



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 **31st January 2009**.

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

A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference (OSC2) 13-16 October 2009 – S-Africa

The DIVERSITAS OSC2 “Biodiversity and Society: Understanding connections, Adapting to change”, will take place 13-16 October 2009, in Cape Town, South Africa. (www.diversitas-osc.org)

The call for symposium proposals, now closed, was very successful with more than 100 symposium proposals received, for 25 slots in the programme. Results of the symposium reviews will be announced end December/early January.

Major deadlines :

Second announcement: January 2009

Call for abstracts (oral and poster presentations): January-**31st March 2009 (deadline)**.

Registration will open on January 2009 – Early rate until 31st July 2009

Contact : [Manuelle Rovillé](#)

IPBES : Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

10-12 November 2008, Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia

Following up on the final recommendation of the IMoSEB consultation (Montpellier, November 2007), the Executive Director of UNEP convened an ad hoc intergovernmental and multi stakeholder meeting to discuss all aspects of the proposed **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** (IPBES; 10-12 November 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). DIVERSITAS was represented by Prof. Harold Mooney, Prof. Charles Perrings, and Dr. Anne Larigauderie. [Report](#) of the meeting and [more](#)

GEO V Plenary

19-20 November 2008, Bucharest, Romania

The implementation overview of GEO BON was presented for acceptance at the annual plenary meeting of GEO, GEO V, in Bucharest, Romania, by Anne Larigauderie, Executive Director DIVERSITAS and Nick King, Executive Secretary GBIF, on behalf of the GEO BON interim steering committee. Following expressions of support by a series of delegations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, UK, USA and ICSU), the document was adopted by the plenary. [More](#) and [more](#)

SC-DIVERSITAS 2009

8-10 February, Washington, DC; USA

The next annual meeting of the SC-DIVERSITAS will take place 8-10 February 2009, in Washington, DC, USA. It will be hosted by the US National Academy for Sciences, and be followed by the Darwin Symposium (see [USA](#) below), organised by the US DIVERSITAS National Committee, which will feature many SC-DIVERSITAS members.

Conference “Climate change: global risks, challenges and decisions”

10-12 March 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

Two DIVERSITAS related sessions will be held at this upcoming congress: “Impact of climate change on the delivery of ecosystem services”, Chair: Hal Mooney (Chair SC-DIVERSITAS); and “Biodiversity: Enhancement of resilience or Facilitating transformation”, co-chaired by Mark Stafford-Smith, and Paul Leadley (co-Chair bioDISCOVERY). [More](#)

New Chair for freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Committee

DIVERSITAS welcomes Prof Margaret A Palmer, Director of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland, USA, as new Chair of the freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Cross-cutting Network (Click [here](#) for a short bio, and [here](#)) DIVERSITAS thanks Prof Robert J Naiman, from the University of Washington, for his commitment and work as Chair of the freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Cross-cutting Network.

New Chair for oceanLIFE

DIVERSITAS welcomes Prof Carlos Duarte, Research Professor, Instituto Mediterraneo de Estudios Avanzados (IMEDEA), Spanish Research Council - UIB, Balearic Islands, Spain as new Chair of a new marine biodiversity cross-cutting network of DIVERSITAS, called oceanLIFE. [More](#)

B DIVERSITAS CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS



bioGENESIS

10-11 November 2008, FAPESP São Paulo, Brazil

“Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific and Social Aspects”, organized by **Lúcia G. Lohmann and Carlos Joly**. The objective of this symposium was to present latest advances in evolutionary biology and biodiversity conservation to the Brazilian research community. Talks by 16 scientists (encompassing most members of the SC-bioGENESIS) plus a number of Brazilian scientists) presented scientific advances in evolutionary biology as well as potential applications of evolutionary biology and biodiversity conservation. This symposium was jointly funded by FAPESP, CNPq, bioGENESIS/DIVERSITAS and Natura. [More](#) and [more](#)

12-14 November 2008, Ubatuba, Brazil

SC-bioGENESIS annual meeting, co-chaired by Michael J. Donoghue and Tetsukazu Yahara. The main objectives of the SC meeting were to finish writing the bioGENESIS Science Plan, and discuss on-going and future implementation activities.

14-19 November 2008, Bonn, Germany

Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing.

bioGENESIS was a co-sponsor of this event, organised by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL).

[More](#)

bioDISCOVERY

5-6 November 2008, Madrid, Spain

SC-bioDISCOVERY, co-chaired by Neville Ash, Norbert Jürgens and Paul Leadley. The main objectives of this annual SC meeting, convened by Miguel Araujo, were to finalise the bioDISCOVERY Science Plan, and discuss on-going and future implementation activities, particularly in the context of GEO BON, the CBD 2010 Targets, the GBO-3 and TEEB. [More](#)

agroBIODIVERSITY

New book: “Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Economic Development” eds. Unai Pascual (SC-agroBIODIVERSITY), Melinda Smale and Andreas Kontoleon, Routledge.

This book reflects current developments in the economics of agrobiodiversity and focuses its attention on the role agrobiodiversity can have for economic development. As a new and rapidly expanding subfield at the interface of ecological, agricultural and development economics this volume covers topics that include the economic modelling of agrobiodiversity, policy and governance solutions for the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, contracts, markets and valuation. [More](#)

23-26 September 2008, Hopland, California, USA

Meeting of the agroBIODIVERSITY Cross-cutting Network

This workshop was organized as a follow-up to the agroBIODIVERSITY workshop held at UC Davis, April 2008 (40 participants), and involved a smaller group of SC-agroBIODIVERSITY members and UC Davis graduate students, from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. The main objective of the meeting was to further discuss the development of specific hypotheses, approaches and tools for studying the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services and resilience within and across agricultural landscapes, including environmental and socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity change.

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

24-25 November 2008, Oxford, UK

Wetland and Aquatic Ecosystems: Their functions and values - A knowledge exchange workshop for research scientists and practitioners from Europe and Southern Africa

This meeting aimed at providing a forum for an international exchange of views on the subject of the functionality and value of wetlands and aquatic ecosystems, in Europe and Southern Africa. A publication is planned to come out of this workshop. More information: [Caroline Sullivan](#)

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

15-16 November 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal

GMBA workshop: Geostatistics and Biodiversity Information in the Himalayas

An initiative led by the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment of DIVERSITAS in cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The aim of the workshop was to show the benefits of geo-referenced biodiversity data, for integrated analysis and spatial visualization of biodiversity information in relation to climate, land use, physiography and other important parameters. The ultimate aim would be to provide easy and open access to biodiversity information of the Himalayas via GBIF/GMBA Mountain Biodiversity Portal and the Mountain Geo-Portal of ICIMOD.

[More](#)

New paper: Agricultural Land Use and Biodiversity in the Alps: How Cultural Tradition and Socioeconomically Motivated Changes Are Shaping Grassland Biodiversity in the Swiss Alps

Eds M. Fischer, K. Rudmann-Maurer, A. Weyand, and J. Stöcklin (2008). Mountain Research and Development 28(2):148-155

Order pdf [here](#)

ecoHEALTH

30 November – 5 December 2008, Merida, Mexico

International EcoHealth forum 2008. [More](#)

Members of the SC-ecoHEALTH organised sessions and gave the following presentations:

- Session Zoonoses 1 and 2: Ecology of zoonotic disease emergence (P Daszak, USA)
- Emergence of the rodent-borne hemorrhagic fevers: synergistic effects of climate change and disturbance (J N Mills, USA)
- What is the role of tourism and research in emergence of novel pathogens in ape populations? (I Rwengo, Uganda)
- Nipah virus in Bangladesh: is there the potential for a global pandemic? (P Daszak, USA)

New SCOPE and DIVERSITAS book: Biodiversity Change and Human Health: From Ecosystem Services to Spread of Disease, Eds. Osvaldo E Sala, Laura A Meyerson and Camille Parmesan. Island Press.

SCOPE and DIVERSITAS are pleased to present this newly published volume synthesizing findings of experts from a wide range of disciplines and countries on new human health challenges, such as the (re)emergence of infectious diseases, the increasing scarcity of clean water, the accumulation of toxic substances in soils and in the atmosphere, related to increased human pressure on the environment, and on biological diversity, in particular.

C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS



France

4-5 November 2008, Montpellier, France

International Conference Biodiversity and Agricultures

This conference, convened by France, under the French Presidency of the European Union, involved scientists and policy-makers who addressed four themes:

- Ecosystem services and agriculture
- Agriculture, biodiversity and society: the footprint and the drivers; north/south perspectives
- Agriculture and biodiversity in complex landscapes: pointers towards new policies
- The way forward for science

Download [here](#) the conference conclusions by R. Barbault (Chair of the Organisation Scientific Committee; in French)

18-21 November 2008, Paris, France

Biodiversity and Industry

The Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB), and the EPBR co-convened this meeting whose goal was to bring together the academic and business sectors to define research priorities on biodiversity and its sustainable use by industry. The meeting recommendations will be available shortly on <http://www.epbrs.org/>

New report by the FRB and Orée: Integrating biodiversity into business strategies. Download [here](#) the pdf.

Germany

2-3 October 2008, Berlin, Germany

The coordination office of NKGCF organised a **German-US conference "Tough Choices – Land Use under a Changing Climate"**. The conference was instigated by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF). [More](#)

October 2008, Germany

The German National Committee on Global Change Research (NKGCF) has updated and developed its website. [More](#)

Morocco

25-26 November 2008, Marrakech, Morocco

Climate change in the Maghreb: thresholds and limits to adaptation.

Organised by the University of Marrakech and its partners (NC DIVERSTAS Morocco, CDRT, DMN, START, OSS), with the support of the Climate Change and Adaptation in Africa program (CCAA).

The overall objective of this conference was to consider strategies for adapting to climate change, in particular to explore the potential barriers to adaptation that may limit the ability of societies in the Maghreb countries to adapt to climate change and to identify opportunities for overcoming these barriers. [More](#) and [more](#)

The Netherlands

21-23 January 2009, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The workshop **Future climate-change response research: Learning from IPCC's Fourth Assessment (upon invitation)**, will take place at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam. See [ESSP](#) section.

Philippines

17-20 November 2008, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

FORTROP II International Conference, "Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World"

Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, Chair of the DIVERSITAS Committee of the Philippines, presented a paper entitled "**Inventory and Conservation of Endangered Endemic and Economically Important Flora of Hamiguitan Range National Park, Southern Philippines**".

Together with Dr. Paciente A. Cordero, DIVERSITAS Philippines National Committee member, Dr. Victor B. Amoroso promoted the ILTER-DIVERSITAS Science Plan during the Samar State University Island Consultation in the Visayas Region in the Philippines on 14 November 2008.

21-23 November 2008, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

7th EAP-ILTER meeting

Dr. Victor B. Amoroso presented a paper on "**Philippines-LTER initiative in Climate Change Adaptation**".

Portugal

13-14 November 2008, Lisbon, Portugal

Chairs of all European National Committees of IGBP (incl. Russia) met to discuss the establishment of a European Chapter of IGBP, or ESSP. Contact: [Bettina Höll](#)

Slovak Republic

29 September – 2 October 2009, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

15th International Symposium on Problems of Landscape Ecological Research "LANDSCAPE - Theory and Practice"

Download [here](#) the first circular of the symposium.

Switzerland

19 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

Access and Benefit Sharing – Challenges & Solutions for Academic Research, side event COP9, organized by the Academy of Sciences and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum.

Non-commercial academic research considerably contributes to conservation and monitoring of biodiversity in user and providing countries. It also plays an important role in education, knowledge transfer and capacity building. Rigorous ABS standards for non-commercial research will be counterproductive not only for science, but also for providing countries, since less research knowledge and benefits will be generated. Representatives from developing and industrialized countries discussed the issue and elements for standardized Material Transfer Agreements for non-commercial research were presented. [More](#)

31 October 2008, Natural History Museum of Bern, Switzerland

Swiss Forum on Conservation Biology SWIFCOB 8

La biodiversité dans la perspective des changements globaux

Organising committee : Markus Fischer, Université Berne, Paul Imbeck, Canton de Bâle-Campagne

Daniela Pauli, Forum Biodiversité Suisse Sarah Pearson, Office Fédéral de l'Environnement (OFEV) Christoph Ritz, ProClim.

[More](#)

USA

11-12 February 2009, Washington, DC

"Twenty-first Century Ecosystems: Systemic Risk and the Public Good"

The National Academy of Sciences and its US National Committee for DIVERSITAS (Chair: Sir Peter Crane) are convening this symposium in honor of the **200th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin**. The goal of the symposium is to focus attention on both the opportunities for designing policies that strengthen and make use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the dangers of pursuing policies that put ecosystems at risk. The symposium will take place immediately following the annual SC-DIVERSITAS meeting, hosted by the US National Academy for Sciences. For registration, and more info visit the [USNC/DIVERSITAS website](#), or contact [Avihai Ostchega](#).

E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS



17-21 November 2008, Paris, France

European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRs)

DIVERSITAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRs) to strengthen collaboration on science-policy issues related to biodiversity.

21-24 October 2008, Maputo, Mozambique

29th ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 114 National Members and 29 International Scientific Unions of ICSU, sponsor organisation of DIVERSITAS, approved two new programmes, on 'Ecosystem Change and Human Well-being' and 'Integrated Research on Disaster Risk' and elected Professor Yuan Tseh Lee, a Nobel Prize winning chemist from China-Taipei as ICSU's future President. [More](#)

1-3 October 2008, Mexico City

IGFA Annual meeting

The International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA) convened its annual meeting in Mexico, with active participation from DIVERSITAS, partner GEC-research programme (IGBP, IHDP and WCRP), ESSP, START and the APN and IAI. As well as science highlights and financial updates from the programmes and ESSP, there were thematic sessions that focused on key environmental change issues (from a global and Mexican perspective) on human health, food and energy, and the water cycle.

5-14 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain

IUCN World Conservation Congress

DIVERSITAS (Dr Bruno Walther) presented a booth at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. [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.

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

5 November 2008, Lund, Sweden

IGBP fast track: Planet in 2050

This summit of high profile experts from 22 countries confirmed that climate change, water and food scarcity, energy security and dangerous pollution are among urgent and accelerating problems across all aspects of the Earth system. Convened by the IGBP (as a fast track activity), summit participants noted the alarming fact that global carbon emissions have been increasing faster than any of the IPCC's scenarios from just 5 years ago, according to recent measurements.

Workshop on Sustainable Water and Land Management in Semi-Arid Regions

In conjunction with the IGBP Officers' meeting in Egypt, the IGBP and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology organised a workshop on Sustainable Water and Land Management in Semi-Arid Regions.

International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)

26-30 April 2009, Bonn, Germany

7th IHDP Open Meeting

16-17 October 2008, New Delhi, India

SC-IHDP

The SC- IHDP met in New Delhi, India. Major highlights included the launch of the Earth System Governance Project as a new IHDP core project and the Integrated Risk Governance project as a Pilot Science Project.

11-16 October 2009, New Delhi, India

IHDW Trains Young and Mid-Career Researchers

Researchers from around the planet met in New Delhi to participate in the International Human Dimensions Workshop (IHDW). Aimed at training the young and mid-career human dimensions researchers, the IHDW is a capacity development activity that takes place every two years and is planned and carried out by the IHDP.

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

[Download](#) the 11th issue of the WCRP E-Zine

6-9 April 2009, University of Maryland, USA

30th session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

The 30th session of the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) for the WCRP will be held at the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC) of the University of Maryland, USA, from 6 to 9 April 2009.

Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP)

13-14 March 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

SC-ESSP

The next SC-ESSP, chaired by Rik Leemans, will convene in Copenhagen, 13-14 March 2009. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the climate change congress, with major input from ESSP and the global change programmes, including DIVERSITAS. The main goal of the SC-ESSP meeting is to finalise the drafting of the strategic plan, which will include grand scientific challenges and mechanisms to engage with the wider community.

ESSP Journal

In September 2009, the ESSP will launch a high quality, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal on Earth System Science. This journal will provide a valuable outlet for the science of the programmes and projects, including that of DIVERSITAS.

ESSP Bioenergy and earth sustainability

The ESSP, led by the Global Carbon Project with support from the IGBP Office in Brazil, has developed a research activity on Bioenergy and Earth Sustainability that will tap GEC programme-wide expertise for the benefit of science and society. You can learn more in an article featured in the recently published IHDP Science-Policy Update, ISSN 1727-155X, which can be downloaded from the [essp website](#).

Future Climate-Change Response Research: Learning from IPCC's Fourth Assessment

The ESSP and its partner programmes (DIVERSITAS, IGBP, IHDP and WCRP), in close collaboration with the IPCC and the Netherlands Global Change Committee, will convene a workshop at the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, 21-23 January 2009 on 'Future Climate-Change Response Research: Learning from IPCC's Fourth Assessment'. The ultimate aim of the workshop is to articulate major research questions on the basis of IPCC reports, recent societal trends and latest scientific insights in order to guide future research strategies of the ESSP and its research programmes.

ESSP and CGIAR collaborate on CGIAR Challenge Programme "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security"

In preparation for the launch in early 2009 of this innovative collaborative endeavour, the Chairs of the Alliance Executive and the ESSP Science Committee are delighted to announce the appointment of [Professor Thomas Rosswall](#) as Chair of the new Programme. [More](#) details and Calls for Host Institution and Director.

Global Carbon Project (GCP)

The GCP has released the [global carbon](#) budget 2007. The GCP also contributed to the World Energy Outlook 2008, in particular the city modelling and analyses chapter and took the lead in the China cities analyses section. An update of carbon sciences can be found on the Global Carbon Project's website, [e-NEWS November](#).

Global Water System Project (GWSP)

23-25 September 2008, Sao José dos Campos, Brazil

GWSP Scientific Steering Committee meeting

DIVERSITAS participants: Jay O'Keeffe and A-H Prieur-Richard.

The main goal of this meeting was to evaluate the GWSP activities: the Global Water Need Initiative; The Global Scale initiative; the Global Catchment Initiative; the Green-blue Water Initiative and the GWSP Integrative Tools. The planned activities for next year were also discussed. DIVERSITAS and GWSP are working jointly on two topics: environmental flows and global threats to freshwater resources. In addition, lectures were given by invited researchers: Carlos Nobre (INPE, Brazil), Holme Thiessen (IAI), Sharad K Jain (National Institute of Hydrology, India) and Carlos E Morelli Tucci (IPH-UFRGC, Brazil).

Employment Opportunities

The GWSP is seeking an Executive Officer and Science Officer to be based at the International Project Office in Bonn, Germany. For more information, access the [GWSP website](#).

GWSP Newsletter No. 7 e-zine N°11

[Download](#) the latest GWSP newsletter.