

## DIVERSITAS at a GLANCE

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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 reception of material for the next issue is **June 9<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Please note: change the '\_AT\_' by '@' in the email addresses

### A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

Prof. H A (Hal) Mooney became the new Chair of the SC-DIVERSITAS on 1st January 2008. He is replacing Prof. M Loreau, who served for two terms (2002-04, and 2005-07), and will act as Past Chair in 2008.

DIVERSITAS thanks Profs R Dirzo, M McGeoch and C Perrings, who rotated off the SC in December 2007. DIVERSITAS welcomes S Diaz, A Duraiappah and P Le Prestre. The SC-DIVERSITAS will meet 25-28 March 2008 in Paris.

Harold Mooney (Chair SC-DIVERSITAS) and Peter Raven (Member Advisory Board of DIVERSITAS) received the 2007 BBVA Foundation Ecology and Conservation Biology Research Award. [More...](#)

The new version of the DIVERSITAS website is now [online](#).

The second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13 to 16 October 2009.

Scientific officer appointed at the DIVERSITAS **new agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office** at Wageningen, The Netherlands. [More...](#)

**bioSUSTAINABILITY International Project Office** being relocated at the **Stockholm Resilience Centre**, Sweden.

[International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity \(IMoSEB\)](#)

The final International Steering Committee (Montpellier, November 2007, see below) produced a recommendation which invited "the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of France and other governments, the CBD (...) and the partners of the IMoSEB consultation process, to convene an intergovernmental meeting with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations (...) to consider establishing an efficient international science-policy interface". This intergovernmental meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2008. In the mean time, a number of events will take place, including a dialog between IMoSEB, and the MA Follow-up process, that DIVERSITAS is facilitating, to harmonise views and actions, and a joint MA follow up/IMoSEB side event at COP9 in Bonn (May 2008).

*15-17 November 2007, Montpellier, France*

#### **IMoSEB International Steering Committee meeting**

The Final International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Consultative Process towards an IMoSEB was held in Montpellier, November 15-17, 2007. The conclusions produced by the IMoSEB ISC, IISD coverage, list of participants are available [here](#).

*18-22 February 2008: Rome, Italy*

#### **CBD SBSTTA 13**

The IMoSEB executive secretariat organized during CBD SBSTTA 13 in Rome a side event.

Click [here](#) to read the Report of the side event and [here](#) to read the presentation given by Didier Babin and Alfred Oteng Yeboah.

## **B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS**



### bioGENESIS

*21-23 January 2008, Carvoeiro (Algarve) Portugal*

#### **Symposium on the Future Trends of Taxonomy.**

Organized by **Rafael Zardoya** (bioGENESIS SC) & Ignacio Ribera, MNCN-CSIC, Madrid, Spain

The study of biodiversity during this time of crisis is hindered by a worldwide shortage of taxonomists coupled with a lack of enough funding for taxonomic study. Therefore, it is mandatory both to adopt new technologies developed in other fields for taxonomic use, and to address the key conceptual challenges that taxonomy faces. Under the auspices of EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), 25 European scientists actively publishing in taxonomy, 90 EDIT members, 17 non-EDIT CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) members, and 15 speakers were invited to gather in a 3-day symposium to discuss in depth future trends of taxonomy [More](#) .

*2008, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA*

**Society for the Study of Evolution meeting: Integrating phylogeny and paleobiology in studies of diversification.** Contact: [S Magallon](#)

*05-08 June, 2008, Barcelona, Spain*

#### **Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)**

Divergence-time estimates derived from fossil and sequence data are often difficult to reconcile. Fossils can only provide evidence of the first appearance of the descendants of a branch in the tree, and thus they underestimate the date of the true splitting. However, molecular dates are consistently too old often due to statistical bias. With the advent of Bayesian relaxed molecular-clock models, current debates are moving to consideration of the most appropriate constraints on the ages of a tree node. In the near future, the use of sequence data at a genomic scale for dating phylogenies will become the standard, and relevant fossils will steadily accumulate improving calibration points. The symposium aims to bring together experts in phylogenetic reconstruction, molecular dating, and the fossil record in order to debate whether agreement between molecular and paleontological datings is possible, and how far we are from obtaining a timescale of life. [More](#)

10 November 2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

bioGENESIS symposium Contact: [B Walther](#)

11-12 November 2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

bioGENESIS SC Meeting (upon invitation only). Contact [B Walther](#).

## bioDISCOVERY

28-30 November 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

**GEO-IV Plenary Meeting and Ministerial Summit.**

Read the [statement made by DIVERSITAS](#), on behalf of the GEO-Biodiversity Observing Network (BON), at the Ministerial Summit, and the [Cape Town Declaration](#) adopted at this Summit.

DIVERSITAS presented a set of posters at GEO IV, as part of the ICSU exhibition booth, featuring contributions of bioGENESIS and bioDISCOVERY to the scientific goals of the GEO-BON, and a description of what has been accomplished so far in the context of GEO-BON. The South African Science and Technology Minister Mosibudi Mangena visited the booth on 30 November 2007

The GEO-BON was further presented to the community at the GEO User Interface Committee meeting (26-27 November 2007) by Norbert Jürgens, Doug Muchoney and Bruno Walther and to the GEO Science & Technology Committee meeting (1 December 2007) by Norbert Jürgens, Anne Larigauderie and Bruno Walther.

14-17 January 2008, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland

**First GEO BON workshop.** The objective of the workshop was to articulate an initial vision for a global biodiversity observation network. Attendance was by invitation only, and 17 participants organized themselves into several writing teams which produced a draft vision document. The main parts of the document are: Introduction & rationale; vision, goals & guiding principles; capacity building; data & user requirements; framing observation needs for ecosystems, species & populations, genetic diversity, and ecosystem services. This vision document will be presented at the April meeting.

Contact: [B Walther](#)

04-07 March 2008, Yokohama Institute, Jamstec, Japan

DIVERSITAS is cosponsoring a **Workshop on advanced prediction of biome boundary shifts in regional and global dynamic vegetation models**, [More](#).

Co-sponsored by bioDISCOVERY-DIVERSITAS.

19-21 March 2008, Paris, French Ministry of higher Education and Research, France

**Plant Functional Types Fast Track Initiative meeting.**

The meeting is a joint IGBP-DIVERSITAS Fast Track Initiative called "Refining plant functional classifications for earth system modeling".

Coord: [S Lavorel](#), S Diaz and P Leadley

08-10 April, 2008, Berlin, Germany

**2nd GEO Biodiversity Observation Network Workshop: Towards the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network.** DIVERSITAS, NASA and the GEO Secretariat are convening a major meeting of all parties interested in the development of a Biodiversity Observation System for GEOSS. The goal is to finalise the vision, produce an implementation plan, and begin to work on several short term products. Please join the GEO BON at <http://www.bioobservation.net>. Contact: [B Walther](#)

14-16 April 2008, Tokyo, Japan, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

**The Second GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium: The role of Earth observations in tackling climate change.**

Contact: [B Walther](#)

The Asia-Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Threats include floods, droughts, sea-level rise and damage to biodiversity and natural resources. Improved Earth observation can help the region adapt to these expected impacts. By monitoring and predicting changes to climate patterns, the hydrological cycle and ecosystems, governments can identify adaptation priorities and secure the needed funding. They can use Earth observations to craft policies and regulations that encourage the private sector and civil society to minimize their vulnerability to climate change. By further strengthening the capacity of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to monitor global change, the Asia-Pacific region can use Earth observations to further minimize emissions, for example by identifying new opportunities for clean energy or for forest conservation.

The report of the Second GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be submitted to the G-8 Summit (hosted in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan) as an input to their discussions on how to advance global action on climate change.

[More](#) .

*13-17 July 2008, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA*

**Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) annual meeting.** See abstract submitted by Woody Turner (NASA) on behalf of GEO BON (NASA/DIVERSITAS/GEO) to the Society for Conservation Biology for its annual meeting. [More](#).

**GEO BON: A Global Biodiversity Observation Network.** The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a partnership of over 70 national governments, the European Commission, and a number of international organizations seeking to coordinate efforts to develop a Global Earth Observation System of Systems or GEOSS (<http://www.earthobservations.org/>). One of the observation systems GEO member countries and organizations are promoting is a global Biodiversity Observation Network, known as GEO BON. DIVERSITAS is playing a major role as facilitator in planning the early stages of GEO-BON, making sure it is based on a robust scientific framework. Plans for GEO-BON focus on biodiversity at the levels of ecosystems, species, and genes, as well as on the crosscutting theme of ecosystem services. For each of these, observations will seek to identify: changes in state over time, drivers of change, trends in these changes, and the impacts of changes. GEO BON will incorporate satellite, airborne, and *in situ* observations in a framework uniting top-down global and regional scale assessments with bottom-up local and landscape scale assessments. Models will help fill in observational gaps and also provide projections of possible future states. While national government agencies will likely form the basis for this network, GEO BON is open to participation by other government agencies, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial entities.

*10-11 October 2008 - Madrid, Spain*

**bioDISCOVERY SC meeting.** Upon invitation. Contact: [B Walther](#)

## bioSUSTAINABILITY

Rebecka Henriksson is the new assistant officer for the **bioSUSTAINABILITY International Project Office now located at the Stockholm Resilience Centre**. She has a master in biology and has spent several months in Africa contributing to a report on research needs, priorities and potential collaboration in African biosphere reserves, which will serve as a basis for a full proposal to be submitted to SIDA and other agencies during spring 2008.

## agroBIODIVERSITY

Scientific officer appointed at the DIVERSITAS **agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office at Wageningen**. [More...](#)

*07-11 April 2008, University of California, Davis, USA*

**Symposium and Workshop: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes** (upon invitation only, except for postdocs at institutions in the USA who can apply to participate in the NSF Research Coordinating Network 'BESTnet' training session associated with this meeting.) DIVERSITAS-agroBIODIVERSITY event

Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact: [L Jackson](#), Chair agroBIODIVERSITY, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis, USA.

*22-25 April 2008, Wageningen, The Netherlands*

agroBIODIVERSITY is pleased to announce that the registration for the post-graduate course "Biodiversity and Ecosystem services in a sustainable world" is now open. [More](#).

## freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

*3-5 October 2007, Marne-La-Vallée, France*

**First annual EuroDIVERSITY conference** on "Challenges in Biodiversity Science".

Mark Gessner presented results from microcosm experiments on the consequences of bacterial-fungal interactions for ecosystem processes.

*25-28 February 2008, Seattle, USA*

**freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Workshop: "Sustainable Freshwaters: biodiversity, resilience and the value of ecosystem services"**. Upon invitation only, except for graduate students/postdocs at institutions in the USA, who can apply to participate in the NSF Research Coordinating Network 'BESTnet' training session associated with this meeting. Contact: [R Naiman](#).

*11-14 June 2008, Kyoto, Japan*

**International workshop: Environmental Change, Pathogens and Humans Linkage**

Organized by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN). Environmental Diseases Project in collaboration with DIVERSITAS freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

This workshop will host presentations of invited speakers on the five topics:

1. Environmental alteration by humans,
2. Ecology of pathogens and their hosts,
3. Infection process and ecosystem effects
4. Economics and culture

and 5. Health. The purpose of the workshop is the exchange of information and the encouragement of international collaboration on the subject of environmental alteration by humans and pathogens. [More](#).

## Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

*07-09 April 2008, Innsbruck*

**COST Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions**. Registration until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

[More](#).

*15-16 November 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal*

**GMBA workshop: on "Geostatistics and Biodiversity Information in the Himalayas"**, in collaboration with ICIMOD, linked to and prior to the conference below.

Contact: [gmba@unibas.ch](mailto:gmba@unibas.ch)

*16-18 November 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal*

**International Mountain Biodiversity Conference on "Biodiversity and Land Use, Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Parks under Natural and Human Pressures of Global Change"**. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

### Past conferences:

*23-25 July 2007, Kampala, Uganda*

GMBA was part of the organising group under the lead of the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) on establishing a Global Change Research Network on African Mountains. Workshop proceedings and webcast, "Who is who" list of global change researchers in African Mountains available [here](#).

### Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School

Dr Eric Chivian and Dr Aaron Bernstein are the editors of an upcoming book:

**"Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity"** to be published by Oxford University Press in May 2008 which the Secretariat of the CBD, UNEP, UNDP, and the IUCN have co-sponsored. Professor E.O. Wilson has written the Foreword.

This book may be of great interest as it is the first time there has been a comprehensive examination of the relationship of human health to the health of other species and to the integrity of natural ecosystems.

The book has been described by Al Gore as the "most complete and powerful argument I have seen for the importance of preserving biodiversity."

## C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS



### Belgium

The Belgian Forum on Freshwater Ecosystems and freshwater BIODIVERSITY are pleased to announce the release of the special issue of Hydrobiologia and the book **"Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment (FADA)"**. [More](#).

### Germany

*3.-4. April 2008, Germany*

**4<sup>th</sup> National Colloquium.** The German National Committee for Global Change Research (NKGCF) will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> National Colloquium in April 2008 on: "Coping with Global Change - Land Use in the Area of Tension of Resource Conservation, Food and Energy". Members of the NKGCF, representing IHDP, WCRP, IGBP and DIVERSITAS, will discuss this topic together with around 300 German scientists (from natural and social sciences) and funding agencies (BMBF DFG). [More](#).

*15-19 September 2008*

**EURECO-GFÖ 2008** "Biodiversity in an ecosystem context". Joint conference of the European Ecological Federation and the Ecological Societies of Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Call for symposia open until 15 January, 2008: [More](#)

### France

The **BiodivERSA** coordinated call for research proposals on biodiversity is out (17.56 Million Euros). It is open to 12 countries in Pan-Europe (deadline: 3 March 2008) on three themes linking scientific advancements to policy and practice: Global change & dynamics; Ecosystem functioning; Ecosystem services. This is an IFB-led initiative (Institut Français de la Biodiversité). [More](#)

*13 March 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

BiodivERSA Annual Meeting

[More](#).

*02-04 April 2008, La Grande Motte (Languedoc-Roussillon), France*

10e Journées de l'écologie fonctionnelle. [More](#) (in French)

*4-5 November 2008, France*

International Conference « Agriculture & Biodiversity ». [More](#)

17-21 November 2008

Scientific days "Entreprises et biodiversité" and EPBRs meeting. Coorganised by IFB, Orée and DIVERSITAS. [More](#)

**Call for projects "Systema" at ANR - Closing date: 15 April 2008**

This call for projects "Ecosystems, territories, living resources and agriculture of the French National Research Agency (ANR) seeks to elaborate:

- new knowledge regarding a sustainable management of the factors that influence agricultural production;
- a positive contribution of agriculture to the ecological services of agro-ecosystems;
- new methods of management of territory;
- and to promote permanent and adaptive learning and knowledge.

Download the call for proposals at: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr>

## The Netherlands

**Netherlands Symposium on Biofuels and Biodiversity**

On December 12, 2007 the Netherlands Global Change Committee of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Copernicus Institute of Utrecht University organised a symposium, entitled 'Biofuels and Biodiversity. Towards a sustainable development of bio-energy?'. During this very successful event the pros and cons of biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels were presented by scientists, including Steven de Bie (Shell International) and Rudy Rabbinge (Wageningen University and Research Centre). A majority of the delegates spoke out against large scale cultivation of biofuel crops. Meanwhile the Dutch government has abandoned its targets to upscale the percentage of biofuels in petrol and diesel by 2010.

For the program and powerpoint presentations (mostly in Dutch), click [here](#).

## Norway

*June 2007-2015 - Oslo, Norway*

**Norwegian research programme "Environment 2015"**. Within the framework of its national research programme "Biological Diversity -Dynamics, Threats and Management (BIOMANGFOLD)", that started in 1997 and ended in 2007, the Norwegian Research Council funds individual research projects carried out in collaboration with institutions in various developing countries. As of 2007, biodiversity research will be continued within the new research programme "Environment 2015", possibly in collaboration with developing countries provided sufficient funding is found.

## Philippines

Publication

**The Rice Black Bugs: Taxonomy, Ecology, and Management of Invasive Species** book has been published by Phil Rice together with several co-sponsors. Please see book announcement on [Philippines DIVERSITAS National Committee page](#).

*13-17 November 2007, The Central Mindanao University (CMU), Musuan, Bukidnon, Philippines*

**4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Asian Pteridology and Garden Show. "The Richness of Asian Ferns: Their Uses and Study"**. Held in honor of Dr. Prescillano M. Zamora, a Filipino Pteridologist. The conference with 24 speakers and 24 posters attracted some 175 delegates from 13 countries.

## Switzerland

*1st April 2008, Bern, Switzerland*

**9th Swiss Global Change Day (ProClim)**

Antoine Guisan, University of Lausanne, will give the biodiversity related keynote speech on predicting future species distribution of mountain floras under global change.

The Swiss Biodiversity Forum awards a price of CHF 1,000 to the first author of the best poster on a biodiversity related topic, allowing the winner to attend an international conference in the current year. You are cordially invited to participate at the event and to present your work at the poster session. More on Swiss Global Change Day [here](#).

## UK

*12-13 June 2007*

**Biodiversity-Climate Interactions: adaptation, mitigation and human livelihoods.**

Georgina Mace, Michel Loreau, Harold Mooney and Robert Scholes, from the SC-DIVERSITAS, attended this meeting. Click [here](#) to read the final report.

## USA

The U.S. National Committee (USNC) for DIVERSITAS, housed by the National Academy of Sciences, has reorganized under the leadership of **Professor Peter Crane** of the University of Chicago. The Committee intends to work closely with DIVERSITAS to promote the science and goals of the organization. The Committee Website, with links to the Committee roster, is at <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/usnc-diversitas/index.html>.

The USNC met in Chicago in July, and decided to organize a two-day symposium in Washington, D.C. in early 2009, in conjunction with the **Darwin bicentenary anniversary**. The symposium will examine the intersection of biodiversity and ecosystem services with 3 key policy issues critical to human well being in the future: climate change and energy, trade and invasive species, and food security. The symposium will highlight DIVERSITAS activities and science, and will help to raise awareness in the U.S. of both DIVERSITAS and the issues in which it is active

## VIETNAM

*19-20 February 2008, Manila, Philippines*

**Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Southeast Asia Adaptation and Mitigation**

Dr Nguyen Huu Ninh has attended this meeting and met a representative from DIVERSITAS there.

Click [here](#) to read his presentation

## **D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS**



### bioGENESIS

**Yahara T** and **Donoghue MJ**. 2007. bioGENESIS- a new DIVERSITAS Core Project is launched. *DIWPA NEWSLETTER*. (21): 1-2 [pdf](#)

### bioDISCOVERY

#### Brochures

Group on Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network

A Vision for a Global Biodiversity Observation System. Click [here](#) for the brochure.

#### Scientific publication

**Ash N, Jürgens N, Larigauderie A, Leadley P, Mace G, Mooney HA, Scholes RJ, Walther BA, Lane MA, Muchoney D, Geller GN and Turner W**. 2007. Towards a global biodiversity observation network. *The First 100 steps to GEOSS*. GEO Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland P.100 [pdf](#)

Walther BA, Larigauderie A, Ash N, Geller GN, Jürgens N and Lane MA. 2007. Toward a global biodiversity observation network. *GEO-Group on Earth Observations (ed)*. . The full Picture. Tudor Rose, Geneva, Switzerland. 79-81

"The Full Picture" is a new publication released at GEO-IV, detailing early achievements and other Earth observation projects and services. B Walther and co-authors contributed a chapter for DIVERSITAS: Towards a global biodiversity observation network (p 79). Please download it [here](#).

Walther BA. 2007. Towards a global biodiversity observation network: the GEOSS framework. *International Conference on Long-Term Ecological Research: Meeting the challenges of sustainable ecosystem management from local to global scales*. *Chines Exosystem Research Network, Beijing, China*. 15-17 [pdf](#)

## ecoSERVICES

[\*Biodiversity Economics: Principles, Methods and Applications"\* \(Kontoleon, Pascual and Swanson\). Cambridge University Press.](#)

## freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

The Belgian Forum on Freshwater Ecosystems and freshwaterBIODIVERSITY are pleased to announce the release of the special issue of Hydrobiologia and the book "Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment (FADA):

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/128801521787/?p=f112035ddabc45989b20ecf60fa73be7&pi=3>

The Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment gives a state of the art assessment of the diversity and distribution of Metazoa in the continental waters of the world. The project deals with all major animal groups and encompasses the complete array of terrestrial aquatic ecosystems. It is the most comprehensive study of species- and genus-level diversity and chorology of the global freshwater fauna to date, and is the first to present comparable data on the different faunal groups concerned. The project draws from the collected expertise of numerous world-renowned taxonomic experts that have bundled efforts to produce this outstanding volume. The result, published as a special issue of the journal Hydrobiologia, is invaluable to all scientists, managers and conservationists interested in non-marine aquatic animals". [More](#).

## **E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS**



### Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

The APN Newsletter (Volume 14, Issue 1) is now available for downloading through this link: <http://www.apn-gcr.org/en/products/nl/2008/Jan2008%20Newsletter.pdf>.

18-20 March 2008, Kobe, Japan

#### **APN annual meeting**

DIVERSITAS will be represented by Kanehiro Kitayama from DIWPA. He will present DIVERSITAS and DIWPA (18-20 March).

### Conventions

*18-22 February 2008 - FAO, Rome, Italia*

#### **13<sup>th</sup> meeting of CBD-SBSTTA.**

FAO and Bioersivity International have joined forces to hold an expert consultation on Climate Change and Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, in partnership with the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) and the CBD Secretariat. On 13 February, 2008. PAR is organizing a one day informal consultation of researchers working on aspects of agricultural biodiversity and climate change to initiate a process of identifying research needs and mobilizing interest and activity to support research in this area. The

outputs of the workshop will feed into discussions at SBSTTA13. DIVERSITAS will be represented by Louise Jackson. Preparation of the review on international agricultural works for COP9 [More](#)

*13-16 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany*

**CBD PreCOP-9: Biodiversity Research - Safeguarding the Future.** [More](#).

For more details see [www.precop9.org](http://www.precop9.org).

*19-30 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany*

**CBD COP-9: Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.** The main subject will be the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the related international initiative on pollinators, soil biodiversity and food and nutrition. [More](#)  
Click [here](#) to read the full text of notification.

### European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT)

The 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the Edit Newsletter is out click [here](#)

*13-14 March 2008, Brussels, Belgium*

**The Biodiversity Year Special Events (BYSE) 2010 in Europe.** Contact: [K. Articus](#)

### European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

*15-18 January, Brdo, Slovenia*

**EPBRS Meeting, (AHPR):** The main topic of this meeting was freshwater biodiversity. The draft recommendations were prepared based on the e-conference in which DIVERSITAS freshwaterBIODIVERSITY was involved. Robert J Naiman (Chair freshwaterBIODIVERSITY) and Klement Tockner (freshwaterBIODIVERSITY) gave keynote lectures.

Click [here](#) to see the final recommendation on freshwater biodiversity that were adopted during the plenary on Friday January 18th.

#### **Upcoming EPBRS meetings:**

*17-21 November 2008, France:*

- 3 days of scientific symposium (Journée de l'IFB)
- 2 days of EPBRS meeting including the general assembly of Biostrat

#### Proposed themes:

- Impact assessments and damages' compensation
- Ecological engineering
- Experiences from private sector and best practices.

*19-23 May 2009, Czech Republic (near Praha).*

### The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL)

Click [here](#) to read a short description of the EOL.

### Health and Biodiversity

*25-29 February 2008 - Galway, Ireland*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperation On Health And Biodiversity (COHAB) conference:** COHAB 2008 will promote research and action on the links between the loss of biological diversity and the health and well-being of people worldwide. [More](#)

Contact: [F Murray](#)

### International Council for Science (ICSU)

20-24 October 2008, Maputo, Mozambique

### ICSU 29th General Assembly

Hosted by the Scientific Research Association of Mozambique.

### International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)

30 October-01 November 2007, Vienna, Austria

IGFA Annual Meeting. [More](#)

DIVERSITAS reported on its influence on global change policy and strategy, and future plans.

### IUCN

5-14 October 2008 - Barcelona, Spain

IUCN World Conservation Congress, information: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008/>

### MARBIF

10-13 March 2008, Marseille, France

MARBIF Review.

11-15 November 2008, Valencia, Spain

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Co-sponsored by DIVERSITAS. [More](#)

The registration for the WCMB in Valencia (Spain) is now open at this [web site](#). Abstracts can be submitted for one of the 24 sessions until April 1st. Approximately 160 oral presentations of 15 minutes (12 minutes presentation + 3 minutes discussion) will be accommodated.

### Sustainable management of biodiversity

14-16 April 2008 - Stockholm, Sweden

Resilience Alliance Conference: Resilience 2008 [More](#)

### Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School

Dr Eric Chivian and Dr Aaron Bernstein are the editors of an upcoming book:

**"Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity"** to be published by Oxford University Press in May 2008 which the Secretariat of the CBD, UNEP, UNDP, and the IUCN have co-sponsored. Professor E.O. Wilson has written the Foreword.

This book may be of great interest as it is the first time there has been a comprehensive examination of the relationship of human health to the health of other species and to the integrity of natural ecosystems.

The book has been described by Al Gore as the "most complete and powerful argument I have seen for the importance of preserving biodiversity."

## F EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP (ESSP) NEWS



DIVERSITAS is a member of the ESSP, which also includes: [IGBP](#), [IHDP](#) and [WCRP](#)

The ESSP delivers research outputs of value to users seeking information regarding changes that are occurring to the Earth System and the implications of these changes for global sustainability

2nd ESSP Scientific Committee Meeting has tentatively been set for Monday 30 June - Wednesday, 2 July.

### **Carbon Neutral**

We are faced with the need for large reductions in greenhouse gases emissions over this century in order to minimize dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Outside of legally binding schemes for emission reductions such as the Kyoto Protocol, individuals and organizations can contribute to emission reductions by voluntarily reducing their demand for energy and purchasing carbon offsets to balance their emissions. The purchase of carbon offsets is part of a rapidly growing voluntary market

helping to reduce the climate impact of specific activities to zero, otherwise known as becoming carbon neutral. The Global Carbon Project has published the report "Carbon reductions and offsets" (ESSP Report No.5/GCP Report No.6) with a number of recommendations for individuals and institutions who want to participate in this voluntary market. The report can be downloaded from the [GCP website](#).

*02-04 April, 2008, Oxford University, England*

### **International Conference on Food Security and Environmental Change.**

Purpose:

- Present findings from conceptual and regional research supported by the ESSP Joint Project on "Global Environmental Change and Food Systems" (GECAFS).
- Present and share related and relevant research on GEC, food security and food systems, and decision support dialogues from the broader international community.
- Bring together scientists from diverse backgrounds to forge new partnerships. [More](#)

*12-21 April 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

### **International Workshop on Future Climate Change Research on Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation: From the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report Onward. Involvement of DIVERSITAS and IHDP. [More](#).**

**Publication:** The authors make up the Executive Committee of the Global Water System Project (GWSP) of the Earth System Science Partnership and were members of the GWSP Framing Committee: Alcamo JM, Vörösmarty CJ, Naiman RJ, Lettenmaier DP and Pahl-Wostl C. 2008. [A grand challenge for freshwater research: understanding the global water system](#). *Environmental Research Letters*. (3): 6

## Global Carbon Project ([GCP](#))

Click [here](#) to read the GCP e-news.

The Global Carbon Project has just published a new analysis of the state of the carbon cycle and its immediate drivers of perturbation (economic growth, carbon intensity of the global economy, and natural CO<sub>2</sub> sinks on land and oceans). [More](#)

### **Net Carbon Dioxide Losses of Northern Ecosystems in Response to Autumn Warming**

This study - featured in Nature 451, 49-52 (3 January 2008) - finds that the duration of the net carbon uptake period (CUP) in northern ecosystems has on average decreased due to warmer autumn periods. You can access the article online, [www.essp.org/fileadmin/redakteure/pdf/others/nature06444.pdf](http://www.essp.org/fileadmin/redakteure/pdf/others/nature06444.pdf). You can also get more details (manuscript and presentation) [here](#).

## Global Water System Project ([GWSP](#))

The latest issue of the GWSP Newsletter, Global Water News No. 5/6, is now available online: [http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/GWSP\\_NL\\_5-6\\_web.pdf](http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/GWSP_NL_5-6_web.pdf)

*09 - 19 July 2008, Königswinter, Germany*

**NeWater-GWSP Summer School 2008, "Managing Change: Tools and Methods for Adaptive River Basin Management"** The 2008 NeWater-GWSP Summer School will focus on methods and tools for adaptive river basin management. The sessions will refer extensively to the experience of applying various approaches in transboundary case study basins in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe. GWSP arranges funding support for up to seven applicants from developing countries and countries in transition. The deadline for application is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. For Further information and application forms click [here](#)

## Global Environmental Change and Food Systems ([GECAFS](#))

*02-04 April 2008 - Oxford, UK*

International Conference: **Food Security and Environmental Change: Linking science, development and policy**. Contact: [GECAFS IPO](#), [More](#)

### International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

*05-09 May 2008 - Cape Town, South Africa*

**4th IGBP Congress: Sustainable Livelihood in a Changing Earth System.** The Congress will have a major focus on Africa and will be a mixture of plenary presentations, working group discussions and poster sessions. 31 Guests will be invited from ICSU, DIVERSITAS, IHDP, WCRP, SCOR and other partner organisations operating at regional level (IAI, APN and AfricanNESS) and local stakeholders (the public, the private sector and the policy community). [More](#)

### International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)

E-Zine 3, 2007 released. Click [here](#)

*02-04 April 2008, University of Oxford, UK*

**Food Security and Environmental Change**, Linking Science, Development and Policy for Adaptation  
[More](#)

*12-15 October 2008*

**6th International Human Dimensions Workshop (IHDW)**

Please contact [S. Kanwar](#) or visit the [website](#) for more details.

*16-19 October 2008 - New Delhi, India*

**7th IHDP Open Meeting.** Contact: [L Mullin](#). [More](#)

Please visit the [IHDP](#) and [Open Meeting websites](#) for more information.

### World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

The 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the WCRP E-Zine is out, click [here](#) to read it.

Dr. Ghassem R. Asrar, formerly NASA's Science Deputy Associate Administrator, has been appointed as new Director of WCRP. You can see his biography on: [http://www.nasa.gov/about/highlights/asrar\\_bio.html](http://www.nasa.gov/about/highlights/asrar_bio.html).  
Dr. Asrar will start in March 2008.

*31 March-04 April 2008, Bordeaux, France*

**29<sup>th</sup> session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee**

[More](#).

*April 2008, Brest, France*

**Climate Driving of Marine Ecosystem Changes.** The IGBP/WCRP training workshop for young marine scientists has a special focus on impacts of climate variability on the marine environment. [More](#).

*May 2008, Gijon, Spain*

**Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean.** [More](#).

### Global change SysTem for Analysis, Research, and Training (START)

**AIACC Final Report and Summary Report**

Twenty-four regional and national assessments were executed under the project Assessments of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC) over the period 2002 - 2006. The AIACC Final Report and Summary Report present the achievements of the AIACC project in advancing scientific knowledge, enhancing scientific capacity, and improving links between science and policy communities to enable climate

change adaptation. The report also makes recommendations for better management of scientific assessment projects. AIACC is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed jointly by START and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). For more information: [website](#).

## 6 IN THE MEDIA



### SC DIVERSITAS

**Barbier EB**, Koch EW, Silliman BR, Hacker SD, Wolanski E, Primavera J, Granek EF, Polasky S, Aswani S, Cramer LA, Stoms DM, Kennedy CJ, Bael D, Kappel CV, Perillo GME. 2008. Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management with Nonlinear Ecological Functions and Values. *Science* **319**, 321. [pdf](#)

Jones, KE, Patel, NG, Levy, MA, Storeygard A, Balk D, Gittleman JL and P **Daszak**. Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. *Nature* vol 451, 21 Feb (2008), 990-4. [pdf](#)