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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 **February 2010**.

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” was a great success with 700 participants from 70 countries

Highlights of the Second Open Science Conference can be found [here](#)

Annual Report 2008/09

Click [here](#) for the pdf.

CBD-PreCOP10 science-policy forum

21-23 March 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Convened by Government of Japan and DIVERSITAS

Next SC-DIVERSITAS meeting

24-25 March 2010, Nagoya, Japan

(upon invitation only)

GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

17-18 November 2009, Washington DC, USA

GEO Plenary session, GEO-VI

Click [here](#) to read the short report of GEO BON on implementation and early products to GEO-VI

22-26 February 2009, Asilomar, California, USA

GEO BON implementation plan meeting

SC-GEO BON, GEO BON working groups and other stakeholders will meet to finalize the GEO BON implementation plan. (upon invitation only)

World Climate Conference 3

DIVERSITAS contributed to the expert segment of the World Climate Conference - 3, which recommended the establishment of a **Global Framework for Climate Services** to deliver on-demand climate predictions. [More](#)

B DIVERSITAS CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

bioGENESIS

Special issue of the Journal of Biogeography "["Origin and Evolution of Biota in Mediterranean Climate Zones: An Integrative Vision"](#)", vol. 36, no. 7, pp. 1209-1422, July 2009, following a **bioGENESIS** co-sponsored conference. [Read the frontispiece of the editors Elena Conti and Robert J. Whittaker.](#)

11-12 October 2009, Cape Town, South Africa
SC-bioGENESIS

bioDISCOVERY

17-18 October 2008, Cape Town, South Africa

BBS/TRY workshop: Improving the representation of biodiversity in vegetation modeling

[More](#)

11-12 October 2009, Cape Town, South Africa

SC-bioDISCOVERY

26-28 August 2009, Paris, France

Eco-evolutionary approaches to understanding and predicting the response of species and ecosystems to climate change

Co-organised by: bioDISCOVERY / EU EVOLTREE / University of Paris at Orsay

[More](#)

ecoSERVICES

21-22 September 2009, Venice, Italy

11th Annual BIOECON Conference on economic instruments to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

[More](#)

New book on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services

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

To order hard copy of the book, please contact bookorders.uk@oup.com

[More](#)

bioSUSTAINABILITY

25-28 May 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

Building adaptive governance and management of ecosystem services under scenarios of change

SC-bioSUSTAINABILITY

Organized by T Elmqvist and S Polasky (co chairs bioSUSTAINABILITY)

Click [here](#) to read the report

bioSUSTAINABILITY Publications

Daily GC, Polasky S et al. 2009. **Ecosystem services in decision making: time to deliver.** *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 7(1): 21-28

Koch EW, Barbier EB, et al. 2009. **Non-linearity in ecosystem services: temporal and spatial variability in coastal protection.** *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 7(1): 29-37

Nelson E, Mendoza G, et al. 2009. **Modelling multiple ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, commodity production, and tradeoffs at landscape scales.** *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 7(1): 4-11

agroBIODIVERSITY

agroBIODIVERSITY has launched a new website.

Click [here](#) to visit the website.

11-12 October 2009, Cape Town, South Africa

SC-agroBIODIVERSITY

18-19 May 2009, Washington DC, USA

American Institute of Biological Sciences 2009 annual meeting: Sustainable agriculture : Greening the global food supply

Louise Jackson, co Chair agroBIODIVERSITY: Biodiversity-friendly agriculture: Why scale matters. Plenary Speaker [More](#)

Call

Call for scientists interested in participating in Dutch television series "Beagle: On the future of species"

VPRO (a Dutch radio and television broadcasting company) is working on a television series on "the future of species". The project will reconstruct Darwin's 5-year long voyage on the HMS Beagle in the course of one year, and make an attempt to assess where the world stands today in light of Darwin's evolution theory.

The organization is looking for scientists who would be interested to contribute to the television series. They welcome in particular scientists who would like to contribute to scientific experiments on board of the ship on the second part of the journey (Latin America -> Australia -> South Africa)

Interested candidates are asked to submit a CV and a short note indicating why the candidate is interested in participating. Further information about the procedure can be obtained from [Siebren Hodes](#)

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

11-12 October 2009, Cape Town, South Africa

SC-freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

16-21 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

World Water Week

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Symposium: "Freshwater Biodiversity: A Hidden Resource for People". [More](#)

A special issue of the journal Freshwater Biology on "Environmental Flows: Science & Management" was released in July 2009.

BioFresh is a new project, endorsed by freshwaterBIODIVERSITY, involving 16 countries that will integrate information on diverse aspects of freshwater biodiversity (ecological, geospatial, socio-economical) throughout the EC and abroad.

Planning is underway, within freshwaterBIODIVERSITY, for a new project involving U.S., Europe, Australia, and South Africa to undertake a synthesis effort on the "Biophysical Basis of Freshwater Ecosystem Services".

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

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

International GMBA-DIVERSITAS conference: Functional significance of mountain biodiversity. [More](#)

13 February 2009, Washington DC, USA

SC-GMBA

On 13 February 2009 the members of the SC-GMBA met at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC. The aim of the meeting was to get an overview of past and current activities relevant for GMBA and to present GMBA activities. At the moment GMBA is setting up a mountain portal at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). In summer 2010 GMBA will organise the second GMBA conference on Mountain Biodiversity.

November 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal

GMBA Workshop: "Geostatistics and Biodiversity Information in the Himalaya's "

The reports of the GMBA 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](#)

Publications

Special edition of the Mountain Forum Bulletin

The July 2009 edition of the Mountain Forum Bulletin: **Mountain Biodiversity: Lifeline for the Future?** is now online. This edition is a joint product of the Mountain Forum, GMBA and the Mountain Research Initiative with support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and features contributions on research, policy and initiatives from the three networks and partners. It also has a section on interesting links to organisations, resources and projects on Mountain Biodiversity.

The issue can be downloaded [here](#)

Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change

ICIMOD has recently produced a new public interest booklet on Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change developed from the contributions made at the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference in November 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The full conference proceedings can be downloaded from the following sites:

[Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change](#)

[Proceedings of the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference](#)

Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

DIVERSITAS and GISP are pleased to announce a new phase in their partnership! [More](#)

2-6 November 2009, Fuzhou, China

International Congress on Biological Invasions (ICBI 2009)

GISP was one of the organisers of this conference. [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](#).

European Alliance

17-18 December 2009, Madrid, Spain

The National Committees in Europe of IGBP, DIVERSITAS, IHDP and WCRP have launched an Alliance of European Global Change Committees to address specific European problems within the context of global change. 8 countries have accepted the Alliance charter, and 11 additional ones will announce their final decision at the Madrid meeting.

[Wolfram Mauser](#) (University of Munich, Germany) was appointed as chairman of the European Alliance, [Nelson Lourenço](#) (Universidade Atlantica, Portugal,) as vice-chairman.

Representatives of European National Committees interested in joining the European Alliance are welcome to participate.

For more details please contact [Bettina Höll](#)

[More](#)

Germany

The Kiel Earth Institute (Germany) offers a short-term visiting fellowship of 4 to 12 weeks. The KEI Visiting Fellowship is open to established scientists from all disciplines that match with the research interests of the KEI, inter alia "Carbon Capture and Storage", "Risk Assessment of Geoengineering" or "Consequences of Climate Change on the Economic Use of the Ocean". There are opportunities for researchers interested in this fellowship. [More](#)

Norway

01 February 2010 - 05 February 2010 - Trondheim, Norway

Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity 2010

[More](#)

Contact: [The Directorate for Nature Management](#)

The project "The effect of migration and remittances on land use change in rural Guatemala and Mexico: is there a forest transition?" endorsed by DIVERSITAS, will be funded by the Norwegian Research Council

Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative

The Norwegian Ministry of Environment has granted NOK 20 million in 2009 to establish a Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative (Artsprosjektet in Norwegian). The project aims to improve knowledge of Norwegian species, with main focus on poorly known taxa. The project will be run in close cooperation with a similar taxonomy initiative established in Sweden in 2002, and in coordination with other national mapping activities in Norway. The initiative is coordinated from the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre. [More](#)

New Nature Management Act will secure Norway's natural environment

A new Nature Management Act was proposed by the Norwegian Government in April 2009. The Act provides rules for the sustainable use and protection of the natural environment. The Act will contain important environmental principles such as the precautionary principle, the ecosystem approach and the polluter pays principle, extending beyond the scope of pollution. Moreover, the act will codify the principle that decisions affecting the environment are to be built on scientific knowledge, as well as traditional knowledge. Press release and link to the proposed Act [here](#).

Norway's National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Norwegian Government submitted in May 2009 its national CBD report on the status and work on biodiversity in Norway. The report demonstrates that the country has made significant progress in its work to achieve the 2010 goal of reducing biodiversity loss. Download [report](#)

D OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCT



MARBEF

The MarBEF (Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning) Network of Excellence (www.marbef.org), started in 2004 came to an end on 30 April 2009. The aims of MarBEF were to integrate research from a variety of disciplines within marine science and to provide training, exchange and outreach opportunities within these areas. The network involved over 700 scientists from 95 different institutes from 24 European countries. MarBEF organized the very successful World Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Valencia in November 2008, of which DIVERSITAS was a sponsor, and supported the first Diversitas Open Science Conference in Oaxaca.

MarBEF will continue as an association after EC funding has ceased, and is cooperating with MARS (the European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations), and two other networks of excellence Euroceans and Marine Genomics Europe, to extend the network of institutes involved in marine biodiversity research in Europe and beyond.

EPBRs (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy)

28th September-1st October 2009, Visby, Sweden

EPBRs Meeting: Target for Biodiversity beyond 2010

APN (Asia Pacific Network for global change research)

Latest APN [Newsletter](#)

E 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)

CGIAR Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agriculture & Food Security - Opportunities for Global Environmental Change Researchers

"Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" (CCAFS) is a major collaborative endeavor between the CGIAR and their partners, and the ESSP. It is aimed at overcoming the additional threats posed by a changing climate to achieving food security, enhancing livelihoods and improving environmental management in the developing world. **The Program is now seeking theme leaders** and GEC researchers are invited to indicate their potential in collaboration with this Challenge Program. Click [here](#) for more details.

ESSP Global Carbon Project (GCP): Super-size deposits of frozen carbon threat to climate change

The vast amount of carbon stored in the arctic and the boreal regions of the world is more than double that previously estimated, according to a study published this week. The existence of these super-sized deposits of frozen carbon means that any thawing of permafrost due to global warming may lead to significant increases of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane. Click [here](#) to read 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](#).

The annual START report 2008-2009 is out. Download it [here](#)

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

The International START Secretariat and the Institute of Resource Assessment, with financial support from the MacArthur Foundation, jointly implemented an advanced education and training program on biodiversity conservation and climate change that engaged twenty conservation professionals from the Albertine Rift countries of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. This capacity building effort comprised of Masters level courses and externships addresses climate change challenges to ecosystems and biodiversity and the need to sustain critical ecoservices.

Additional information is available [here](#)

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

Latest IGBP Newsletter is now available [here](#)

24 September 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

Global change symposium prepared by the Environment Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)

Latest IHDP Newsletter is now available [here](#)

11-16 October 2009, New Delhi, India

IHDW Trains Young and Mid-Career Researchers

26-30 April 2009, Bonn, Germany

7th IHDP Open Meeting. Click [here](#) to read the report

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

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

Global Carbon Project (GCP)

05-09 October 2009, Bergen, Norway

CarboOcean Final Conference

Contact: [Christoph Heinze](#)

25-30 September 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

Peatlands in the Global Carbon Cycle [More](#)

13-19 September 2009, Jena, Germany

8th International Carbon Dioxide Conference.

[More](#)

Global Water System Project (GWSP)

GWSP welcomes Janos Bogardi to the post of GWSP Executive Officer starting 1st May. He has worked with water research and policy with UNESCO, the UN University and other top institutions, and brings capabilities from the world of science and science management to the GWSP. A Science Officer will be appointed soon thereafter.

Joe Alcamo Co-chair of GWSP was appointed Chief Scientist of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), responsible for the scientific direction of the organization, and took up his new position on 1st August 2009.

Charlie Vörösmarty, Co-chair of GWSP, has transferred his research activities to City College, City University of New York. He is Distinguished Scientist affiliated with a NOAA Cooperative Center for remote sensing (CREST).