

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 **February 25th 2007**.

A DIVERSITAS General

02-06 October 2006 - Rome, Italy

52 Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) Executive Committee meeting. A. Larigauderie represented DIVERSITAS. The 52EC meeting of SCOPE, one of the sponsors of DIVERSITAS, was a mid-term meeting between General Assemblies, attended by representatives of SCOPE Members as well as intergovernmental partner agencies. A strategic plan for SCOPE, following up on recommendations formulated in Rome, will be circulated to all SCOPE Members for comment and input early 2007.

16-17 October 2006 - Panama City, Panama.

First ICSU Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the possible roles of an ICSU regional office in this region of the world. DIVERSITAS was represented by Mary Kalin Arroyo, a former member of the SC-DIVERSITAS, who presented some ideas for scientific collaboration on biodiversity in Latin America, in the context of the new ICSU office.

19 - 20 October 2006 - Clamart, France

EDF-GDF Hydroecology colloquium 2006: Biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems. Organized by the Gas and Electricity national French provider group. A Larigauderie presented a talk on 'the erosion of biodiversity'.

More information (in French) at <http://www.edf.fr/72146m/txt/Accueil-fr/Recherche-et-Developpement/Pour-la-communaute-scientifique/Printemps-de-la-recherche/Colloque-2006-du-Comite-Hydroecologie.html>

01-03 November 2006 - Montreal, Canada

International Group of Funding Agencies for global change research (IGFA) Plenary meeting 2006.

This year's IGFA plenary discussed funding of global change research and the international global change research programs. It also featured a symposium on the economics of climate change.

DIVERSITAS was represented by A Larigauderie and M Loreau.

14 November 2006, MNHN, Paris, France

First Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the European Distributed Institute for Taxonomy (EDIT). A Larigauderie, a member of this SAC, attended this meeting, which produced a set of recommendations to the EDIT Board of Directors and Steering Committee on the implementation of EDIT, an EU-funded FP6 Network of Excellence.

27-31 March 2007 - Cap Town, South Africa

DIVERSITAS Scientific Committee annual meeting (Invitation only)

ESSP-OSC

9-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China

A special issue of the DIVERSITAS Newsletter dedicated to the ESSP Open Science Conference, which recently took place in China will be published soon.

ESSP: Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges: An Earth System Science Partnership Global Environmental Change Open Science Conference. (<http://www.essp.org/> and <http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/>)

Sessions related to DIVERSITAS included:

- Climate Change and Rising CO₂: 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/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 and E Spehn /GMBA, and G Greenwood/ MRI. A webcast of the talks is available online at <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/view/90/43/>
- Environmental Water Allocations: Conserving Ecological Goods and Services** R Naiman and S Bunn/freshwaterBIODIVERSITY and GWSP.
- Environmental Change and Disease Emergence: Predictive Approaches to a Global Problem** P Daszak/DIVERSITAS and M Cesario
- Global environmental change and human health: Issues and research needs** T McMichael /GEC HH
- How does global environmental change affect health and how can we measure it?** T McMichael/GEC HH and U Confalonieri

International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)

Full update on the on-going IMoSEB consultation can be found on the **electronic newsletter 2**.

(<http://www.imoseb.net/content/download/1309/6732/version/2/file/IMoSEB+Newsletter+%232-Nov06.doc>)

Questionnaire http://www.imoseb.net/web_questionnaire

One of the purposes of the consultative process towards an IMoSEB is to examine the different level of decision-making occurring in Biodiversity emphasizing on the Global and International level. The goal of this questionnaire is to involve all the biodiversity stakeholders in the consultation and to gather views from different perspectives in order to feed the consultation and to determine the follow up of the consultation and what an "IMoSEB" could be.

This questionnaire is specifically directed toward Decision Makers and Expertise and Knowledge Providers.

10 October 2006 - Montreal, Canada

CBD secretariat. M Loreau presented a seminar on the IMoSEB consultation entitled: "**Challenges of biodiversity science and governance**".

05-06 December 2006 - Paris, France

Executive Committee meeting of the IMoSEB consultation. (Invitation only)

B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

bioGENESIS

01 November 2006 - Fukuoka, Japan

Symposium on evolution and systematics research. This symposium was organised by T Yahara from Kyushu University and co-chair of bioGENESIS. Researchers presented the last results of their research on different topics related to biodiversity evolution and systematics and discussed future research priorities. Read the programme and presentations' abstracts:

(<http://www.diversitas-international.org/uploads/File/biogenesis.pdf>)

02-03 November 2006 - Fukuoka, Japan

First bioGENESIS Scientific Committee meeting. The main goals of the group were to draw the scientific priorities of bioGENESIS - i.e.: providing an evolutionary framework to biodiversity science- and to propose a set of activities for the next years. The draft science plan and implementation strategy of bioGENESIS will be sent to an international consultation by April 2007 for comments. bioGENESIS plans to have an active role in the collaboration between DIVERSITAS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially in the context of the Global Taxonomic Initiative.

April 2007 Synergies between the Tree of Life and the Bar Code of Life. This activity will be carried out in collaboration with the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy, EDIT.

03-07 June 2007 - Beijing, China

Meeting: "Evolutionary Biology in the 21st Century - Tracing Patterns of Evolution through the Tree of Life" organized by M Donoghue. (Invitation only)

14-16 July (to be confirmed) 2007 - University of Zürich, Switzerland

Mediterranean symposium: **Origin and evolution of biota in Mediterranean climate zones, with emphasis on the Mediterranean basin: an integrative vision.** Symposium organised by E Conti, (University of Zürich, Switzerland) and Member of the bioGENESIS Scientific Committee. Scientists from different research areas (evolutionary biology, ecology, paleopalynology, paleoclimatology, paleogeology, paleontology) will meet to improve our current understanding of patterns and processes of biotic assembly in Mediterranean climate zones.

A website for registration will be set up in the early months of 2007.

bioDISCOVERY

23-25 October 2006 - WMO, Geneva

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. The meeting decided to form a new global partnership to collect, manage, analyze and report on the status and trends of the world's biodiversity. The newly developed community will ensure that adequate biodiversity data and information will be generated, analysed and included in the ongoing effort to establish a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). A booth on this new initiative was presented at the GEO-III Plenary on 28-29 November 2006, in Bonn, Germany. For a description of the initiative, and a list of involved partners, follow: http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/diversitas/GEOIII_2-PAGER2006.doc
Contact: A Larigauderie (anne@diversitas-international.org) , N Jürgens (Norbert.Juergens@t-online.de) .

28-29 November 2006, Bonn, Germany

Third Plenary session of the Group on Earth Observations- GEO III. DIVERSITAS, represented by A Larigauderie and N Jürgens, was formally recognised as a Participating Organisation by GEO-III. DIVERSITAS presented a poster, and circulated a flyer on the outcome of the October 2006 workshop on users needs for biodiversity observation. DIVERSITAS will be one -of the leading agencies in Task BI-07-01 of GEOSS - to further define and plan for a global biodiversity observing system. More information: http://www.earthobservations.org/meetings/plenary_mtgs.html#GEOIII

Contact: A Larigauderie , N Jürgens

ecoSERVICES

2006-2008 - South America

EREMIBA programme endorsed by DIVERSITAS' ecoSERVICES. The CNRS (National centre for scientific research, France) in collaboration with the IRD (Research and Development Institute, France) has started a **multidisciplinary 2-year programme on emerging or re-emerging infectious disease in the Amazonian basin (EREMIBA)**. More information at <http://www.guyane.cnrs.fr/art-eremiba.html> Contact : C Chevillon (chevillon@mpl.ird.fr) or J-F Guégan. (guegan@mpl.ird.fr)

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

8th International BIOECON Kings College Conference: 'Economic Analysis of Ecology and Biodiversity'. Conference co-sponsored by DIVERSITAS. The **DIVERSITAS Session 'Biodiversity science for human well-being'** was chaired by U Pascual (agroBIODIVERSITY). Four speakers presented the following papers: Dan van Soest: Trust, Trustworthiness and Cooperation: Social Capital and Community Resource Management (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bioecon/8th_paper/BoumaVanSoestBulteSocialCapital.PDF)

Martin Quass: Natural vs. financial insurance in the management of public-good ecosystems (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bioecon/8th_paper/Quaas_Baumgaertner.pdf)

Klaus Glenk: Locally Perceived Values of Biological Diversity in Indonesia - a Choice Experiment Approach (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bioecon/8th_paper/Glenk.pdf)

Unai Pascual: Economics of Biodiversity and Productivity in Intensive Agricultural Systems (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bioecon/8th_paper/Pascual.pdf)

You can find all the information about speakers and papers of the conference at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bioecon/index.html> and clicking on the "conferences" link.

06-10 October 2006 - Madison, USA

EcoHealth One conference. The goal of the conference was to provide a forum to express and participate in the design of new ideas on all aspects of trans-disciplinary linkages between ecology and health research. This conference was very productive in terms of new research ideas emerging as well as developing this new field of research. Many scientists involved in DIVERSITAS and the ESSP joint project on "Global Environmental Change and Human Health" presented their work and vision (i.e. P Daszak, J Patz, U Confalonieri, J-F Guégan).

The conference **launched the new International Association for Ecology and Health, abbreviated EcoHealth** (<http://www.ecohealth.net/>) with a draft constitution (<http://www.ecohealth.net/association.php>)

The Association will hold an international event every two years, the next one being in 2008. In the meantime, a meeting has already been planned 12 months from now in Melbourne, Australia: The Asia-Pacific Ecohealth Conference (www.deakin.edu.au/events/ecohealth2007). More information about the EcoHealth One conference at: <http://www.ecohealth.net/Conference/site/>

9-11 October 2006 - Madison, USA

DIVERSITAS scoping meeting on Biodiversity and Health. Following the EcoHealth One Conference, DIVERSITAS held a scoping meeting, chaired by P Daszak (Consortium of Conservation Medicine) to define scientific priorities for biodiversity and health. Many different issues were highlighted as trade off

analysis of conflicts between biodiversity conservation and health; evolutionary consequences of emerging new infectious diseases; comparing mechanisms by which invasive species are successful with those responsible for new diseases' emergence. These activities will be developed in collaboration with the new ESSP Global Environmental Change and Human Health project. A full report of the meeting will be available soon. Find the list of participants at:

http://www.diversitas-international.org/uploads/File/health/Participants_BioHealth-EcoHealth.pdf

30 Nov-4 December 2006 - Monte Verità, Switzerland

DIVERSITAS-BioMERGE workshop (Invitation only). The meeting was organised by S Naeem and D Bunker from BioMERGE and 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. Contact: J Joshi (joshi@uwinst.unizh.ch), A Hector. More at: <http://www.unizh.ch/uwinst/Ascona/index.html>

14-16 May 2007 - Paris, France

ecoSERVICES Scientific Committee meeting (invitation only)

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

11 December 2006 - Switzerland

Call for expertise contribution: **International Mountain Day 2006: Managing Biodiversity in Mountain Areas: Enhancing food security and livelihood**

GMBA representatives are looking for case studies of successful mountain biodiversity management (against loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, or ecosystem degradation).

In addition, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD's decision VII/27 on mountain biological diversity) is looking for information on: 1) links between mountain biodiversity, sustainable development and poverty alleviation; 2) value of traditional and sustainable land use practices contributing by indigenous and local communities in preserving mountain biodiversity; 3) successful collaboration between mountain dwellers and communities living in areas adjacent to mountains in the form of incentives for mountain dwellers.

Documents, citations of publications, links or contacts will be gratefully accepted and your help will be greatly acknowledged. Contact: E Spehn, GMBA office (gmba@unibas.ch)

More information at www.fao.org/mnts/intl_mountain_day_en.asp

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

01-03 December 2006 - Brussels, Belgium

International workshop **"Cooperative Strategies for current international initiatives on freshwater biodiversity: Exploring the willingness and feasibility of sharing information and expertise on global freshwater biodiversity"**. Several international groups are currently carrying out studies and data

compilation on freshwater biodiversity. The objectives of the meeting were to investigate strategies for collaboration and to initiate an active network for sharing information and developing synergies amongst organizations. 20-25 participants were expected, representatives of international organisations involved in freshwater biodiversity research and conservation and DIVERSITAS was represented by R Naiman, Chair of freshwater BIODIVERSITY. Contact: Estelle Balian (estelle.balian@naturalsciences.be)

27 Aug - 1 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

3rd International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes (TISORL): "Global change and river-floodplain ecosystems".

3-6 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

2nd International Conference on Environmental-Flows. *3-6 September 2007, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

10th International Riversymposium.

For further information on the 3 events, contact S Bunn (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/>).

C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

Belgium

24 October 2006 - Brussels, Belgium

Meeting of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. The goal of this meeting was to present the national, European and international activities of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, which plays the role of the DIVERSITAS National Committee. The on-going activities of the platform cover four thematic areas: - biodiversity data (digitization of biodiversity data); - biodiversity research information systems; - thematic actions, from theory to practice on invasive species, forest ecosystem and freshwater ecosystems; - science and policy (EPBRs, DIVERSITAS). A-H Prieur-Richard gave a presentation on DIVERSITAS activities related to the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. More information on www.biodiversity.be

01-03 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.**" See freshwaterBIODIVERSITY event.

China

20-22 Jan, 2007 - Beijing, China

2006 Joint Open Science Conference of CNC-WCRP, CNC-IGBP, CNC-IHDP and CNC-DIVERSITAS

This will be the first time that the four Chinese national committees of the four ESSP programmes jointly meet. The major theme is the earth system process and human activities under which there are three key issues: 1) strategy and research methodologies for earth system science; 2) pattern and simulation of earth system and 3) extreme events and sustainable development of society and economy. Following this joint event, every national committee will have its own internal meeting to wrap up the work achieved in 2006 and discuss plans for 2007. For CNC-Diversitas, the contact is Miss Xuehong Xu (strawberry@ibcas.ac.cn).

France

23 October 2006 - Paris, France

Meeting of the French National Committee on Global Changes (CNFCG). The 4 main international programmes WCRP, IGBP, IHDP, **DIVERSITAS** (A-H Prieur-Richard) and ESSP (M Rice) were represented at this meeting: they were given the opportunity to present their strategies, and in return were informed

on the research activities carried out in France. The morning was dedicated to the programmes with 5 oral presentations of 25 minutes, followed by questions and discussions. A round table was organised in the afternoon, with statements from French representatives, CNFCG members or invitees, on their respective activities in global change. The main conclusions and discussions of the CNFCG Arles symposium "Regards Croisés sur les Changements Globaux" in November 2002 were recalled, together with an update of the GEO and GMES programmes.

26-27 October 2006 - Paris, France

4emes Journées Scientifiques de l'IFB . Over 250 people participated to the debate entitled « What biodiversity science in 2015? ». IMoSEB's (D Babin) and DIVERSITAS' (A-H Prieur-Richard) roles and aims were represented and took part in the discussions. Texts, official allocutions, round table minutes debate are posted on the IFB site: <http://www.gis-ifb.org/>

Morocco

M Messouli (messouli@gmail.com) created the new Moroccan DIVERSITAS National Committee which includes thirty scientists interested in biodiversity in Morocco. These members constitute a temporary commission to implement a one-year consultation phase on building contacts and creating a network. They are planning several workshops and round-tables. This consultation period will end in November 2007 when the first DIVERSITAS-Morocco NC meeting will take place.

Philippines

25-26 October 2006 - Musuan, Philippines

Bukidnon 2nd Long Term Ecological and Biodiversity Research (LTER) Symposium and 1st DIVERSITAS Symposium. Attended by 190 participants from the Philippines, mainland China and Taiwan, the two-day symposium featured 23 oral paper presenters and 41 posters dealing with long-term ecological and biodiversity research. The interim Philippine National Committee for Long-Term Ecological Research and DIVERSITAS drafted two resolutions signed by all participants in the symposium. The 1st resolution is to establish a National Scientific Committee for International Long -Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER Network) and DIVERSITAS for the Philippines and the 2nd resolution is to influence national research and funding institutions to implement ILTER Network and DIVERSITAS science projects.

Contact V Amoroso (amorosovic@yahoo.com) and visit the **Philippines LTER-DIVERSITAS website** (<http://www.cmu.edu.ph/lter-diversitas>)

D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS

agroBIODIVERSITY

Jackson LE, Brussaard L, de Ruiter PC, Pascual U, Perrings C and Bawa K. (In press). **Agrobiodiversity. Encyclopedia of Biodiversity 572**; online update. Editor: Professor Simon Levin, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

Arthington AH, Bunn SE, Poff NL and Naiman RJ. (2006). **The challenge of providing environmental flow rules to sustain river ecosystems**. Ecological Applications, 16(4), 2006, pp. 1311-1318

Sullivan C *et al.* (2006). **Mapping the Links between Water, Poverty and Food Security**. Report on the Indicators workshop held at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, UK, 16-19 May 2005. GWSP Issues in Global Water System Research, No. 1. GWSP IPO, Bonn. Available online: http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/gwsp_issues_no1_lowres.pdf

Global Invasive Species Project (GISP):

September 2006 - **New GISP brochure explores invasives-poverty link.** In an effort to gain a better understanding on the true socio-economic impact of invasive species, GISP recently commissioned research into the effects of invasive species infestations on the livelihoods of poor, rural communities. Download it at: <http://www.gisp.org/publications/brochures/invasivesandpoverty.pdf>

E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

13-15 December 2006 - Potsdam, Germany

Workshop of senior experts on the implementation of the CBD (invitation only). The Federal Government of Germany is organising a workshop on ways to improve implementation of the CBD. Germany will host the 9th COP of the CBD in 2008, two years ahead of the target date of 2010.

22 May 2007 - Canada

2007 International Day for Biological Diversity: Biodiversity and Climate Change. More info at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2006/ntf-2006-091-cbd-en.pdf>. Fact Sheet on Biodiversity and Climate Change, and the IBD 2006 Report are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007.shtml>.

EcoSummit

22-27 May 2007 - Beijing, China

Eco Summit 2007: "Ecological Complexity and Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities for 21st-Century's Ecology". Deadline for abstract submissions January 15, 2007. Deadline for submission of special evening proposals January 31, 2007.

You can register now at <http://www.ecosummit2007.elsevier.com/index.htm>

ERA-Net biodivERsA

22 Jan -09 February 2007 -

Electronic-Conference: **European Support for Biodiversity Research in Developing Countries, and Mechanisms to Enhance International Collaboration and Co-Funding.** Three sessions are being planned: 1a) Existing biodiversity research activities and strategies of EU Member states in developing countries; 1b) Existing biodiversity research funded by the European Commission and other European agencies in developing countries; 2) Priority topics for future biodiversity research in developing countries; 3) Mechanisms to improve collaboration between European funding agencies and engagement with developing country scientists. e-Conference registration and further BiodivERsA information at www.eurobiodiversa.org

EUR-OCEANS (European Network of Excellence for Ocean Ecosystems Analysis)

20-23 March 2007 - Cadiz, Spain

Announcement for the **International Symposium on "Parameterisation of Trophic Interactions in Ecosystem Modelling"**. More information at <http://www.eur-oceans.eu/index2.php>

European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

17-19 November 2006 - Helsinki, Finland,

EPBRS meeting. The Finnish EPBRS meeting was structured around one general issue and two focused ones, respectively 'How to reach the 2010 -and beyond - target: research influencing policy', 'Youth and biodiversity' and 'Urban ecology and biodiversity'. This EPBRS meeting provided recommendations that will help the EU and the international policy processes to accelerate the implementation of measures to halt the biodiversity loss by formulating more precise expectations on biodiversity research and policy. It also

produced recommendations on biodiversity education and urban biodiversity to be included in the EPBRS Action Plan. More at http://www.epbrs.org/epbrs_next_meeting.html

European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE)

05-08 June 2007 - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

7th international conference: **ESEE 2007: Integrating Natural and Social Sciences for Sustainability.**

More information at <http://www.esee2007.ufz.de/start.html>

Germany

08-10 May 2007 - Leipzig, Germany

German EU Council Presidency 2007: **Sustainable Neighbourhood - from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research (L2L): A conference on research for sustainable development in Europe.** Call for presentation and posters: deadline for submitting abstracts: 22 December 2006. The aim of this conference is to

position sustainability research as an engine for European competitiveness within the Lisbon Agenda. Information at: http://www.fona.de/de/3_akteure/forum_2007/pdf/L2L_Call.pdf

Hungary

04-06 September 2006 - Budapest, Hungary

7th Hungarian Ecological Congress: Dryland session. The congress session aimed at outlining research priorities necessary to support these landscape-scale activities. Significant progress has been made in the integration of associated research efforts in natural and in social sciences. The resulting better cooperation of researchers in these fields could help in finding remedies for this burning issue. Contact E Kovács-Láng (lange@botanika.botanika.hu)

International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)

10-12 May 2007 - Washington DC, USA

Biological Sciences for the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development in an Era of Global Change. Symposium sponsored by the IUBS as a component of its 29th General Assembly. Abstracts are being accepted for poster presentation at the symposium. Further details as well as registration, hotel information, and abstract submission are available at <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/IUBS>.

Life Watch

A large-scale European Infrastructure for Biodiversity Research. The European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) selected the Life Watch plan to build a biodiversity research infrastructure in its first Roadmap for new large-scale Research Infrastructures. More information on <http://www.lifewatch.eu/> and <http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/>

Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)

Position advertisement

OBIS is a network of organisations around the world that publish online data on marine species locations and associated information (www.iobis.org). At present, over 10 million records of 78,000 species are published through a common portal that enables seamless integration of data from 146 interoperable databases. **OBIS seeks an Executive Director** to develop this initiative. Please read the job description at http://www.iobis.org/news_items/ed_post_revised.doc

Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)

01-05 July 2007 - Port Elizabeth, South Africa

SCB 21st Annual meeting. The call for contributed papers and posters **SCB 2007 Conference** is now open until 8 January 2007. Please see <http://www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/callpaper.htm> for instructions for preparing

abstracts and submit your abstract ONLINE. For more information please visit the meeting website: <http://www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/> Contact: M Collett (Margot.Collett@nmmu.ac.za)

01-05 July 2007 - Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa

21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology: One World, One Conservation, One Partnership. The theme of the 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. More information at <http://compworx.isat.co.za/scb/index.htm>

Swiss Academy of Sciences

The **Swiss Academy of Sciences** 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>

'**Systematics**' The Academy of Sciences Switzerland, in collaboration with the Swiss Biodiversity Forum edit this publication that delivers basic knowledge on how to record and name biodiversity and proposes a catalogue of measures to assess biodiversity.

Swiss Forum on Conservation Biology (SWIFCOB)

03 November 2006 - Bern, Switzerland

Research and Application in Dialogue. More than 180 representatives of the federal administration, researchers, consultants and NGO discussed options for implementing this essential CBD requirement in Switzerland. More information at <http://www.biodiversity.ch/events/swifcob/swifcob6/index.php?lang=f> (in French or German)

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

19-21 September 2006 - Paris, France

Conference: **Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation; supporting the sustainable development of Partner countries.** More information at <http://www.countdown2010.net/paris2006/>

F Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) NEWS

DIVERSITAS is a member of the **ESSP** (www.essp.org), which includes: **DIVERSITAS**, **IGBP**, **IHDP** and **WCRP**.



09-12 November 2006 - Beijing, China

ESSP: Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges: An Earth System Science Partnership Global Environmental Change Open Science Conference.

The ESSP Open Science Conference recently convened in Beijing, China and was opened by Q Dahe and G McBean, Co-Chairs of the Conference. 900 experts from around the world attended including young scientists specialising in various Earth System science disciplines, funding agency representatives, exhibitors, media representatives, and government officials from China and elsewhere. In his closing speech, J Church, WCRP Chair, highlighted the many opportunities that evolve from building on the success of the GEC Programmes and the ESSP partnership. About 50 Chinese and foreign correspondents from various news agencies from around the world provided science updates and discussions on global environmental change at the ESSP Open Science Conference.

Leading experts in the diverse fields of Earth System science gave interviews. The China Meteorological Administration's Weather Channel devoted a news programme about the ESSP Conference including live broadcasts and interviews with experts attending the Conference.
Conference web pages at <http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/>

ESSP has edited a new webpage under the same address (<http://www.essp.org>), have a look and comment! The best has been done to avoid mistakes - like corrupt links - but you might still find something not working as it should: please contact M Wolff at mwolff@awi-bremerhaven.de

New study: Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional Study (MAIRS): The Earth System Science Partnership has launched MAIRS (<http://www.essp.org/en/integrated-regional-studies/mairs.html>) during the ESSP-OSC2 in Beijing. Details of this project, as well as outline of research needs and knowledge gaps in the understanding of Monsoon Asia, were shared during several special sessions at the ESSP Open Science Conference.
Read the whole press release at <http://www.essp.org/en/media/press-releases/061108-press-release-mairs-launch.html>

New research initiative: Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH): The Earth System Science Partnership launched a new research initiative on "Global Environmental Change and Human Health (<http://www.essp.org/en/joint-projects/health.html>)" during the ESSP-OSC2 in Beijing. The project, co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation, aims to create an international network of researchers who can identify and quantify health risks posed by global environmental change, and develop adaptation strategies that are cost effective for reducing health risks. Read our press release at <http://www.essp.org/en/media/press-releases/061111-pressrelease-gechh.html>

Global Carbon Project (GCP)

04-08 September, 2006 - Mexico City, Mexico

First International Conference on Carbon Management at Urban and Regional Levels: Connecting Development Decisions to Global Issues. The Conference, sponsored by GCP, IAI, INE and NCAR among other organizations, aimed to address one of the societal challenges posed by human-induced climate change, to find ways of understanding and reducing carbon emissions (<http://www.gcp-urcm.org/>). As a conclusion for the meeting, the participants agreed upon the **Declaration for Carbon Management Education**, (<http://www.cbmjournals.com/content/pdf/1750-0680-1-13.pdf>)

For more information please contact P Romero Lankao (prlankao@ucar.edu).

GWSP (Global Water System Project)

The 4th edition of the '**Global Water News**' is out: http://www.gwsp.org/downloads/GWSP_NL4_Internetversion.pdf

The International Project Office (IPO) of GWSP, based in Bonn, Germany, welcomes Mrs. Lydia Dümenil Gates as our new Executive Officer. She will replace E Craswell who, after a successful career as executive officer and programme manager, is going back to Australia. You will now contact the GWSP IPO through Mrs Lydia.dumenilgates@uni-bonn.de

06 November 2006 - Beijing, China

CNC-GWSP (Chinese National Committee of GWSP) Annual Workshop and GWSP Joint meeting with CNC-GWSP. RJ Naiman (Chair of DIVERSITAS' freshwaterBIODIVERSITY Scientific Committee) gave a presentation on "Environmental and ecological flows" to the Chinese National Committee of the GWSP in Beijing. The presentation was attended by ~35 members of the Chinese National Committee and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was followed by a very positive and productive discussion of possible approaches that could be taken to maintain freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems functions in face of pervasive changes to China's rivers.

07-08 November 2006 - Beijing, China

GWSP Scientific Steering Committee meeting. DIVERSITAS participants: S Bunn, R Naiman, C Nilsen and A-H Prieur-Richard. The main goal of this meeting was to evaluate the GWSP activities and especially to highlight the topics of the GWSP science plan, which have been less developed. The planned activities for next year were also discussed. DIVERSITAS and GWSP will work jointly on two topics: environmental flows and a global freshwater assessment.

09-11 May 2007 - Washington, USA

TIAS-GWSP Workshop: Global Assessments - Bridging Scales and linking to policy. The Integrated Assessment Society (TIAS) and the Global Water System Project (GWSP) organise a two-day workshop which topics include "Uncertainty analysis" and "Integrating global assessment at the local and regional scales". The call for session proposals is open until 31/12/2006.

More information at <http://www.tias-web.info/>

IGBP

21-26 January 2007 - Tromsø, Norway

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

13-16 March 2007 - Brazil

IGBP Scientific Committee meeting (IGBP-SC 07), (invitation only). Joint IGBP / IHDP Scientific Committees meeting

26-29 June 2007 - Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

PICES/ICES Conference for Early Career Scientists: New Frontiers in Marine Science,

More at : http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2007_symposia/Young_scientists/newfrontiers.aspx

03-07 December 2007 - La Paz, Mexico

1st GLOBEC CLIOTOP Symposium. CLIOTOP (Climate Impacts on Oceanic TOP Predators) is implemented under the international research program GLOBEC and is devoted to the study of oceanic top predators within their ecosystems and is based on a worldwide comparative approach, i.e. among regions, oceans and species. More at <http://web.pml.ac.uk/globec/structure/regional/cliotop/symposium.htm>

WCRP / IGBP

11-12 January 2007- Tokyo, Japan

First call for the **GEOSS Symposium on Integrated Observation for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region** (GEOSS AP Symposium). The goals of this symposium are to: Present progress on GEOSS implementation to a wide audience of government officials, experts, scientists, the public and the press from Asia-Pacific countries; Summarize the current situation of in-situ networks, satellite capability, model predictability, and data integration, and discuss future plans for filling the observational gaps, avoiding duplication and contributing to socio-economic benefit; Explore convergence of existing observational networks in Asian-Pacific countries under GEOSS.

The technical sessions have been organized on the following topics: Monitoring Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Climate change and the water cycle; Space and in-situ observation for geohazard monitoring

Contact: symposium office in Japan: geoss_ap@restec.or.jp Website: www.prime-intl.co.jp/geoss/