



## Water & Forests

### *Fostering Human Health in a Changing Environment towards a Green Economy*

#### A Side Event at CBD/SBSTTA-15

Montreal, Canada, Tuesday 8 November 2011 – 18:15-19:45 – Room 3

*organized by*

the Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH) Joint Project, the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), DIVERSITAS, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Environment Canada

**with the kind support of  
DIVERSITAS**

*to celebrate the*

***International Year of Forests - 2011***

Forest ecosystems provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihood and well-being (*sensu* Aichi Target 14); however, the impact of global environmental change (GEC), through land-cover/land-use changes and climate change, on forests is jeopardizing the health benefits provided by these ecosystems, as well as in some cases exacerbating threats to human health posed by forests essentially through infectious diseases and physical hazards.

Within the framework of the Aichi Target 14, and taking into account the cross-cutting nature of “water” within the CBD Programmes of Work, in particular the POW on Forest Biodiversity (e.g., UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/8) and the increasing attention on the biodiversity/health nexus within CBD processes; this side event is intended as a knowledge-sharing opportunity:

- to inform SBSTTA delegates on current policy-relevant research on the role of forests in fostering human health in a changing environment, with a specific focus on water;
- to highlight the key role of the ecosystem (eco-health) approach in addressing the linkages between forests, water and human health in a changing environment;
- to promote the enhanced use of biodiversity in programmes contributing to human health and sustainable use  
*and*
- to foster bridges between the research and the policy communities, also within the framework of a green economy.

*The side event will also be an opportunity to convey the outcomes of the UNECE/FAO workshop “Payment for Ecosystem Services: What role for a green economy?” (UNECE/FAO Forest and Water Week, Geneva, Switzerland, 4-5 July 2011) and those of the GECHH 2011 Symposium “Global Environmental Change and Human Health: Healthy Forests for Life” organized in partnership with CNR-ISE and CNR-IRSA (Verbania, Lake Maggiore, Italy, 19-21 September 2011); as well as the ongoing work on “Wetlands and Human Health” within the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.*



Further information: [www.gechh.unu.edu](http://www.gechh.unu.edu) & [www.inweh.unu.edu](http://www.inweh.unu.edu)  
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## **Water & Forests**

### ***Fostering Human Health in a Changing Environment towards a Green Economy***

#### ***Programme***

***8 November 2011 – Room 3 – Level 1***

***18:15-18:30***

***Welcoming & Introductory Remarks***

***by***

**Prof. Mark Rosenberg, co-Chair GECHH Scientific Steering Committee**

**Dr. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Director, DIVERSITAS**

**18:30-18:40**

**Ecosystem services: forests and water fostering human health**

***International science initiatives and science-policy bridging***

**Dr. Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Deputy Director, DIVERSITAS**

**18:40-18:50**

**Water, forests and human health within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

***The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets***

**Ms. Kathryn Campbell, Programme Officer, SCBD; Parks Victoria, Australia**

**18:50-19:00**

**Forests, water and human health within the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

***Key Message 10: "Healthy wetlands mean healthy people and sustainable livelihoods"***

**Prof. Nick Davidson, Deputy Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**19:00-19:10**

**Human health, forests and water in a changing environment**

***The GECHH Project and the GECHH 2011 Symposium "Healthy Forests for Life"***

**Dr. Lucilla Spini, Executive Officer, GECHH, UNU-INWEH**

***19:10-19:45***

***Open-Floor Discussion***

**Moderated by Dr. Lucilla Spini, GECHH Executive Officer, UNU-INWEH**

***Concluding Remarks***

**Prof. Jo Mulongoy, Principal Officer, Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters, SCBD**

***Rapporteur***

**Ms. Krista Blackborow, Ecosystems and Biodiversity Priorities Division, Environment Canada**

***A Reception will follow the Side Event***

***Further information: [www.gechh.unu.edu](http://www.gechh.unu.edu) & [www.inweh.unu.edu](http://www.inweh.unu.edu)  
And/or email: Dr. Lucilla Spini at GECHH IPO at [spinil@inweh.unu.edu](mailto:spinil@inweh.unu.edu)***