START: 2nd International Young Scientists' Global Change Conference. [more...](#)

4-8 September 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico

GCP: Carbon Management at Urban & Regional Levels: Connecting Dev. Decisions to Global Issues. [more...](#)

31 August - 2 September 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico

GCP: 6th Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Carbon Project.
Contact: [Joseph Canadell](#)

16-18 August 2006 - Beijing, China

GCP: International Conference on Regional Carbon Budgets. [more...](#)

20-23 June 2006 - Bonn, Germany

GWSP: Governance and the Global Water System: Institutions, Actors, Scales of Water Governance Facing the Challenges of Global Change. Contact: [Daniel Petry](#)

15-16 June 2006 - Munich, Germany

ESSP: Chairs & Directors Meeting (Invitation only)

12-14 June 2006 - Munich, Germany

ESSP: 2nd Planning Meeting (ESSP OSC) (Invitation only)

8-11 June 2006 - Guangzhou, China

2nd ESSP Global Water System Project (GWSP) Asia meeting. [more...](#)



5-9 June 2006 - Canberra, Australia

CGP: Workshop: Vulnerability of the Carbon Cycle to Drought and Fire. [more...](#)

4-3 April 2006 - Kyoto, Japan

GWSP: International Symposium on GRAPHIC (Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change). [more...](#)

28-30 March 2006 - Santa Barbara, California, USA

Vulnerability of carbon in permafrost: Pool size and potential effects on the climate system. Workshop organized by Global Carbon Project (GCP)

Contacts: [Christopher B Field](#) and [Joseph Canadell](#)

27-30 march 2006 - Norwich, UK

IHDP scientific committee meeting. DIVERSITAS will be represented by A-H Prieur-Richard.

23-24 March 2006 - Oaxaca, Mexico

ESSP Global Water System Project (GWSP) Scientific Steering Committee meeting (Invitation only). [more...](#)

9 February 2006 - Tokyo, Japan

GCP: Networks of Community Action for Decarbonising Japan.

Contact: [Penelope Canan](#)

23-26 January 2006 - Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia

GCP: Vulnerability of Carbon Pools of Tropical Peat lands in Asia. This workshop issued the [Riau Declaration](#). [more...](#)

9-11 January 2006- Beijing, China

MAIRS: Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional Study (MAIRS) Scientific Steering Committee Meeting and Inauguration of International Project Office (IPO)

Contact: [Frits Penning De Vries](#)

G In the Media

Le Monde: A massive species extinction is forecasted for the 21st century. Michel Loreau interviewed. 7 January 2006, Forum Environnement. [more...](#)

The Guardian: John Vidal: Flying in the face of nature. Animal farming and man's intrusion into the environment are major factors in the spread of new diseases. **Peter Daszak, Anne Larigauderie interviewed.** 22 February 2006. [more...](#)

The Hindu (India): John Vidal: Bird flu: intensive farming link. Peter Daszak, Anne Larigauderie interviewed. 23 February 2006. [more...](#)

Reuters Environment: Alister Doyle: Vanishing toads could portend extinction crisis. Anne Larigauderie, and Paul Leadley (bioDISCOVERY) interviewed on biodiversity and climate change. 13 March 2006. [more...](#)