DIVERSITAS at a GLANCE

A DIVERSITAS General
B DIVERSITAS Core Projects and Networks
C DIVERSITAS National Committees and Regional Networks
D Other Relevant Meetings and Products
E ESSP News

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 15 July 2010.

Please note: change the ‘_AT_’ by ‘@’ in the email addresses

A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

Contribution to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Global Biodiversity Outlook-3

The study "Biodiversity Scenarios: Projections of 21st century change in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services", by Paul Leadley et al. (co-Chair bioDISCOVERY), coordinated by DIVERSITAS, UNEP-WCMC, and the Secretariat of the CBD, was released, as part of the Global Biodiversity Outlook-3, GBO-3, by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 10 May at CBD-SBSTTA 14 in Nairobi.

GMBA Mountain Biodiversity Portal for GBIF

The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS released the Mountain Biodiversity Portal at CBD-SBSTTA 14, on 10 May, in collaboration with GBIF. Please see mountainbiodiversity.org; DIVERSITAS statement

DIVERSITAS involved in four side events at CBD-SBSTTA 14

DIVERSITAS co-organised four side events at CBD-SBSTTA 14: GBO-3 (11 May and 12 May), GEO BON (13 May), and IPBES (14 May).

Contribution to discussions on CBD post 2010 target

G. Mace et al. 2010. Biodiversity targets after 2010. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability. In press. This paper originated from discussions at SC-DIVERSITAS meetings and is co-authored by SC-DIVERSITAS members.


Contribution to the consultation on IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)

CBD-PreCOP10 IPBES science-policy forum

21-23 March 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Plenary science-policy dialog on IPBES with Japanese Vice-Minister of Environment, Mr Tajima; 300 participants organised by DIVERSITAS/Ministry of Environment, Govt of Japan, Secretariat of CBD. More

North American consultation on IPBES

27 April 2010, Washington DC, USA

USNC DIVERSITAS, UNEP Regional Office North America More

Publication

Larigauderie and Mooney: IPBES: moving a step closer to an IPCC-like mechanism for biodiversity, COSUST, in press
Side event on IPBES at CBD-SBSTTA14, 
Friday 14 May, Nairobi, Kenya
DIVERSITAS-IUCN-ICSU-IHDP, More

**Contribution to 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity**

**UNESCO IYB Biodiversity Science Policy Conference**
25-29 January 2010, Paris, France
This conference marked the launch of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) by UNESCO, one of the sponsors of DIVERSITAS.
A Larigauderie was invited to speak at the session on “Mainstreaming biodiversity into decision-making: Towards a biodiversity science policy”, co-sponsored by SCOPE, on the following topic: “Biodiversity science moving closer to decision making: experiences from international science programmes”.
The conclusions and recommendations of this Conference will be presented at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. More

**Trondheim/UN Conference "Getting the biodiversity targets right - working for sustainable development"**
1-5 February 2010, Trondheim, Norway
A Larigauderie and P Leadley represented DIVERSITAS and gave presentations respectively on the post 2010 biodiversity targets and on the biodiversity scenarios of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 of the CBD. More

**CBD-PreCOP10 science-policy forum**
21-23 March 2010, Nagoya, Japan
DIVERSITAS co-convened with the Government of Japan - Ministry of Environment, a CBD-COP10 Pre-Conference on three main topics: an Intergovernmental science-policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the post 2010 biodiversity targets and an Asian Pacific Biodiversity Observing Network. The recommendations (short report and long report) were presented at the Convention on Biological Diversity SBSTTA 14 meeting (10-21 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya).

**GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)**
GEO BON, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, is the biodiversity arm of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), co-led by DIVERSITAS, NASA, and EBONE (the European BON). Its goal is to coordinate the implementation of a global biodiversity observation system.

**GEO BON implementation plan meeting**
22-26 February 2010, Asilomar, California, USA
SC-GEO BON, GEO BON working groups and other stakeholders met to finalize the GEO BON implementation plan, which will be released at the Convention on Biological Diversity SBSTTA 14 meeting (10-21 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya).

**SC-DIVERSITAS meeting**
24-25 March 2010, Nagoya, Japan
The last meeting of the SC-DIVERSITAS was hosted by Japan back to back with the CBD-PreCOP10 science-policy forum. Discussions focused on implementation of projects and networks of DIVERSITAS and ESSP, on strategic science-policy activities of DIVERSITAS, and on updating the science plan of DIVERSITAS, first published in 2002.

**Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being (Larigauderie and Mooney, eds)**
The latest issue (May 2010; volume 2, issue 1-2) of the ESSP journal, Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, is entirely dedicated to Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being. Please see the editorial here and online edition here.

**B DIVERSITAS CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS**

**bioGENESIS**
DIVERSITAS welcomes Dr Makiko Mimura as the new Project Officer for bioGENESIS. The IPO is hosted by the Department of Biology at Kyusyu University, Japan.
Next SC-bioGENESIS meeting
19-20 July 2010, Bali, Indonesia
In conjunction with the conference of the Association of Tropical Biology Conservation (ATBC; 19-23 July 2010, Bali).

Symposium "Phylogeography, geography and evolutionary history in Latin America" at the ATBC conference
19-23 Jul 2010, Bali, Indonesia
Contact: L Lohmann

Eco-evolutionary approaches to understanding and predicting the response of species range to climate change
28-30 August 2010, Kyushu University, Japan
This is a joint workshop of bioGENESIS and bioDISCOVERY entitled “Eco-evolutionary approaches to understand and predict the response of species range to climate change”. This activity is part of the project “Monitoring and assessment of global biodiversity changes for achieving the post-2010 targets” supported by the Environmental Research & Technology Development Fund, Ministry of Environment, Japan. The workshop aims at developing collaborative efforts to bridge the gap between evolutionary and functional ecology to improve modelling changes in species distribution and abundance in response to climate change.
For more information, contact M Mimura or C Krug

bioDISCOVERY
DIVERSITAS welcomes Dr Cornelia Krug as the new Project Officer for bioDISCOVERY.
This is made possible thanks to CNRS, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique of France. This office is co-hosted by the DIVERSITAS Secretariat and by the University Paris-Sud 11 (Ecologie, Systématique et Evolution), France.

Release of GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 3 (GBO-3): A synthesis of global biodiversity scenarios for the CBD
P Leadley, co-Chair of the SC-bioDISCOVERY, led a synthesis of scenarios of biodiversity change over the 21st century for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in which several SC-bioDISCOVERY and SC-DIVERSITAS members were involved. The main messages of the scenarios synthesis have been incorporated into the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3) Report, launched on 10 May at CBD-SBSTTA 14, in Nairobi, Kenya. More

Improving the representation of biodiversity in vegetation modelling
March 2011, Paris
In 2009, the TRY (Refining plant functional classifications for earth system modelling) and BBS (Advanced prediction of Biome Boundary Shifts in regional and global dynamic vegetation models) initiatives joined forces to improve modelling of biodiversity complexity to contribute to the understanding how vegetation and ecosystems respond to global change.
A joint workshop, focussing on 1) Improving regional and global models of vegetation dynamics and ecosystem function and 2) Expanding and developing applications for the TRY global plant functional trait database, was held in Cape Town in October 2009. A document detailing the TRY Intellectual Property Guidelines was prepared and is available on http://www.try-db.org
The next joint workshop will be held in Paris in March 2011, with the themes "First products from the global plant trait data base" and “Towards a new generation of DGVM: integrating functional diversity into DGVM". For more information, contact C Krug.

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For more information, contact M Mimura or C Krug

ecoSERVICES
New books
Biodiversity, Ecosystem Functioning, and Human Wellbeing: An Ecological and Economic Perspective
Shahid Naeem, Daniel E. Bunker, Andy Hector, Michel Loreau and Charles Perrings (eds). Oxford University Press. More
To order hard copy of the book, please contact bookorders.uk@oup.com

bioSUSTAINABILITY
DIVERSITAS welcomes Thomas Bergendorff as the new Science Officer for bioSUSTAINABILITY. The International Project Office (IPO) is hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre and Department of Systems Ecology at Stockholm University, Sweden (Prof. T Elmqvist).

agroBIODIVERSITY
agroBIODIVERSITY has launched a new website. Click here to visit it.

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY
Meeting of AquaBase
5-6 June 2010, Santa Fe, USA
This meeting (upon invitation) is organised in conjunction with the North American Bentholological Society Meeting (6-11 June). Contact: M Palmer

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (G MBA)
G MBA/GBIF Mountain Biodiversity Portal online
10 May 2010, CBD-SBSTTA14, Nairobi, Kenya
The latest project of GMBA, to provide a Mountain Biodiversity Portal, in collaboration with Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF, is now available. You can now explore GBIFs biodiversity data for the mountains of the world virtually on an interactive map, and search mountain areas from region to globe, or select mountain life zones by range of elevation or thermal belts. Mountain areas are defined by ruggedness of terrain, using WORLDCLIM digital elevation data.
You are welcome to visit the Portal at www.mountainbiodiversity.org or to see a demo video
This mountain portal corresponds to a mandate from the CBD, as part of the implementation of its Programme of Work on mountain biodiversity.

G MBA-GBIF-ICIMOD training workshop
14-18 June 2010
The goal of this workshop is to improve relevant biodiversity data from the Himalayan region and to provide open access to high quality geo-referenced biodiversity information.

27-30 July 2010, Chandolin (Valais), Switzerland.
More

G MBA Workshop: “Geostatistics and Biodiversity Information in the Himalaya’s”
The reports of the G MBA workshop ‘Geostatistics and Biodiversity Information in the Himalayas’ and of the international mountain biodiversity conference on ‘Biodiversity and Land Use, Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Parks under Natural and Human Pressures of Global Change’, November 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal, are now available here

Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)
“Helping Islands Adapt - A Workshop on Regional Action to Combat Invasive Species”
12th-16th April 2010, Auckland, New Zealand
This initiative involved the organisation of an event with a number of government agencies from New Zealand and the USA at the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May in New York. More

C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS
DIVERSITAS National Committees meeting
13 October 2009, Cape Town, S-Africa
Following up on a meeting of the DIVERSITAS Full Members (12 October 2009), the first day of the Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference was dedicated to the Members of DIVERSITAS (Full and Affiliated Members) and representatives of countries willing to become a DIVERSITAS Members. The discussions were very fruitful and more information is available here.
China

22 January 2010, Beijing, China

The Chinese National Committee CNC-DIVERSITAS 2010 annual meeting was held on January 22, 2010 in Beijing, China, with a total of 17 members attending the meeting. The Secretary-General, Prof. K Ma reported the year’s work of CNC-DIVERSITAS in 2009 and outlined a work plan for 2010. The report focused on the progress of three projects; academic activities; publishing and international communications. More.

European Alliance

European Alliance of Global Change Research Committees (4th meeting)

September 2010, Bucharest, Romania

The European Alliance of Global Change Research committees provides a platform for an integrated approach to global change research linking the major international research programs WCRP, IGBP, IHDP and DIVERSITAS and in cooperation with ESSP. The next meeting will be organised by the Romanian National Committee for Global Environmental Change. More information; contact B Höll or D Balteanu.

Germany

2-3 March 2010, Berlin, Germany

The German National Committee on Global Change Research held a 2nd round table discussion on “Climate engineering – Responsibility of Sciences”.

More

Norway

The Norwegian Global Change Committee was reappointed in November 2009. One objective of the committee is to be advisory to the Research Council of Norway and to the four Global Environmental Change Programs DIVERSITAS, IGBP, IHDP and WCRP, as well to The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). More

Philippines

2nd Regional Symposium and Workshop organized by Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc. (OYSI)

26-27 October 2009, Musuan, Philippines

The 2nd Regional Symposium and Workshop organized by the Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc. (OYSI) in cooperation with Central Mindanao University and DIVERSITAS was conducted last October, on “Climate Change and Biodiversity”.

17-19 November 2010, Manila, Philippines

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are jointly organizing an International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change, with the collaboration of DIVERSITAS, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and World Wildlife Fund. D Faith and T Yahara, co-Chairs of bioGENESIS, and A-H Prieur-Richard will give presentations on various projects and activities of DIVERSITAS.

Switzerland

Have biodiversity losses bottomed out in Switzerland? Conference

22 April 2010, Zürich, Switzerland

In 2003, science ministers set the goal to stop biodiversity loss in Europe until 2010. The conference asked whether this goal had been reached. In collaboration with 80 experts, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum of the Swiss Academy of Sciences prepared a comprehensive assessment of the state of biodiversity in Switzerland. Based on best available data, various biodiversity aspects and trends since 1900 were analysed. With a few exceptions, strong biodiversity losses were documented until 1980. After that, losses were limited but not halted. The conference presented current facts and figures and discussed options for action. A new book was released there. More

Biodiversity: research and action needed beyond 2010

8–9 November 2010, Fribourg, Switzerland

Towards the end of the International Year of Biodiversity the SWIFCOB conference will discuss the future of biodiversity after 2010. The results will help in the advancement and implementation of the Swiss biodiversity strategy.

Insufficient spending for national habitat conservation in Switzerland

Latest cost estimates reveal that Switzerland would have to double its yearly spending in order to achieve a conservation status conforming to the existing law. The analysis was carried out by the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Pro Natura (NGO) and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum. Switzerland has nearly 6000 habitat sites with a national protection level. They cover about 2 percent of the territory, but the habitat quality is deteriorating. The study reveals that the administration is not sufficiently conforming to the legal requirements.
Furthermore, in order to restore the quality of the protected habitats to achieve their initial inventorisation status, an extra 1.5 billion USD would be necessary, in addition to the current yearly expenses. More.

United States
The US National Committee joined with the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) and the Encyclopedia of Life to organize a workshop requested by NSF as a background discussion for their new, decadal Dimensions of Biodiversity campaign. The NSF Research program will aim at better understanding and delimiting the taxonomic, genomic and functional dimensions of biodiversity. More

The USNC also collaborated with NCSE to sponsor a reception for the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) on January 22, 2010, as part of the CEDD annual meeting in Washington. At that event, USNC member Lynne Parenti gave a short talk about DIVERSITAS to the attendees; these collaborations will continue in order to increase awareness of DIVERSITAS in the U.S. academic and policy communities.


Vietnam
ASEM Workshop
5 January 2010, Brunei
Dr N Huu Ninh, Chairman of the Centre for Environment Research, Education and Development in Vietnam, delivered his talk on biodiversity, impacts, vulnerability and adaption to climate change during the Asem Workshop 2010 at the UBD Chancellor Hall. More

D OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCT

EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy)
EPBRS Meeting "Evolution and biodiversity"
13 – 15 April 2010, Majorca, Spain
DIVERSITAS participated in the organization of this meeting, and Rafael Zardoya, SC-bioGENESIS, gave a presentation. Download the recommendations of the meeting.

Conference “What kind of world would we want to hand on to our children? What research do we need to reach it?”
16-19 November 2010, Brussels, Belgium
In the context of the International Year for Biodiversity and under the Belgian EU presidency, the EPBRS, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform and the Belgian Science Policy Office are initiating a challenging project on ‘Positive Visions for Biodiversity’.

Asia Pacific Network for global change research (APN)
Latest APN Newsletter is now available.

Ecosystem Services Management in Asia (ECOSMAG) Synthesis Meeting at United Nations University, Institute of Advanced
25 – 26 February 2010, Yokohama, Japan
More

Other meetings
Conference at the Interface of Biodiversity Science, Policy and Application “Biodiversity Research - Milestones for Sustainability”
29-30 March 2010, Berlin, Germany
More

The International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM10)
11-17 April 2010, Cascais, Portugal
More
12th Annual BIOECON Conference, “From the Wealth of Nations to the Wealth of Nature: Rethinking Economic Growth”
27-28 September 2010, Venice, Italy (Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli)
The Conference targets researchers, environmental professionals, international organizations and policy-makers who are interested in working towards a better, more effective stewardship of natural capital. More

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.

Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP)
Welcome to Dr Ada Ignaciuk, new Science Officer for the Earth System Science Partnership.
Welcome to Dr Lucilla Spini, new Project Officer for the ESSP Joint Project on GEC and Human Health (GECHH). The IPO is hosted by the UNU-INWEH in Hamilton, Canada.

Position announcement (reference CCAFS/SO/2010)
Science Officer: Diagnosing vulnerability and analysing opportunities (based Nairobi, Kenya)
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) seeks to recruit a highly competent and dynamic science officer. More

SC-ESSP meeting
16-17 April 2010, Bonn, Germany
Contact: Martin Rice

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)
Latest IGBP Newsletter is now available here

Global change, climate and people
10-13 May 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland
The Earth System Science 2010 Conference presented recent advances in the understanding of Earth system dynamics and highlight new directions for analysing the interactions between humans and our environment. The conference was structured around three broad themes: Earth system modelling; Dynamics of biogeochemical cycles and climate; People and resources.
More

IMBER IMBIZO II - Second announcement: Integrating biogeochemistry and ecosystems in a changing ocean: Regional comparisons
10-14 October 2010, Crete, Greece
IMBER IMBIZO II will review current knowledge and identify key questions for future research on: elemental ratios and food quality, large-scale regional comparisons and food web sensitivity to enhanced stratification.

Global Land Project Open Science Meeting 2010
17-19 October 2010, Temple, USA
Land Systems, Global Change and Sustainability - Including joint day with UGEC Science Conference on: Sustainable land systems in the era of urbanization and climate change
More

IGBP Open Science Conference organized in collaboration with ESSP
Planet Under Pressure: new knowledge, new solutions
7-10 May 2012, London, UK
More

International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)
Latest IHDP Newsletter is now available here
The IHDP annual report 2009 is now available [here](#).

**Summer School “Ecosystem Vulnerability to Climate Change: Methods for Assessment, Observations, and Forecast”**

5-14 July 2010, Budapest, Hungary

The school comprises a blend of practical and theoretical short courses on aspect ecosystem vulnerability to climate change from perspectives of both natural and social science. The ultimate objective is to create an integrative perspective. To achieve this, some of Europe-leading scientists in the field were invited, renowned for their enquiries across disciplinary boundaries, and also aim to assemble a mixture of participants from different backgrounds and disciplines.

A downloadable description is available [here](#).

**UGEC 2010 Conference**

17-19 October 2010, ASU Campus, Arizona, USA

The International Conference on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change creates the first opportunity for a joint meeting and discussion between international scholars and practitioners who work at the interface of urban areas and global environment change. The UGEC Conference will work closely with the Global Land Project (GLP) Open Science Meeting, held October 17-19.

[More information](#).

**World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)**

Latest WCRP Newsletter is now available [here](#).

**31st Session of the JSC**

15-19 February 2010, Antalya, Turkey

**WCRP Open Science Conference "Climate Research in Service to Society"**

24-28 October 2011, Denver, USA.

WCRP will assemble for the first time ever its affiliated research community, and engage other key international research programmes, in a major Open Science Conference (OSC) in October 2011. The OSC will assess our current state of knowledge on climate variability and change, identify the most urgent scientific issues and research challenges, and ascertain how WCRP can best facilitate research and develop partnerships critical for progress.

**Challenge Program for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

The CCFAS launch Conference

4th May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

Building food security in face of climate change (at Word Agroforestry Center)

**Global Carbon Project (GCP)**

**Greenhouse Gases in the Earth system: Setting the agenda to 2030**

22-23 February 2010, London, United Kingdom

[More](#)

**2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting - From Observation to Prediction in the 21st Century**

22-26 February 2010, Portland, Oregon, USA

[More](#)

**IEA Bioenergy Task 38 - 2010 Annual Conference "Greenhouse gas emissions from bioenergy systems: impacts of timing, issues of responsibility"**

8 - 10 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[More](#)

Contact: Ms. Susanne Woess-Gallasch

**Toward a Biophysical Carbon Accounting in Africa - CarboAfrica final conference**

17-19 March 2010, Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo

The conference also dealt with CDM and REDD issues.
Teacher-scientist partnerships for climate change education: Results & perspectives
14-16 April 2010, Jena, Germany
CarboSchools open conference
More

Global Water System Project (GWSP)
8th GWSP SSC meeting and excursion to the Mekong Delta
25 - 29 October 2010, Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam
Contact: Janos J Bogardi

START
International Workshop - Call for Applications. “Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Urban Development Planning for Asian Coastal Cities”
23 August – 1 September 2010, Bangkok, Thailand
Co-organised by SEA-START and The East-West Center and sponsored by APN
More

2009/2010 START Grants for Global Environmental Change Research in Africa
START is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for research and assessments of global environmental change (GEC) in Africa in the context of the Joint Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). Read more about the Proposal and the Application Form.

Capacity Building for Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate in the Albertine Rift Region of Africa
More