



## 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 **31 October 2008**

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

### A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

First Announcement: **The Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference: "Biodiversity and Society: Understanding connections, Adapting to change"**, will take place 13-16 October 2009, in Cape Town, South Africa.

Deadline for on-line submission of symposium is 15 Sept 2008. Click [here](#) to read the symposium call.

The DIVERSITAS Annual Report 2007 is out; Click [here](#) to read the electronic version, or order a paper version from the secretariat.

DIVERSITAS/Projects Officer post available in Ireland. [More](#)

Rebecka Henriksson is the new science officer for the bioSUSTAINABILITY International Project Office now located at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. [More](#)

Mirjam Pulleman is the new science officer for the new agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office at Wageningen University. [More](#)

### International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)

*May 2008, Bonn, Germany*

#### **CBD-COP 9**

In April 2008 (Paris, France), a meeting with representatives of the IMoSEB consultation, and of the Global Strategy for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-up process decided to join forces, in an effort to build a single mechanism, referred to as "an **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**". The two initiatives held a joint side event at CBD-COP9 (May 2008,

Bonn, Germany) to present a joint concept note on the goals and modalities for this new platform. HA Mooney, Chair of SC-DIVERSITAS, was part of the panel.

The main next step is the organization by UNEP's Executive Director late 2008, of an intergovernmental/multistakeholder meeting to discuss modalities (governance, funding, and launch) of the "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". All relevant documents are posted [here](#)

## B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS



### bioGENESIS

*13-16 July 2007, Botanical Garden of the University of Zürich, Switzerland*

**"Origin and Evolution of Biota in Mediterranean Climate Zones".**

This symposium, which involved 110 participants from 18 countries in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania was organised by Elena Conti, member of the SC-bioGENESIS, and co-sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the bioGENESIS core project of DIVERSITAS and the Office of the Dean of Science of the University of Zürich. E Conti is currently editing a special issue of the *Journal of Biogeography* with a collection of 17 submitted papers stemming from the conference. See conference [website](#).

*18 April 2008, Kyushu University, Japan*

**An overview of various conservation tools: species richness estimation, distribution models and complementarity analyses.** Talk given by B Walther, bioGENESIS IPO, at the Faculty of Sciences in Japan Click [here](#) to see the PowerPoint presentation.

*11 May 2008, University of British Columbia, USA*

**Symposium Evolutionary Applications** during the CSEE/SCEE meetings (11-14 May 2008)

organized by: L Bernatchez and MTseng, sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing and bioGENESIS. [More](#)

*30 May 2008, Bonn, Germany*

**CBD-COP9 Global Taxonomy Initiative**

In the margins of the CBD COP 9, Joel Cracraft represented DIVERSITAS-bioGENESIS at the Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), with which DIVERSITAS has established formal ties. The meeting was chaired by Ch. Haeuser, member of the SC-bioGENESIS.

*5-8 June 2008 - Barcelona, Spain*

**Symposium "Dating divergence: the Tower of Babel of geneticists and paleontologists?" at the Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution (SMBE) 2008 Annual Meeting**

*Under the auspices of IUBS and bioGENESIS (DIVERSITAS), organized by: Rafael Zardoya (bioGENESIS SC member)* 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 brought 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

**SC-bioGENESIS annual meeting** (upon invitation only). Contact [B Walther](#). [More](#)

## bioDISCOVERY

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's annual meeting. [More](#)

25-27 September 2008 - Cegléd, Hungary

**GEO BON - BioSTRAT- DIVERSITAS meeting** untitled "European Biodiversity Research Strategy in support of the Global Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)". The objectives are to discuss a strategy to support the implementation of the conceptual approach for GEO BON at the European scale, and to propose research priorities to support the involvement of the EU research community into the implementation of GEO BON. The expected outcomes are a set of recommendations for the implementation of the GEO BON in Europe, to be published as EPBRs recommendations and to be included in the European Biodiversity Research Strategy.

10-11 October 2008 - Madrid, Spain (TBC)

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

## ecoSERVICES

28-30 May 2008, Tempe, USA

**Analyzing the role of agricultural transformation and invasive species in disease emergence.** Workshop in cooperation with the ecoHEALTH cross-cutting network.

May 2008, Bonn, Germany

### **CBD-COP 9**

ecoSERVICES contributed to the programme of work on **incentive measures at CBD-COP9** (see paper UNEP/CBD/COP/9/12/Add.2). This paper contains a section on recommendations on Payments for ecosystem services by the ecoSERVICES Core Project.

The document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Rev.1, on "Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives and engagement of stakeholders" acknowledges participation of the CBD secretariat at SC-DIVERSITAS meetings, and the collaboration with ecoSERVICES, in particular (Decision VIII/25 and VIII/26).

2-4 September 2008, Paris, France

**ANAEE Workshop: Scientific stakes in continental biosphere sciences - Which research infrastructures do we need to face them?**

Click [here](#) for more information.

28-30 September 2008 - Cambridge, UK

**10th Annual BIOECON Conference on the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Biodiversity Conservation Instruments** [More](#)

Contact: [J Stoop](#)

## agroBIODIVERSITY

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

**Symposium and Workshop: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes**

This symposium dealt with integrative approaches for studying biodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes. This was a meeting of the DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY network, co-sponsored by the US National Science Foundation BEST-net Research Coordinating Network, University of California Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute. The meeting produced a set of interdisciplinary research proposals and a review paper.

For more information, consult the workshop [website](#) or contact [L Jackson](#).

Click [here](#) for a summary of the workshop.

## freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

*19 August 2008, Stockholm, Sweden*

Symposium **Environmental Flows and Human Well-Being at World Water Week**

Co-organised by DIVERSITAS freshwaterBIODIVERSITY. [More](#)

Contact: [M McClain](#)

Some new projects have been endorsed by freshwaterBIODIVERSITY:

- BioCycle
- A European catchment data base on freshwater biodiversity
- BioFresh

Click [here](#) to read descriptions of the different projects.

## Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

Bruno Messerli, Professor Emeritus of Mountain Geography at the University of Bern, Switzerland, was nominated "Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science" (WAAS). Bruno Messerli is past co-Chair of the DIVERSITAS Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA).

*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. [More](#)

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 conference:

*23-25 July 2007*

**Global Change Research on African Mountains**

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**, at a workshop in Kampala, Uganda. Workshop proceedings are now available [here](#)

## ecoHEALTH

*28-30 May 2008 - Tempe, USA (invitation only)*

**Analyzing the Role of Agricultural Transformation and Invasive Species in Disease Emergence**

The aim of this workshop was to bring together a group of interdisciplinary researchers from four fields - infectious disease ecology, invasive species biology, agricultural science and environmental economics - to obtain a better understanding of the role of agricultural transformation in the emergence of infectious diseases. The workshop was made possible by the US-NSF BESTNet Research Coordinated Network, to C. Perrings. [More](#)

To see the newly endorsed ecoHEALTHproject, called EREMIBA, click [here](#) or contact [JF Guéquan](#).

## C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS



### China

*01 April 2008, Beijing, China*

#### **Launch of the 2008 Annual Checklist of Catalogue of Life**

Both global and China 2008 Annual Checklist of the Catalogue of Life were launched on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, in Beijing, China. The first edition of China Annual Checklist comprises 44141 species of bryophyte, fern, seed plant, amphibian, reptile, fish, bird, mammal and spiders distributed in China. Involvement by China Node marks the start of a new phase in Species 2000.

*17-19<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Jinhua, China*

#### **The Eighth National Symposium on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in China: Biodiversity and Ecological Safety**

The 8<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Jinhua, Zhejiang Province, China, under the theme 'Biodiversity and Ecological Safety'. For more information, visit the web site of the DIVERSITAS Chinese National Committee: [www.cncdiversitas.org/biodiv8/](http://www.cncdiversitas.org/biodiv8/).

### France

Institut Français de la Biodiversité (IFB): Bilan d'activité 2001-2008. Click here to read the [pdf](#) (French version), summarising 8 years of activity of the IFB. The IFB has now been replaced by the FRB, Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité.

To read the report of the 5<sup>ème</sup> journées de l'IFB, click [here](#) (French version)

*4-5 November 2008, France*

#### **International Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity: Défis d'aujourd'hui, agricultures de demain".**

This event is part of the official events of the French Presidency of the EU. agroBIODIVERSITY members will be associated to this symposium. [More](#)

*17-21 November 2008*

**Scientific days "Industry meets Science" and EPBRS meeting.** Co-organised by FRB, Orée and DIVERSITAS. [More](#)

### Germany

*3.-4. April 2008, Bad Honnef, Germany*

**4<sup>th</sup> National Colloquium.** The German National Committee for Global Change Research (NKGCF) held its 4<sup>th</sup> National Colloquium 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, discussed this topic together with 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. [More](#)

### 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

*May 2008, Diliman, Philippines*

**A National Committee Meeting for LTER and DIVERSITAS** was held last May 2, 2008 at the Institute of Biology, University of the Philippines Diliman. The meeting was presided by Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, National Committee Chairman. The accomplishments for CY 2006-2007 and plans for CY 2008-2009 were presented. An Island and National Seminar-Workshop has been planned. Apo Island in Visayas was approved as new LTER and biodiversity site representing an aquatic ecosystem with Dr. Angel Alcala of Siliman University as site coordinator.

The **Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Asian Pteridology and Garden Show** was completed and distributed to the delegates.

## Spain

*10-13 February 2009, Blanes, Spain*

**National Congress of Biodiversity**, [More](#) (in Spanish)

## Switzerland

### **New publication on biodiversity & climate change analyses synergies and conflicts**

A new position paper issued by the Swiss Biodiversity Forum and ProClim offers guidance to promote synergy regarding biodiversity conservation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The publication contains fact sheets on various topics such as use of hydropower, forestry, extensification of agriculture, and others. Each sheet analyses the synergy potential, possible conflicts and offers recommendations.

The publication can be downloaded in German or French from: <http://www.biodiversity.ch/publications>

To order a free printed copy contact: [biodiversity@scnat.ch](mailto:biodiversity@scnat.ch)

### **Access & benefit sharing in the context of academic non-commercial research**

In collaboration with the Biodiversity Forum Switzerland, the Swiss Academy of Sciences just released a French and a Spanish version of the «Good Practice Manual on Access and Benefit Sharing for Academic Research». This informative tool on how to correctly access genetic resources from abroad for academic research according to the CBD was originally published in English in 2006.

To download a pdf-version, visit the **download** section of <http://abs.scnat.ch>

*31 October 2008, Natural History Museum of Bern, Switzerland*

### **SWIFCOB 8**

La biodiversité dans la perspective des changements globaux SWIFCOB 8 - Dialogue entre la science et la pratique organised by the Swiss Biodiversity Forum. [More](#) (in French or in German)

### Publications:

Hotspot, the Forum's biannual journal (available in French and German)

<http://www.biodiversity.ch/publications/hotspot/>

Visions on biodiversity research in Switzerland

<http://www.biodiversity.ch/publications/visions/>

## D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS

### SC-DIVERSITAS

Jones KE, Patel NG, Levy MA, Storeygard A, Balk D, Gittleman JL and Daszak P. 2008. Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. *Nature*. 451 (7181)

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](#)

### bioDISCOVERY

Group on Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network

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 GEO BON: Towards a global biodiversity observation network (p 79). Please download at: <http://earthobservations.org>.

### ecoSERVICES

Duffy E, Cardinale BJ, France KE, McIntyre PB, Thébault E and M L. 2007. The functional role of biodiversity in ecosystems: incorporating trophic complexity. *Ecology Letters*. 10 522-538 [pdf](#)

### GMBA

Körner C. 2008. Beyond counting: Biodiversity drives system Earth. ESSP newsletter France/Lettre pigb-pmrc France, 21: 90-97 [pdf](#)

A lecture given by C. Körner at: Global Environmental Change : Regional Challenges. An Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) Open Science Conference - 09-12 November, Beijing, China

## E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS



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

The APN Newsletter (Volume 14, Issue 2) is now available for downloading through this [link](#).

#### **APN's 2008 Call for Comprehensive Research Proposals**

Closing date: 29 August. The APN invites you to submit proposals for Comprehensive Research Projects (CRPs) that will run up to three years during Phase III of the CAPaBLE Programme from April 2009. This Call specifically targets capacity enhancement of leading researchers in developing countries to produce comprehensive scientific information on climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability which are made available for policy-makers in developing countries and will also contribute to international scientific exercises such as the IPCC. For more information on this Call and to view guidelines for application, [More](#)

### American Society of Lymnology and Oceanography (ASLO)

25 January 2009 - 29 January 2009 - Nice, France

**2009 Aquatic Sciences Meeting: A Cruise through Nice Waters.** [More](#)

The meeting will cover a wide range of biodiversity related topics.

### European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT)

The 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the Edit Newsletter is out; click [here](#)

15 October 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark

EDIT, an infrastructure currently in its project phase but aiming to start operations at sustainable level in 2011, aims to sign co-operation MoUs with international networks/infrastructures and have this co-operation running as of 2009. A workshop is thus planned for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008, in Copenhagen, Denmark,

to improve contacts and create a platform to discuss and agree how the collaboration will better suit all parties. [More](#)

## European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

*17-21 November 2008, Paris, 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.

The EPBRS meeting is part of the official list of events under the French Presidency of the European Union.

## WWF and TNC

WWF and TNC are pleased to announce the release of **Freshwater Ecoregions of the World**, a new global freshwater framework. Please visit [www.feow.org](http://www.feow.org) for more information, maps, and downloads.

## International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)

The final report of the International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), endorsed in Johannesburg by delegates from over 60 countries, was released on 15 April 2008. The assessment was initiated by the World Bank and the FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organization) to evaluate how to make better use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology to reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and foster equitable and sustainable development. To access the report, click [here](#)

## Greenfacts

### **GreenFacts Digest on Agriculture and Development**

GreenFacts has released an official reader-friendly overview of the IAASTD, which is available on the [GreenFacts website](#). [More on GreenFacts publications](#)

DIVERSITAS is a collaborating partner of Greenfacts.

## Inter American Institute for global change research (IAI)

The IAI newsletter is out, click [here](#)

## International Council for Science (ICSU)

ICSU has announced the appointment of Professor Deliang Chen as new Executive Director, as of 1 February 2009, following the retirement of Professor Thomas Rosswall. [More](#)

ICSU latest Newsletter. Click [here](#)

*20-24 October 2008, Maputo, Mozambique (upon invitation only)*

### **ICSU 29th General Assembly**

Hosted by the Scientific Research Association of Mozambique.

## IUCN

*5-14 October 2008 - Barcelona, Spain*

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

## MARBIF



## SCOPE

Policy briefs published by UNESCO, SCOPE, and UNEP: Policy Brief No. 6 on Livestock in a Changing Landscape: <http://www.icsu-scope.org/>

## 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

*05 June 2008, Bonn, Germany*

### **UNFCCC-SBSTA 28 meeting**

The ESSP, its Parent Programmes (DIVERSITAS, IGBP, IHDP, and WCRP), the regional inter-governmental research networks (APN and IAI), and the IPCC made a presentation to the Parties at the UNFCCC-SBSTA 28 in Bonn on 5 June, on emerging science in order to enhance dialogue between the research community and the Parties. Agenda, presentations and summary of the chair can be downloaded from the [UNFCCC website](#). UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); SBSTA: Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

*23-25 May 2008, Potsdam, Germany*

### **ESSP Retreat**

An ESSP retreat was hosted by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Germany (J Schellnhuber) on 23-25 May 2008. The primary objective of the retreat was to take stock of ESSP review (to be available soon on the ICSU web site) recommendations by ICSU and IGFA, and begin developing an ESSP strategy.

*30 June-2 July 2008, Oxford, UK*

### **SC-ESSP**

This was the second annual meeting of the SC-ESSP, under the chairmanship of R. Leemans. Following reports from all ESSP projects (GCP, GECAFS, GWSP, GECHH, START and MAIRS), the meeting discussed the new ESSP-CGIAR Challenge Programme, and the recommendations of the ESSP retreat, and worked in break-out groups to draft a strategic plan for the ESSP.

*19-21 July 2008, Piracicaba, Brazil*

### **Bioenergy and Earth System Sustainability.**

Contact: [P Canadell](#) and [JP Ometto](#) [More](#)

## Global Carbon Project (GCP)

*23-25 July 2008, Piracicaba, Brazil*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Scientific Steering Committee of the GCP**

Contact: [P Canadell](#) and [S Dhakal](#)

*24-26 September 2008, Accra, Ghana*

### **Africa and the Carbon Cycle**

*6-8 October 2008, Monaco*

### **The Ocean in a high CO<sub>2</sub> world-II**

## Global Water System Project (GWSP)

The **GWSP Annual Activity Report 2007-2008** is available online now.

To download the file, click [here](#). The Annual Activity Report for 2006-2007 is also available [in Chinese](#)

*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 focused on methods and tools for adaptive river basin management. The sessions referred 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. For future summer schools and GWSP Activity see: [More](#)

## Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS)

**GECAFS Report No. 5**

**Indo-Gangetic Plain Science Plan and Implementation Strategy**

[PDF \(1,781 Kb\)](#)

*02-04 April 2008 - Oxford, UK*

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

The conference on Food Security and Environmental Change held in Oxford, UK on 2-4 April 2008 attracted over 230 participants from 50 countries, and brought together researchers and policy representatives to discuss issues of synergism between the two communities. Among the major conclusions of the event is the recognition of the need for a whole food system approach instead of a focus on agricultural practices. The conference also highlighted the importance of food trade in reducing vulnerability to environmental change. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of 'Environmental Science and Policy', and conference presentations are available on <http://www.gecafs.org/FoodConferencePresentations.htm>

## International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

The 71th issue of the IGBP newsletter is out, click [here](#).

Prof. Sybil Seitzinger has been appointed as incoming IGBP Executive Director. Sybil is currently Director of the Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program, Rutgers University and has been a visiting Professor at Rutgers University, Sybil will start as Executive Director on 1 Sept. 2008.

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

**4th IGBP Congress: Sustainable Livelihood in a Changing Earth System.** About 380 delegates from 65 countries attended the Congress and contributed to the development of IGBP's scientific agenda for the period 2008-2013, with a focus on how IGBP can better contribute to sustainable solutions including mitigation, innovation and adaptation. The Congress resulted in "The Cape Town Declaration on Science for Environmental Sustainability" which outlined an enhanced plan of international collaboration to pursue science that will help achieve sustainable development of common, global resources. As part of an outreach effort, local students were invited to participate in a public poster session. A poster contest was held, and the awards for best posters went to N. Rabalais (expert poster on Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico) and Juergen Weichselgartner (public poster on LOICZ). Speaker presentations are available on IGBP's FTP site. [More](#)

*28-31 July 2008, Geesthacht, Germany*

**LOICZ-IGBP/IHDP**: SCOR-LOICZ Working Group on Harmful Algal blooms-Eutrophication.

Contact, LOICZ [IPO](#)

*11-16 August 2008, Ankara, Turkey*

**IMBER-IGBP:** International Summer School on E2E EcoModel: Analysis of End-to-End Food Webs and Biogeochemical Cycles. [More](#)

*14-16 September 2008, Athens, Greece*

**PAGES-IGBP/MedCLIVAR-WCRP:** Extreme Climate Events during Recent Millennia and their Impact on Mediterranean Societies. [More](#)

*29-31 October 2008, Shanghai, China*

**PAGES-IGBP:** PAGES Global Monsoon Symposium - "Global Monsoon and Low-Latitude Processes: Evolution and Variability".

Contact: [C Weng](#) [.More](#)

*06-08 October 2008, Monaco*

**SCOR/IOC/IGBP/IAEA Symposium on the Ocean in a High CO<sub>2</sub> World.**

Contact: [E Urban](#)

### International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)

*19-20 June 2008, Santa Barbara, USA*

**IDHP, Second Science Policy Dialogue Workshop:** "Energy, Sustainability and Societal Change".

During the workshop, an international group of about 30 experts, among them leading scholars in the field of energy and stakeholders from both civil society and policy, convened in Santa Barbara to engage in an open dialogue on energy issues of mounting global importance. [More](#)

*26-30 April 2009, Bonn, Germany*

**7<sup>th</sup> IHDP Open Meeting.** The 7<sup>th</sup> International Science conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (Open Meeting) originally scheduled for 15-19 October 2008 in India, will take place from April 26-30 2009 in Bonn. The new venue will be the former German Parliament premises (World Conference Center Bonn) at the United Nations Campus.

Contact: [L Mullin](#) [.More](#)

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

### World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

The 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the WCRP E-Zine is out, click [here](#).

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

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

At the annual JSC meeting in Arcachon, progress in implementing the WCRP Strategic Framework 2005-2015 and its future directions were discussed. Professor Tony Busalacchi is newly elected Chair of the WCRP-JSC, Dr David Griggs is Vice-Chair. [More](#)

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

START's 2009 Call for Pre-Proposals for the Africa Small Grants Program

This Call is issued to scientists in Africa who intend to conduct research on global environmental change. Grants generally do not exceed US\$15,000. The Pre-Proposals are due at the International START Secretariat by midnight (US Eastern Time) on 15 August 2008.

[More information and application materials and instructions.](#)