



## **Biodiversity Research - Safeguarding the Future: A pre-COP9 scientific event**

Bonn, Germany, 13-16 May 2008

The governing body of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** will have its ninth meeting ("COP 9") in Bonn/Germany in May 19-30, 2008. To channel results and needs of biodiversity research into the political discussion, the associated scientific meeting "**Biodiversity Research – Safeguarding the Future**" will take place May 12 – 16 in Bonn (see [www.precop9.org](http://www.precop9.org)). The meeting is being organized by IUBS, DIVERSITAS, the host institutions in Bonn (Museum Koenig, NEES Institute, University Bonn), the German Science Foundation (DFG), the German Federal Foundation for the Environment (DBU), and Solar World.

### Presentation of the meeting:

As in the past, the COP meeting will negotiate predominantly biodiversity-related political issues, and there is increasing complaint about ignoring the importance of biodiversity research in the discussions and the resulting hindrance of basic and applied research into biodiversity by political regulations.

Following up on the successful event organised in the margins of COP8 entitled "Biodiversity: the Megascience in focus" (Curitiba, Brazil, March 15-19, 2006), this event will feature prominent biodiversity scientists on three key themes for CBD-COP delegates:

### **Symposium I: Acceleration of Biodiversity Assessment and Inventorying**

Main themes:

- The taxonomic impediment: Why is an acceleration of assessment and inventorying necessary?
- Examples for National Inventories
- The development of expert systems (automatized species identification): New tools for the future?
- Quantification of species diversity: Fast approaches?
- Availability of species-specific information: What has to be done?

### **Symposium II: Biodiversity: Functions and uses**

Biodiversity plays an important role in the development, the maintenance and the stability of ecosystems. Moreover, biological richness provides a wealth of products, services and other inputs to the society, including genetic resources. The workshop will focus on ecosystem functions and services, human use of biodiversity and ways to secure their future availability and development.

The workshop shall explore the current role and the future potential of biodiversity from several angles, including science, technology, economy and social issues. For instance, biological and economic impacts of ecosystem services will be discussed in the light of the economic mechanisms guaranteeing their provision. Furthermore, the many potential uses of biodiversity in managed systems, health care and bionic/biomimetic applications will be addressed. This will also include the indispensable national and international regulatory framework for a fair and equitable share of benefits provided by biodiversity.

### **Symposium III: Biodiversity Change – The 2010 Target and Beyond**

Biodiversity research and management are hampered by a lack of observation data describing the change of biodiversity at adequate resolution and specificity.

Such monitoring data are:

- needed to enhance scientific understanding of the processes and mechanisms which cause and accompany change of biodiversity.
- of high importance for the validation of predictive models.
- needed to raise public awareness of the economic and ecological relevance of biodiversity and its change for society.

There is a rich body of monitoring activities carried out by a wide spectrum of individuals and institutions. These observation data are, however, mostly not following harmonized protocols and standards, not entering integrated analysis, often not accessible. Their spatial and temporal resolution is usually not a result of systematic scientific planning.

Based on these observations DIVERSITAS and NASA have been mandated by GEOSS to lead the early stages for the development of a Global Biodiversity Observation System, that can “detect and analyse changes at all levels of biodiversity, integrate data from different provider communities, provide data, user-friendly tools and information by means of a shared IT data architecture, in a timely way, with global coverage at an adequate spatial resolution and accuracy for a range of user groups, for analysis, prediction and sustainable use and management of biodiversity.”

This symposium will discuss what is envisaged in terms of observations, revisit and discuss the 2010 biodiversity targets, and beyond.

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