

## 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 **November 25<sup>th</sup> 2006**.

### A DIVERSITAS GENERAL

#### News from the secretariat

**Science officer position:** DIVERSITAS ([www.diversitas-international.org](http://www.diversitas-international.org)), the international programme of biodiversity science, is seeking a Science Officer for its Paris office, to lead the implementation of two projects, on "Providing an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science" and "Discovering biodiversity and predicting its changes".

The host institution is the Natural History Museum of Paris. Employers are CNRS and DIVERSITAS. Position starts late 2006. Appointment is for one year, renewable. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please note: this CNRS funded position ("poste rouge") is not open to French citizens.

Applications (CV and three references) **by 15 Sept 2006**. Inquiries via email to Dr. A Larigauderie at [secretariat@diversitas-international.org](mailto:secretariat@diversitas-international.org)

More information at: [http://www.diversitas-international.org/news\\_vacancies.php](http://www.diversitas-international.org/news_vacancies.php)

#### ESSP-OSC

*9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China*

**ESSP: Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges: An Earth System Science Partnership Global Environmental Change Open Science Conference.** Update on the programme is available at: [http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/ConfProgramme\\_index.html](http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/ConfProgramme_index.html)

Sessions related to biodiversity include:

-Climate Change and Rising CO<sub>2</sub>: **How Serious is the Future Threat to Biodiversity?** P Leadley/ bioDISCOVERY

-Towards a Global Observation System of Biodiversity and Land Cover Changes: **Solutions for Sustainable Development** N Jürgens/ bioDISCOVERY

- Biodiversity, Ecosystem Functioning and Carbon Sequestration K-P Ma/ DIWPA and ecoSERVICES
- Interdisciplinary and Implementation-oriented Approaches in Research on Conservation and Use of Biodiversity: What are the Lessons (to be) Learned? M Denich/ bioSUSTAINABILITY
- Improving the interface between global change science and policy makers D Raffaelli/ bioSUSTAINABILITY
- Mountains Under Change C Körner/ GMBA, E Spehn/ GMBA and G Greenwood
- Environmental Water Allocations: Conserving Ecological Goods and Services R Naiman and S Bunn/ freshwaterBIODIVERSITY and GWSP.

## B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

### bioDISCOVERY

*23-25 October 2006 - WMO, Geneva (Invitation only)*

**DIVERSITAS/GBIF/GTOS-GEOSS workshop on "Defining user needs, methodologies and strategies for a global observation system for biodiversity"**. Implementation of Task BI-06-02 and BI-06-03 of GEOSS, led by DIVERSITAS, GBIF and GTOS, in partnership with the GEO secretariat.

Contact: A Larigauderie (anne@diversitas-international.org), N Jürgens (Norbert.Juergens@t-online.de)

### ecoSERVICES

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

**8<sup>th</sup> International BIOECON Kings College Conference**. This year, DIVERSITAS, along with IFPRI and UK-DEFRA co-sponsored the BIOECON conference on the 'Economic Analysis of Ecology and Biodiversity'. Previous DIVERSITAS' involvement and advertisement have led the conference to receive very strong feedbacks from the public and researchers of both academic and private origins, this resulting in a number of submissions to the 2006 conference more than twice as important as in earlier years. The panel of contributors reflects interest from scientific, economics and political actors and the international impact of BIOECON as well as the growing population of social scientists involved in biodiversity conservation around the world.

U Pascual of DIVERSITAS ran one of the 2 policy sessions, emphasizing the aspects related to the DIVERSITAS Core Projects ecoSERVICES and bioSUSTAINABILITY. S Polasky, co-chair of bioSUSTAINABILITY, and A Xepapadeas, member of the ecoSERVICES Scientific Committee gave keynote addresses. This was an opportunity for DIVERSITAS to present its work and initiatives to a highly selected academic and policy audience including senior/chief executive staff from the EU Environmental Agency, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, OECD, FAO, IFPRI, IPGRI, DEFRA-UK, EBRD, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Two outputs are expected from this event: 1- The publication of selected papers from the conference in peer-review journals or distinguished publishing houses. 2- The one-day meeting between DIVERSITAS, IFPRI and BIOECON representatives will lead to the finalization of a large research grant proposal to be submitted to EU FP7 programme. All conference material (participant list, papers, abstracts etc) can be downloaded from the DIVERSITAS web-site: <http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/bioecon06.pdf>

More at: <http://www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk/>

*30 Nov-4 December 2006 - Monte Verità, Switzerland*

**DIVERSITAS-bioMERGE workshop** (Invitation only). This will be the fifth and final meeting of the BioMERGE network. The meeting is organised by S Naeem, D Bunker, A Hector and M Loreau from ecoSERVICES and DIVERSITAS. The organisers plan to produce a volume reviewing 5 years of biodiversity

and ecosystem functioning research, following up on Loreau *et al.* (Ed.). "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning". Oxford University Press, 2002. Contact: A Hector (ahector@uwinst.unizh.ch).

*25 Feb-2 March 2007 - Monte Verità, Switzerland*

**"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"**. The aims of this workshop are to work at the interface of native-species range expansion and non-indigenous species invasion and to bring together scientists from these different, but closely linked ecological fields, to kick-off an intensified research effort on possible climate warming effects on ecosystems and on mechanisms leading to biological invasion of non-indigenous species. Until now, research groups working on biological invasion, on the impact of biodiversity on invasion resistance and on range-shifts of native species due to climate-mediated habitat change have not worked closely together even though the three areas of research are closely related. Collaboration in these research areas could result in a deeper understanding of traits that enable both native and invasive species to expand their ranges under novel environmental conditions. For more information contact: J Joshi (joshi@uwinst.unizh.ch), A Hector (ahector@uwinst.unizh.ch). or visit: [www.unizh.ch/uwinst/Ascona/index.html](http://www.unizh.ch/uwinst/Ascona/index.html)

## bioSUSTAINABILITY

The **MISTRA Foundation** (Sweden), has agreed to finance the largest research environmental project to build a new international transdisciplinary institute for research and policy dialogue on sustainable development, in Sweden. Behind this new institute stand the Centre for Transdisciplinary Environmental Research at Stockholm University, the Stockholm Environment Institute, and the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. T Elmqvist from the Beijer International Institute and member of the scientific committee of bioSUSTAINABILITY, actively participated in developing the project.

*29-30<sup>th</sup> May 2006 - Stockholm, Sweden*

**Towards developing a science-policy interface in Europe**. The workshop brought together ecologists and social scientists with representatives from the European Environment Agency, DEFRA, UNEP and MA in an attempt to discuss the issues underlying the development of a successful science-policy interface for the conservation of biodiversity in Europe. Its aims were to identify the factors that reduce our ability to inform policy; to identify the main biodiversity issues that will face policy makers in the future and come up with novel mechanisms to ensure that our voice and evidence is heard.

Important issues were discussed: the problem of the lack of evidence on which to base policy, and how to review data to bring forward relevant information and highlight gaps; how scientists and policy makers can communicate evidences effectively with each other, overcoming the language barriers between disciplines affecting their relative inputs to policy; the need to include more social science in the policy-making process and how to incorporate uncertainty when dealing with complex ecological and social systems and then how to communicate this effectively.

This group will continue to work on these issues and engage with national committees of DIVERSITAS and the EPBRS to build a network of nodes for effective communication between scientists and policy-makers.

*9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China*

**ESSP OSC 1**. bioSUSTAINABILITY is running a symposium at the ESSP OSC entitled "science-policy interface" where a number of speakers will be presenting work on various aspects of improving the global environmental change science-policy interface. D Raffaelli will also be chairing a symposium session on capacity building.

*17-19 November 2006 - Helsinki, Finland,*

**European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy meeting.** DIVERSITAS bioSUSTAINABILITY will provide input on urban ecology, one of the selected themes for this year's EPBRS meeting. More at: [http://www.epbrs.org/epbrs\\_next%20meeting.html](http://www.epbrs.org/epbrs_next%20meeting.html)

**IMoSEB Consultation (International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity).** Full update on the on-going IMoSEB consultation can be read on the electronic newsletter at <http://www.imoseb.net/newsletter>. Over the past two months the bioSUSTAINABILITY office has been employed to undertake two elements of the IMoSEB consultation. 1) To map the decision-making landscape affecting biodiversity surveying a range of decision makers and institutions from the international to local level. 2) To assess the extent to which the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment can be used for decision-making, based on our recent experience across Europe and elsewhere, together with a survey of those within the existing DIVERSITAS network.

## GMBA

*25-30 July 2006 - Kazbegi, Rep. of Georgia*

**Altitude referenced biological databases - a tool for understanding mountain biodiversity.** GMBA held a kick-off meeting on mountain biological data base mining, capitalizing on the expertise from different fields of biology and data base experts. GMBA, in cooperation with GBIF, encourages a global effort to mine geo-referenced archive databases on mountain organisms, to build new biodiversity databases, and to link them with each other and with geophysical databases. The key is geo-referencing (determining the geographical coordinates and altitude) of biological species data (specimens and observational) in data base building and use, as it allows to link biological information with other geophysical information. Gradients of altitude and the associated climatic trends, topographic and soil peculiarities, fragmentation and connectivity among biota and their varied geological history are the major drives of mountain biodiversity, and electronic archives provide avenues towards testing evolutionary and ecological theory across the world's mountain ranges. GMBA will follow up on this in a SCOPE Rapid Assessment synthesis Project with the task to get a synthesis of regional mountain biotic richness from various parts of the world.

*12-15 September 2006 - Munnar, Kerala, India*

**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. The program of the conference can be found at: <http://www.wmcu2006.org/>

*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 ([viktor.kaufmann@tugraz.at](mailto:viktor.kaufmann@tugraz.at)). More at: [http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/geowww/hmrsc/hmrsc\\_9/](http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/geowww/hmrsc/hmrsc_9/)

*28-29 September 2006, Innsbruck, Austria*

**The Water Balance of the Alps - What do we need to protect the water resources of the Alps?** The conference, co-organised by the Austrian Presidency (2005-2006) of the Alpine Convention and the University of Innsbruck (Research Platform Alpine Space) with the International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research (ISCAR, Berne), aims to provide policy-makers and institutions with a list of themes that need to be addressed in order to safeguard or to improve the ecological status of rivers, lakes and wetlands of the Alps and to guarantee a sustainable use of alpine water resources for future generations. Contact: [Alpiner.Raum@uibk.ac.at](mailto:Alpiner.Raum@uibk.ac.at) . More at: [www.uibk.ac.at/alpinerraum/meetings/water\\_2006/index.html](http://www.uibk.ac.at/alpinerraum/meetings/water_2006/index.html)en

*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**.

## freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

*13-15 June 2006, Paris, France*

**3<sup>RD</sup> freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Scientific Steering Committee meeting.** The annual meeting of this DIVERSITAS Cross-cutting Network aimed at discussing on-going and future activities. Collaboration with the Global Water for Sustainability (GLOWS) project on UNESCO-IHP was endorsed. A series of scientific synthesis papers on the following topics will be published by the committee: valuation of freshwater biodiversity, microbial biodiversity, freshwater biodiversity and human health, relationships between aquaculture and agriculture. Joint activities with the ESSP-GWSP will be pursued in the field of environmental flows, the GWSP Digital Atlas and the GWS Database

*27 August - 1 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

**3rd International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes (TISORL): "Global change and river-floodplain ecosystems".** TISORL will follow a similar format to the SISORL meeting (<http://www.riverine-landscapes.ch/index.htm>) held in Sweden. The scientific program is organised around three themes, each constituting a symposium session featuring six or seven topical review presentations. Science themes include global changes associated with: urbanisation; water use and flow regime changes; and climate changes. Cross-cutting workshops focus on key science needs relating to the following topics: protection of aquatic biodiversity; connectivity and river-floodplain-coastal subsidies; and flow-ecology relationships. In addition to written outputs from these sessions, the outcomes will be presented as either a keynote presentation at the E-Flows Conference and the International Riversymposium ( see below), or as a special session.

*3-6 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

**10th International Riversymposium.** The 10th International Riversymposium will be held as an integral part of the Riverfestival, an annual celebration that promotes the value of water and environmental sustainability through events around the city. Brisbane has hosted the Riversymposium since its inception in 1998. The Thiess Riverprize and the National Riverprizes for best practice in river management are a highlight of this event. In 2007, major themes of Riversymposium will be linked to those of TISORL and the International Conference on Environmental-Flows.

For further information contact S Bunn ([S.Bunn@griffith.edu.au](mailto:S.Bunn@griffith.edu.au)) or take a look at the website of the Centre for Riverine Landscapes at Griffith University. (<http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/riverlandscapes/>)

*3-6 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

**2nd International Conference on Environmental-Flows.** The meeting will be run jointly by The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/freshwater>) and the International Riversymposium (<http://www.riversymposium.com>) as a single, large event.

Themes for this E-Flows conference will include: the science of environmental flows; the economics of environmental flows; accounting for social considerations in environmental flows; legal and policy mechanisms to support environmental flows; integrating environmental flows into river basin planning and management; measuring the success of environmental flows. A synthesis of major outcomes from this Conference will be presented at the International Riversymposium.

## agroBIODIVERSITY

*21-26 May 2006 - Sumatra, Indonesia*

**agroBIODIVERSITY meeting on agroforestry systems.** An insightful and stimulating field trip and research meeting was held in Sumatra by the DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY Cross-cutting Network and ICRAF World Agroforestry Centre in May, 2006. The trip was hosted by A van Noordwijk, member of the agroBIODIVERSITY SC. 17 participants from 9 countries attended. Discussions and writing sessions were interspersed with field visits showing the apparently still successful integration of semi-natural systems into people's livelihoods, as well as the threats facing these agroforestry systems, including transition to monoculture rubber or oil palm plantations. Using case studies from Indonesia, India, Brazil, Mexico, the Netherlands and California, USA, a set of hypotheses were made relating to the effects of agricultural intensification to biodiversity loss, and the tradeoffs associated with 'biodiversity-friendly agriculture'. By compiling comparable data sets and synchronizing modelling approaches, a research framework for the agroBIODIVERSITY network was developed and will be summarized as a report in the next few months. For more detail, contact L Jackson at [lejackson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lejackson@ucdavis.edu).

*29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 - Rome, Italy*

**1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Meeting of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research.** The Platform, whose secretariat is currently hosted by IPGRI, organized this meeting which was attended by individuals from international organizations and research institutes, networks, national research centres, universities and civil society organizations. A-H Prieur-Richard represented DIVERSITAS and its Cross-cutting Network agroBIODIVERSITY. An interim steering committee has been set up to develop further the proposals formulated during the meeting on the role of the Platform, its organizational framework and priority actions. Contact: T Hodgkin ([t.hodgkin@cgiar.org](mailto:t.hodgkin@cgiar.org))

## **C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS**

### Australia

The web site for the Australian Coordinating group of DIVERSITAS is up at <http://www.csiro.au/csiro/content/standard/ps1xz,,.html>  
They now have a committee of 6 members as listed on the site.

### Belgium

*1-3 December 2006 - Brussels, Belgium*

International workshop on "**Cooperative Strategies for current international initiatives on freshwater biodiversity: exploring the willingness and feasibility of sharing information and expertise on global freshwater biodiversity.**" (Invitation only). Several international groups are currently carrying out studies and data compilation on freshwater biodiversity. There is a need to better know their ongoing activities and to identify common actions or strategies where data and expertise could be shared. The purpose of the sharing would be to better address research needs and conservation issues in freshwater biodiversity. Additionally, a similar collaborative effort is currently being undertaken by hydrological/physical organizations and data providers leading, for example, to the development of global database on dams and river discharge regimes.

The objectives of the meeting would be to investigate strategies for collaboration and to initiate an active network for sharing information and developing synergies amongst organizations.

Contact: Estelle Balian ([estelle.balian@naturalsciences.be](mailto:estelle.balian@naturalsciences.be)), Belgian Biodiversity Platform- Freshwater Biology Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINSc)

## China

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

**7<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in China: Global Change and Biodiversity Conservation.** The event attracted over 245 Chinese scientists as well as scientists from UK, Japan and Spain. The three day-symposium was opened by Prof K Ma, Secretary General for CNC-DIVERSITAS, followed with addresses from all 9 co-organizers. Mr. C Yiyu, President of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Chair of the CNC-DIVERSITAS, noted that biodiversity research should integrate knowledge from biological sciences and geosciences and called for more research on ecosystem diversity with emphasis on baseline research such as national biodiversity survey in China. Presentations ranged from theoretical analysis including biodiversity informatics to conservation practice with emphasis on biodiversity conservation and global change. The Conservation Award for the youth was given to five young Ph.D. and postgraduate students.

## France

*20-22 September 2006 - Marseille, France*

**10th Evolutionary Biology Meeting.** The following subjects will be discussed: systematics; biodiversity; comparative genomics and post-genomics (at all taxonomic levels); functional phylogeny; environment and biological evolution; evolutionary biology concepts for biological annotation; probabilistic models and statistical tools for concepts in evolution. More at <http://www.up.univ-mrs.fr/evol-cgr/>

*2-4 October 2006 - La Rochelle, France*

**6<sup>ème</sup> Colloque Ressources Génétiques : Des ressources partagées.** For two years, the BRG (French Office for Genetic Resources) has been financing 29 research projects on "Genetic resources: shared resources", which are leading to a better understanding and management of animal, vegetal and microbial genetic resources. Results of these projects will be presented and round table discussions will be held to discuss the adequacy of available knowledge for resource management. More at <http://www.brg.prd.fr/brg/ecrans/LaRochelleAccueil.htm>

*6-8 October 2006 - Saint-Léons-en-Lévézou, France*

**Colloque Insectes et Biodiversité (Conference on Insects and biodiversity).** This conference will be organized around three subjects: 1) Insects and global change: which species tomorrow? 2) Countryside, protected area and agriculture: which landscapes? and 3) Insects and human being, a shared future. Information and registration by contacting: [evaluation@cg12.fr](mailto:evaluation@cg12.fr) More at (in French): [http://www.gis-ifb.org/recherches\\_en\\_france/colloques/insectes\\_et\\_biodiversite\\_saint\\_leons\\_aveyron\\_6\\_7\\_et\\_8\\_octobre\\_2006](http://www.gis-ifb.org/recherches_en_france/colloques/insectes_et_biodiversite_saint_leons_aveyron_6_7_et_8_octobre_2006)

*17-19 October 2006, Moliets, Landes, France*

**Colloque de Restitution de Programmes INVAsions BIOlogiques.** This conference will present highlights of 30 projects led between February 2000 and October 2001. It is open to a large public of scientists, students, teachers, public and private institutions, and to anyone interested in invasive species. The overall aim of the colloquium is to provide the necessary information for public policies decision making. A round table debate will end the meeting. More at <http://www.ladybio.ups-tlse.fr/INVABIO/Index.html> (in French)

*26-27 October 2006 - Paris, France*

**4th IFB (Institut Français de la Biodiversité) days for young scientists.** The next "IFB Days" symposium will be dedicated to young scientists working in the field of biodiversity research. Managers of major international, European and French programmes or institutions will be invited to interact with young

scientists on the present and future challenges facing biodiversity science. More at: [http://www.gis-ifb.org/recherches\\_en\\_france/colloques/quatriemes\\_journees\\_de\\_l\\_ifb\\_26\\_27\\_octobre\\_2006\\_paris](http://www.gis-ifb.org/recherches_en_france/colloques/quatriemes_journees_de_l_ifb_26_27_octobre_2006_paris)

*30 October - 4 November 2006, Noumea - New Caledonia*

**Coral Reef Ecosystems Biodiversity Forum.** This international conference is part of the French National Strategy on Biodiversity. It aims to bring together key international and national actors in order to: review current scientific knowledge in the field of coral diversity; identify academic research priority areas; prioritize applications for sustainable development. More at: [http://www.ird.nc/biodec/english/home\\_page.html](http://www.ird.nc/biodec/english/home_page.html)

## Philippines

The new DIVERSITAS Philippine National committee has been established. It will be chaired by V Amoroso (amorosovic@yahoo.com). More at: [http://www.diversitas-international.org/national\\_philippines.html](http://www.diversitas-international.org/national_philippines.html)

*25-26 October 2006 - Central Mindanao University, Musuan, Philippines*

**Bukidnon 2nd Long Term Ecological and Biodiversity Research (LTER) Symposium and 1st DIVERSITAS Symposium.** Oral and poster presentations will be focusing on biodiversity and long term ecological research in the East Asia Pacific region. During this occasion the Philippines NC members will be formally introduced to the international scientific community attending the workshop. To obtain the program and the registration form, please contact V Amoroso (amorosovic@yahoo.com) and visit the Philippine LTER-DIVERSITAS website at [www.cmu.edu.ph/lter-diversitas](http://www.cmu.edu.ph/lter-diversitas)

## South Africa

*1 - 5 July 2007 - Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology: One World, One Conservation, One Partnership.** <http://compworx.isat.co.za/scb/index.htm> The theme of the 2007 annual meeting will emphasise the need to move away from national, regional and disciplinary territoriality in support of a joint effort to conserve the world's biodiversity by uniting towards a common goal. Organizers are encouraged to address unifying conceptual issues (ecological, social, or both) rather than presenting a series of stand-alone case studies.

**Proposals for symposia, workshops and organised discussions must be submitted by 16 October 2006 to 2007@conbio.org.** More at: <http://compworx.isat.co.za/scb/callsym.htm>. **Proposals for short courses must be submitted by 13 November 2006 to 2007@conbio.org.** More at: <http://compworx.isat.co.za/scb/callcour.htm>

## Switzerland

The **Swiss Academy of Science** in close collaboration with the **Swiss Biodiversity Forum** has published a **brochure and a website on Access & Benefit Sharing, good practice for academic research on genetic resources:** <http://abs.scnat.ch> The purpose is to inform the academic community about the system governing access to biological resources and the fair sharing of benefits that arise from their use, as set out by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The good practice guide aims at informing researchers on how to correctly apply the Bonn Guidelines when accessing biological resources abroad for research purposes and can be download from: [http://abs.scnat.ch/downloads/ABS\\_Brochure.pdf](http://abs.scnat.ch/downloads/ABS_Brochure.pdf). The website includes additional features such as a marketplace where scientists are invited to post mutually satisfying research experiences and case studies regarding genetic resources. It also offers updates on current international policy developments, checklists and a download area. The target research community is Switzerland but all information can be used by researchers working elsewhere.

*In March 2006, the **Swiss Biodiversity Forum** submitted a proposal to the Swiss National Research Foundation for the creation of a **new research programme on the utilization and value of biodiversity**. The proposal's content relates to the science plan of the **agroBIODIVERSITY** network of DIVERSITAS.*

With respect to the **2010 targets**, the **Swiss Biodiversity Forum** has started to mine available national data-bases on biodiversity and is intensively looking for **suitable indicators**.

## Vietnam

*23-27 May 2006 - Phu Quoc, Vietnam*

**Financial management for community of sub-demo site coral reefs and sea grass beds in Phu Quoc**

**Training Workshop Report:** The training workshop was organized by the Centre for Environment Research Education and Development, Hanoi, Vietnam, sponsored by the Project Management Board of the demonstration site for coral reefs and sea grass beds in Phu Quoc and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Phu Quoc has been chosen for sub-demo site of Project: "Reversing environmental degradation trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" because of the abundance and diversified coral reefs and sea grass beds. For a complete document about the workshop, contact Prof. Nguyen Huu Ninh at [cered@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:cered@hn.vnn.vn)

## Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

*24-26 October 2006 - Concepcion, Chile*

**Oxygen Minimum Systems in the Ocean: Distribution, Diversity and Dynamics Workshop.**

<http://www.cona.cl/scor/oms.htm>

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

*13-26 October 2006 - Chiang Mai, Thailand*

IHDP-APN 2006 International Human Dimensions **Workshop on Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change: Water, Trade, and Environment**. More at:

[http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de/Pdf\\_files/announcements/IHDW2006-1stannouncement-web.pdf](http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de/Pdf_files/announcements/IHDW2006-1stannouncement-web.pdf)

## AFRICANNESS

The workshop report on **African global environmental change research** held in *Nairobi, Kenya from 22-24 September 2005*, can now be downloaded from [http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/GCR\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/GCR_Report.pdf)

*19-21 June 2006 - Pretoria, S-Africa*

**Meeting on Regional Cooperation on global environmental change research in Africa: the Africanness initiative** The Steering Committee of the proposed Africa Global Change Research Network agreed on a **new name: AFRICANNESS - Global Change Research in Africa**.

A Science Plan was discussed to address both regional and global issues, based on the outputs of the Nairobi Workshop (September 2005), with the following priorities: climate change and variability; health and wellbeing; ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods; water systems; sustainable energy. The Science Plan priorities will be developed in close collaboration with the ICSU Regional Office initiatives on global environmental change, human health and well-being and energy, as well as with the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and its founding programmes, DIVERSITAS, IGBP, IHDP and WCRP. The draft Science Plan should be ready by the end of September 2006.

Arrangements are made to introduce AFRICANNESS at regional economic and sectoral summits, at ministerial commissions, to EU officials. The following audiences are already planned: AU during the August Pre-Summit Meeting (Addis, Ethiopia); International Group of Funding Agencies for global change research (IGFA; 1-3 November, Montreal, Canada) and ESSP-OSC2 (9-12 November, Beijing, China). For complete information on this new initiative, please contact E Odada (pass@uonbi.ac.ke)

## D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS

### DIVERSITAS secretariat

**DIVERSITAS Annual Report 2005.** The first part of the report summarizes the outcomes of the First DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference. It also highlights the involvement of DIVERSITAS in the conference «Biodiversity: Science and Governance» and in the Consultation of an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). The following chapters are dedicated to the achievements of the DIVERSITAS Core Projects and Cross-cutting Networks, the ESSP Joint Projects and the DIVERSITAS National Committees. [http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/DIVERSITAS-Annual-Report\\_2005.pdf](http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/DIVERSITAS-Annual-Report_2005.pdf)

### IMoSEB:

Loreau *et al.* (2006). **Diversity Without Representation.** In: *Nature*, vol442, p245. 20 July 2006.

For policymakers, biodiversity can present more complex challenges than climate change, argue M Loreau, A Oteng-Yeboah and their co-authors. So why is there no international panel of experts for biodiversity?

Read the press release by T Collins: *Titans of Biodiversity Science...* on:

[http://www.diversitas-international.org/uploads/File/T%20Collins\\_news\\_release\\_17July06.pdf](http://www.diversitas-international.org/uploads/File/T%20Collins_news_release_17July06.pdf)

### agroBIODIVERSITY:

Perrings *et al.* (2006). **Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes: Saving Natural Capital without Losing Interest.** In: *Conservation Biology* Volume 20, No. 2, 263-264

[http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/diversitas/perrings\\_conservation\\_biology.pdf](http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/diversitas/perrings_conservation_biology.pdf)

### GISP (Global Invasive Species Project):

The 6<sup>th</sup> GISP Newsletter is now out at: <http://www.gisp.org/publications/newsletter/GISPnewsletter6.pdf>

## E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS

### Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2006, the Biodiversity Sub-Committee of the Global Environmental Change Committee held a one-day workshop entitled "**Evaluating the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: messages, knowledge gaps and policy implications**". DIVERSITAS was represented by D Raffaelli and A Holt. The Executive Summary, Report, Recommendations and presentation from the workshop can be downloaded at: [http://www.ukgecc.org/dvl\\_Biodiversity\\_MEA.htm](http://www.ukgecc.org/dvl_Biodiversity_MEA.htm)

## IUCN

*19-21 September 2006 - Paris, France*

Conference: **Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation; supporting the sustainable development of Partner countries.** The conference participants are challenged into debating the double task of fighting poverty and biodiversity loss. The conference will be organised around speeches, round table and workshop, leading to a final discussion. Complete information and full programme can be obtained from: [www.countdown2010.net/paris2006](http://www.countdown2010.net/paris2006)

## GEO

*26-28 September 2006 - Bangkok, Thailand*

**Capacity Building workshop Earth Observations in the Service of Water Management** (upon invitation only). The workshop is organized on behalf of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations theme (IGWCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). More at: <http://www.a-a-r-s.org/ws-eowm/> All inquiries regarding the workshop can be directed to the workshop secretariat ([ws-eowm@a-a-r-s.org](mailto:ws-eowm@a-a-r-s.org))

**Technical comments on the draft version of the GEO Work Plan for 2007-2009** can be downloaded from: [http://geodesy.unr.edu/ggos/geo/GGOS\\_Comments\\_to\\_GEO.pdf](http://geodesy.unr.edu/ggos/geo/GGOS_Comments_to_GEO.pdf)

## CIFOR: Centre for International Forestry Research

**Forests and human health: assessing the evidence** by Carol J. Pierce Colfer, Douglas Sheil, Misa Kishi. Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), 2006. (CIFOR Occasional Paper; No. 45)

This paper is the result of a survey on two issues: 1) the state of human health in forests, and the causal links between forests and human health. 2) disease and other health problems. The summary can be downloaded from <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/scripts/newscripts/publications/detail.asp?pid=2037>, and the full document by following this link: [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf\\_files/OccPapers/OP-45.pdf](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/OccPapers/OP-45.pdf)

## **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.**

Updates of the programme are available at:

[http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/ConfProgramme\\_index.html](http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/ConfProgramme_index.html)

*12-16 June 2006 - Tutzing, Germany*

**ESSP Chairs and Directors meeting.** The second meeting brought together representatives of the joint projects (GCP, GECAFS and GECHH) and MAIRS. One key output was the discussion of a revised model for the governance of the ESSP.

WCRP WCRP is happy to announce its **new website**: <http://wcrp.wmo.int>

IGBP IGBP is happy to announce its **new website**: <http://www.igbp.net>

*9-10 September 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico*

**Post Conference Opportunity for Young Scientists, Workshop on Urbanization Interactions with Biogeochemistry and Climate.** Sponsored by the new IGBP Analysis, Integration and Modelling of the Earth System (AIMES: <http://www.aimes.ucar.edu>) core project. The goal of the workshop is to produce a manuscript reviewing the state of knowledge on urbanization impacts on biogeochemistry and climate from an Earth's System perspective, and identify key gaps and research priorities that the YSN can pursue for the next few years. For more information on the AIMES Young Scientist's Network, visit: <http://www.aimes.ucar.edu/activities/YSN/YSN.shtml> or contact K Hibbard ([kathyh@ucar.edu](mailto:kathyh@ucar.edu))

*21-26 January 2007 - Tromsø, Norway*

The **1<sup>st</sup> annual Arctic Frontiers Conference** is organized by the Integrated Marine Biochemistry and Ecosystem Research (IMBER: <http://www.imber.info/>). Information can be obtained at: <http://www.arctic-frontiers.com/>

### GWSP (Global Water System Project)

**GWSP briefing notes April - June 2006** can be obtained from L Wever ([gwsp.ip@uni-bonn.de](mailto:gwsp.ip@uni-bonn.de))

*4-3 April 2006 - Kyoto, Japan*

**GRAPHIC Symposium.** The Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Changes (GRAPHIC) Symposium was organized by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) of Japan and UNESCO-IHP, with support from IGRAC (International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center), **GWSP** (Global Water System Project), and IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists). The symposium was convened to report on studies of groundwater around the world under a range of climate and human pressures and to develop potential projects to be pursued under the GRAPHIC Project. The final day of the Symposium was spent summarizing the lessons emerging from the Symposium and proposing projects to be carried out under GRAPHIC to improve the understanding and management of groundwater as a vital contributor to the global water cycle, ecosystems and communities, under changing climatic and anthropomorphic regimes.

*8-11 June 2006 - Guangzhou, China*

**2nd GWSP-ASIA Meeting.** The GWSP Asia Network now includes representatives from 14 Asian countries. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the GWSP research agenda for Asia with a focus on water related issues of mega cities and the impacts of dams. The meeting was conducted jointly with the international conference on "Hydrological Sciences for Managing Water Resources in the Asian Developing World". The presentations held during the workshop are available on the GWSP website [http://www.gwsp.org/gwspasia\\_workshop2.html](http://www.gwsp.org/gwspasia_workshop2.html)

The follow-ups of this workshop include the preparation of a research proposal to be submitted to the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). GWSP co-chair C Vörösmarty and E Craswell also discussed with Prof. L Changming and M Taniguchi proposals to establish regional GWSP-Asia offices in Beijing and in Kyoto.

*9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China*

**ESSP OSC 1: Water-related Parallel Sessions.** The GWSP will jointly sponsor with GEWEX a session on water resources data, and with IDGEC a session on governance. GWSP and LOICZ will convene a joint session at the ESSP Open Science Conference entitled 'How do coastal and freshwater systems interact under the global water system?' which aims to examine how coastal processes and freshwater processes meet as part of the global water system. Session co-convenors are J Alcamo and F Lansigan.

The GWSP will convene, jointly with DIVERSITAS, a Session on Environmental Flows entitled 'Environmental Water Allocations: Conserving Ecological Goods and Services'. Topics include: Environmental flows, rivers, fresh water, biodiversity, freshwater goods and services, freshwater sustainability, freshwater governance, environmental water allocations. Session co-convenors are S Bunn and R Naiman.

### Global Carbon Project (GCP)

*4-8 September, 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico*

**First International Conference on Carbon Management at Urban and Regional Levels: Connecting Development Decisions to Global Issues.** Scientists, practitioners, decision makers, and scholars working on issues related to carbon within the context of urban and regional development and regional carbon budgets, will meet around 80 oral and poster presentations on four theme areas:

1. Measurement and Observations
2. Patterns, Variability and Modelling at Multiple Scales
3. Influence and Development Processes on Carbon Emissions
4. Mitigation Opportunities, Constraints and Challenges for Urban and Regional Carbon Management at Multiple Scales

Conference website: <http://www.gcp-urcm.org> or contact: Melanie Hartman at [gcp-urcm@nies.go.jp](mailto:gcp-urcm@nies.go.jp)

**Two open side events** will be held in conjunction with the conference:

*-6 September 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico*

Session for Higher Education: "**Responsibility, Opportunity, and Vision for Higher Education in Urban and Regional Carbon Management**". Contact P Canan ([pcanan@gmail.com](mailto:pcanan@gmail.com))

*-6 September 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico*

**Urbanization Workshop**, sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).

Contact P Romero Lankao at [prlankao@ucar.edu](mailto:prlankao@ucar.edu) or [prlankao@correo.xoc.uam.mx](mailto:prlankao@correo.xoc.uam.mx)