

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 **August 31st 2006**.

A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

23-25 October 2006 - venue to be announced (Invitation only)

DIVERSITAS/GEOSS workshop on data users and providers for biodiversity monitoring; implementation of Task BI-06-02 of GEOSS, led by DIVERSITAS, in partnership with GBIF and GTOS, and the GEOSS secretariat. Contact: [N Jürgens](#), [A Larigauderie](#).

31 May 2006 - Brussels, Belgium

A Larigauderie is giving a **lecture on "Strengthening the knowledge base"**, as part of an EU event on "Biodiversity and Society", organized during by the EU to celebrate **Greenweek**. [more...](#)

10-13 May 2006 - Paris, France

DIVERSITAS Executive and Scientific Committee meetings.

The SC-DIVERSITAS annual meeting reviewed all aspects of the programme. Some of the key decisions included a) the establishment of a fourth Core Project, named bioGENESIS, dedicated to an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science, to be co-chaired by M Donoghue (USA) and T Yahara (Japan), b) the establishment of a new marine biodiversity Cross-cutting Network chaired by C Heip (Netherlands), c) the mandate to explore possibilities to establish a small grants programme for collaborative research on biodiversity at the international level, d) the nomination of D Raffaelli (UK) as representative of National Committees on the SC-DIVERSITAS. The SC-DIVERSITAS welcomed the involvement of DIVERSITAS in GEOSS and IMoSEB.

4 May 2006 - Porto, Portugal

BiodivERsA Workshop on "Selecting thematic areas for collaboration in biodiversity research funding". A Larigauderie presented priorities in biodiversity research as determined by DIVERSITAS. One of the main aims of this EU funded BiodivERsA (ERA net), which networks major biodiversity research funding agencies across Europe, is to prepare a common call for proposals for biodiversity research. Contact: [J Weber](#), [more...](#)

27-29 April 2006 - Paris, France

"Towards an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science" scoping meeting. This meeting organised by M Donoghue convened 30 specialists of evolutionary biology (systematics, population biology/genetics, paleobiology, etc.) drafted a framework for international collaboration on key priority topics. The document, approved by the SC-DIVERSITAS 2006, is to be finalised this year.

20-31 March 2006 - Curitiba, Brazil

IMoSEB consultation at 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity **COP 8**. [more...](#) DIVERSITAS (A Larigauderie) took part in a side event on the **consultation for an IMoSEB** (International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity), on March 29, 2006. The side event, launched by Dr. A Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the CBD was very well attended. Next steps for the IMoSEB consultation can be found [here](#).

News from the DIVERSITAS Secretariat

- Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard has been appointed Deputy Director of DIVERSITAS.
- Frédérica Kostadinoff left DIVERSITAS at the end of March 2006.
- DIVERSITAS welcomes Melinda Seeneevassen, its new Administrative Assistant.

The DIVERSITAS headquarters will be moving from the ICSU building, and be hosted by the French Museum of Natural History (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle) during the second part of this year.

B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

bioDISCOVERY

19-20 April 2006 - Paris, France

GEO S&T committee meeting. DIVERSITAS presented its plans for the implementation of its task BI-06-02 on biodiversity monitoring, as part of the implementation of **GEOSS**. Contact: [N Jürgens](#), [A Larigauderie](#).

ecoSERVICES

February 25 - March 2, 2007 - venue to be announced

"Colonization versus invasion: do the same traits matter? Towards a joint perspective in research on range expansion of native and biological invasion of non-indigenous plants". Contact: [J Joshi](#), [A Hector](#).

30 Nov-4 December 2006 - Monte Veritas, Switzerland

DIVERSITAS-bioMERGE workshop (Invitation only). This workshop will produce a volume reviewing 5 years of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning research. Contact: [A Hector](#).

May 2006 - Sishuan, China

Preparatory Journey for a joint NSFC-DFG Research Proposal on a Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning Experiment in a Subtropical Forest at Dujiangyan. Workshop organised by **ecoSERVICES** and funded by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG). Contact: **A Hector**.

29-30 August 2006 - Kings College, Cambridge, UK

8th International BIOECON Conference on the Economic Analysis of Ecology and Biodiversity. Hosted by the Department of Land Economy of the University of Cambridge and the International Food Policy Research Institute in association with DIVERSITAS and the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Click **here** for the call for papers and the registration form. The conference will have sessions with papers examining the management of biological resources and biological processes as well as two plenary policy sessions chaired by IFPRI and DIVERSITAS, respectively, on the economic analysis of policies for biodiversity conservation. **more...**

bioSUSTAINABILITY

29-31 May 2006 - Stockholm, Sweden

bioSUSTAINABILITY : European Biodiversity Science-Policy Interface workshop. The aim of the workshop is to bring together individuals from the policy sector and scientists, including representatives from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, to discuss how to devise an effective framework for improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity use and conservation with particular focus on Europe. Contact: **A Holt**, **more...**

GMBA

New Scientific Steering Committee for GMBA 2006-2008. GMBA is entering its third phase of action and has a newly elected international Scientific Steering Committee of 12 members. They combine excellent scientific expertise and represent different mountain regions of the world. **more...**

9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China

Earth Systems Science Partnership Open Science Conference: The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) will co-organize a session on **Mountains under Change at the ESSP Open Science Conference on Global Environmental Change** .

14-22 September 2006 - Graz, Austria.

9th International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography. Organized under the auspice of the International Cartographic Association ICA. Contact: **V Kaufmann**, **more...**

12-15 September 2006 - Munnar, Kerala, India

Call for papers, 4th World Congress on Mountain Ungulates. The conference will focus on all aspects of Mountain Ungulates. The main goal of the conference is to present progress made over the last few years in knowledge of Mountain Ungulates: biology, ecology, management and conservation. **more...**

24 May 2006 - venue to be added

Assessment of available geo-referenced mountain biodiversity data. GMBA is organizing a synthesis project to assemble information on mountain species richness available in large databases. The task is to

get a synthesis of regional mountain biotic richness from various parts of the world and assess global trends. We highly welcome input to this latest topic. [more...](#)

20 April 2006 - Bern, Switzerland

7th Swiss Global Change Day organized by the Swiss Biodiversity Forum. [C Körner](#) from GMBA gave a presentation on Forests in a CO₂-rich world. [more...](#)

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

13-15 June 2006 - Paris, France

Annual freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Scientific Committee meeting. (Invitation only). The SC-freshwaterBIODIVERSITY annual meeting reviews all aspects of this Cross-cutting Network. The main achievement of the past year has been the publication of its Science Plan and Implementation Strategy, which can be downloaded [here](#).

agroBIODIVERSITY

29-31 May 2006 - Rome, Italy

Platform on agrobiodiversity research. This meeting convenes key stakeholders (e.g. IPGRI, DIVERSITAS, FAO, CGIAR) working in the field of agricultural biodiversity to explore possibilities of strengthening collaboration.

21-26 May 2006 - Sumatra, Indonesia

agroBIODIVERSITY meeting on agroforestry systems (Invitation only). output: a research paper and a framework for research funding proposals; Meeting organised in partnership with ICRAF and University of California at Davis. Contact: [L Jackson](#), [more...](#)

C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

DIWPA (DIVERSITAS in Western Pacific and Asia)

3-5 August 2006 - Changchun, Jilin Province, China

7th National Symposium on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

The symposium is, among others, organized by the Chinese National Committee for DIVERSITAS (CNC-DIVERSITAS). The main theme is Global Change and Biodiversity Conservation. The first National Symposium of the same kind was held in 1994. Key issues are: Global Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation; Global Forest Ecosystem Network and Long-term Biodiversity Monitoring; Biodiversity and Biosafety; Wetland Biodiversity; Global Environment Changes and Sustainable Use; Biodiversity Information Management and Knowledge Dissemination; Ecological Construction and Biodiversity Conservation; Species Endangerment Mechanism and Protection Strategy. Contact: [X Xu](#), [more...](#)

25-28 March 2006 - Toki Messe, Niigata, Japan

DIWPA 2nd EAFES International Congress. Main Theme: Global Environmental Change and Ecosystems in East Asia. [more...](#)

EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy)

9-12 March 2006 - Vienna, Austria

Biannual meeting of the EPBRS on "Europe's Mountain Biodiversity" A Larigauderie presented the activities of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment of DIVERSITAS, as a contribution to the definition of EU priorities for mountain biodiversity research. [more...](#)

Australia

Over the next 12 months efforts will be focused on finalizing the makeup of the National Coordinating Group for Australia, and securing resources to further develop a website and scoping workshop. Australian Coordinating Group members will also be involved in developing bioGENESIS Scientific Plan in the area of systematics and biodiversity. Contact: [D Yeates](#) and [D Faith](#).

Belgium

May 2006

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform and DIVERSITAS Focal Point for Belgium launched a new website. The biodiversity.be website is the information and communications hub on biodiversity science and research in Belgium.

It fosters biodiversity research that contributes to sustainable development, by:

- Facilitating access to biodiversity data, science and research information;
- Encouraging interdisciplinary cooperation amongst scientists;
- Stimulating interaction between scientists, policy makers and stakeholders in biodiversity research;
- Advising on the designation of biodiversity research priorities;
- Promoting Belgian biodiversity research at international fora.

Website address: <http://www.biodiversity.be>

Germany

8 May 2006 - Kassel, Germany

Meeting of the German National Committee for Global Change Research (NKGCF). Contact: [N Jürgens](#).

25-26 June 2006 -

Meeting of the DIVERSITAS National Committee. Contact: [N Jürgens](#).

07 July.2006 - Dessau, Germany

Meeting of the German National Committee for Global Change Research (NKGCF). Contact: [N Jürgens](#).

Morocco

20 May 2006, Marrakech, Morocco

National Committee in Morocco

A National Committee for DIVERSITAS in Morocco is under discussion and Professor M Messouli is organising this meeting to present DIVERSITAS to the Moroccan scientific community. Contact: [M Messouli](#).

D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY publications:

- **The freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Science Plan and Implementation Strategy is out.** This document is co-authored by R. J. Naiman, AH Prieur-Richard, A Arthington, D Dudgeon, M O Gessner, Z Kawabata, D Knowler, J O'Keefe, Ch Lévêque, D Soto, M Stiasny and C Sullivan.

Copies can be obtained, free of charge, at the [DIVERSITAS secretariat](#) or downloaded [here; more...](#) on the freshwater cross cutting network.

- D Dudgeon, A H Arthington, M O Gessner, Z Kawabata, D Knowler, C Lévêque, R Naiman, A-H Prieur-Richard, D Soto, M L J. Stiasny and C A. Sullivan. 2006. **Freshwater biodiversity: importance, threats, status and conservation challenges.** *Biological Reviews*: 81: 163-182.

agroBIODIVERSITY publication:

C Perrings, L Jackson, K Bawa, L Brussaard, S Brush, T Gavin, R Papa, U Pascual, P De Ruiter. **Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes: Saving Natural Capital without Losing Interest.** (2006). *Conservation Biology* Volume 20, No. 2, 263-264

From Australia

Invited follow-up on the debates arising at DIVERSITAS, by 2010 working group members, will appear as guest editorial in *Journal of Biogeography*:

Faith DP & Baker AM in review. **Biodiversity, barcoding and biogeography.** *J Biogeography*

Faith DP & Williams KJ 2006. **Phylogenetic diversity and biodiversity conservation.** *McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology* Pp. 233-235.

Faith DP & Baker AM 2006. **Phylogenetic diversity (PD) and biodiversity conservation: some bioinformatics challenges** *Evol. Bioinformatics Online* ([PDF 216k](#)).

E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS

GISP publication: "South America Invaded: the growing danger of invasive alien species" now available for download in both English and Spanish. This publication contains a general overview of some of the worst invasive alien species in South America including trees, shrubs, grasses, animals, aquatic invaders and insect pests as well as South American species which have become invasive on other continents. [more...](#)

F ESSP NEWS

DIVERSITAS is a member of the [Earth System Science Partnership](#) , which includes: [DIVERSITAS](#) , [IGBP](#) , [IHDP](#) and [WCRP](#) .



9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China

ESSP: Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges: An Earth System Science Partnership Global Environmental Change Open Science Conference. [more...](#)

19-21 June 2006 - Pretoria, S-Africa

Meeting on Regional Cooperation on global environmental change research in Africa

Contact: E Odada

15-16 June 2006 - Munich, Germany

ESSP: Chairs & Directors Meeting (Invitation only). Contact: M Rice, more...

12-14 June 2006 - Munich, Germany

ESSP: 2nd Planning Meeting for ESSP OSC (Invitation only)

5-9 June 2006 - Canberra, Australia

CGP: Workshop: Vulnerability of the Carbon Cycle to Drought and Fire. more...

28-30 March 2006 - Santa Barbara, California, USA

GCP Workshop: Vulnerability of carbon in permafrost: Pool size and potential effects on the climate system. Contacts: CB Field and J Canadell.

27-30 march 2006 - Norwich, UK

IHDP Scientific Committee meeting. A-H Prieur-Richard represented DIVERSITAS and discussed cooperation between the two programmes.

GWSP (Global Water System Project)

20 - 23 June 2006 - Bonn, Germany

International Workshop on "Governance and the Global Water System"

The key objectives of the workshop are to identify (a) institutions, actors and scales which are of key relevance for enhancing adaptive capacity of governance regimes towards global environmental change, and (b) how governance regimes can be enabled to strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of the global water system. Contact: D Petry, more...

08 - 11 June 2006 - Guangzhou, China

2nd GWSP Asia meeting : workshop

Global water system hotspots in the Asian region: mega cities and dams. more...

13- 19 May 2006 - Narok Kenya

Environmental Flows workshop led by J O'Keeffe, M McClain, and R Naiman.

The purpose was to develop an integrated water plan for the Mara River that originates in the Mau forest of Kenya. It is the main river flowing through the Maasi Mara Game Reserve, the Maasi grazing lands, and the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Over the next few months, local experts in geomorphology, hydrology, hydraulics, aquatic organisms, water quality, riparian vegetation, and social uses of the water will be collecting information to bring to a final workshop in February 2007. That workshop will be used to set the initial environmental flow requirements for the river. Contact: R Naiman.

23-24 March 2006 - Oaxaca, Mexico

GWSP Scientific Steering Committee meeting

A-H Prieur-Richard and R Naiman represented the DIVERSITAS Cross-cutting Network freshwater BIODIVERSITY and more generally DIVERSITAS. Three area of cooperation have been highlighted: environmental flows, freshwater biodiversity assessment and valuation of freshwater resources.