



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 2008**.

Please note: change the '_AT_' by '@' in the email addresses

A DIVERSITAS General

The next meeting of the SC DIVERSITAS will be held in Paris from 25 to 28 March 2008 (upon invitation only).

The second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13 to 16 October 2009.

Prof. **Georgina M. Mace**, Vice Chair of the SC-DIVERSITAS has been awarded the **International Cosmos Prize**. [More](#)

Prof. H.A. (Hal) **Mooney**, Chair Elect of the SC-DIVERSITAS, has been awarded the **2007 Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology and Environmental Sciences**. [More](#)

DIVERSITAS is interested in your project: In order to submit your project for endorsement as an official DIVERSITAS project, please look at the [endorsement procedure](#)

International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)

DIVERSITAS has supported the IMoSEB process since its inception.

Over the past 3 months, the consultation on an IMoSEB held:

-its Asian consultation in Beijing on 24-25 Sept 2007: follow-up to successful meeting between M Donoghue, co-chair bioGENESIS, P Daszak, Treasurer SC-DIVERSITAS, A Larigauderie, and a delegation of Chinese scientists and officials);

-its Latin American consultation (Bariloche, Argentina 2-3 Oct 2007). Following up on a meeting between M Loreau and A Larigauderie and Brazilian officials in July 2007, Brazil will hold its own national consultation on IMoSEB on 21-22 November 2007 in Brasilia;

-its Oceanian consultation (Alotau, Papua-New Guinea 19-20 Oct 2007).

The IMoSEB formal consultation ended with the final meeting of its International Steering Committee (Montpellier, 15-17 Nov 2007). In a final consensus statement, the IMoSEB consultation called on UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting with interested parties to consider the establishment of an inter-governmental science-policy interface with multi-stakeholder involvement that will provide scientific information in an independent way to support biodiversity governance. Please read the [final statement](#) and go to the IMoSEB site <http://www.imoseb.net/> for additional information and media coverage.

Please see article by Michel Loreau, co-Chair IMoSEB consultation and Chair SC-DIVERSITAS in [SciDevNet](#) dated 4 September: "Biodiversity requires global monitoring mechanism".

B CORE PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

bioGENESIS

03 June 2007 - 06 June 2007 - Beijing, China

Evolutionary Biology in the 21st Century - Tracing Patterns of Evolution through the Tree of Life

Organised by NNSFC, China-CAS, JSPS, DIVERSITAS. Click [here](#) to read the meeting report

28-29 September 2007 - MNHN, Paris, France

DIVERSITAS bioGENESIS Scientific Committee meeting. Contact: [B Walther](#)

Participants concentrated on discussing and writing the bioGENESIS Science Plan. After agreeing on the overall outline, participants contributed boxed examples of their own expertise that illustrate how global change affects evolutionary change in populations, and vice versa.

bioGENESIS sponsored meetings

2008, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico

International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB). Evolutionary consequences of GMOs

Contact: [S Magallon](#)

2008, Barcelona, Spain

Molecular Biology and Evolution (MBE) meeting: **Molecular phylogenetic age estimation.**

Contact: [R Zardoya](#)

2008, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Society for the Study of Evolution meeting: **Integrating phylogeny and paleobiology in studies of diversification.** Contact: [S Magallon](#)

5-8 June, 2008, Barcelona, Spain

Next meeting of the **Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)**

11-12 Nov 2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

bioGENESIS SC meeting (upon invitation). Contact: [B Walther](#)

bioDISCOVERY

20-21 August 2007, Beijing, China

International Conference on Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER 2007), Bruno Walther (bioDISCOVERY) presented plans for biodiversity monitoring in the context of GEOSS. [More](#)

Contact: [P LAI](#)

06-07 September 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

Fourth Meeting of the GEO Science and Technology Committee. DIVERSITAS was represented by B Walther. [More](#)

14-15 September 2007, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK

DIVERSITAS bioDISCOVERY Scientific Committee meeting.

Participants concentrated on shaping and writing the bioDISCOVERY Science Plan, especially in the light of the planning stages of a global biodiversity observation system, the continuation of international assessment needs (such as the MA) and the need for improved global biodiversity model scenarios. After agreeing on the overall outline, participants divided into three writing teams that focused on biodiversity assessments, monitoring and modelling. Contact: [B Walther](#)

28-29 November 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

GEO-IV Plenary Meeting. The DIVERSITAS delegation will report on progress with Task BI-07-01 (GEO-Biodiversity Observation Network), and present two posters as part of the ICSU booth, and the GEO biodiversity booth. [More](#)

01 December 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

Fifth Meeting of the GEO Science and Technology Committee

14-17 January 2008, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland

First GEO BON workshop (upon invitation): the goal will be to produce a vision for a global biodiversity observation system, based on a solid scientific framework for GEOSS. Contact: [B Walther](#)

08-10 April, 2008, WMO Geneva, Switzerland

2nd GEO Biodiversity Observation Network Workshop: Towards the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network. Convened by DIVERSITAS, NASA and the GEO Secretariat. Goal will be to discuss the vision paper and discuss implementation. Contact: [B Walther](#) and [D Muchoney](#)

10-11 October 2008 - Madrid, Spain

bioDISCOVERY SC meeting. Contact: [B Walther](#)

5-14 October 2008 - Barcelona, Spain

IUCN World Conservation Congress, information: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008/>

bioSUSTAINABILITY

A Larigauderie, Executive Director of DIVERSITAS, participated in the panel discussion during the ceremony around the **signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Stockholm Resilience Centre and UNESCO** in Paris on 19 October 2007. She expressed her enthusiasm for plans to locate the bioSUSTAINABILITY core project office within the new Stockholm Resilience Centre, under the leadership of Prof. T. Elmqvist, and interest in collaborating with the MAB programme of UNESCO. [More](#)
Click [here](#) to read the main insights of the discussions.

20-21 Sept 2007 - Kings College, Cambridge, UK

9th BIOECON Conference on Economics and Institutions for Biodiversity Conservation. Contact: [M Sarr](#)
[More](#)

ecoSERVICES

New ecoSERVICES Science Officer

Dr. Margherita Gloria is the new ecoSERVICES Science Officer. She will staff the new International Project Office for ecoSERVICES, hosted by Arizona State University (ASU).

Margherita has a PhD in Ecology (invasive species) and an MSc in Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin, plus a BSc in Economics from Turin. Her role at ASU includes support of the ecoSERVICES core project and the NSF-funded Research Coordination Network, BESTNet. She will work under the guidance of Prof. Charles Perrings, Prof. Ann Kinzig, and Prof. Shahid Naeem.

29 October-01 November 2007, Tempe, Arizona, USA

The economics and ecology of invasive species. Organised by ecoSERVICES [More](#)

agroBIODIVERSITY

07-11 April 2008, University of California, Davis, USA

Symposium and Workshop: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes (upon invitation only, except for postdocs at institutions in the USA who can apply to participate in the NSF Research Coordinating Network 'BESTnet' training session associated with this meeting.) DIVERSITAS-agroBIODIVERSITY event

Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact: [L Jackson](#), Chair agroBIODIVERSITY, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis, USA.

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY

27 August-01 September 2007 - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

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

03-06 September 2007 - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

2nd International Conference on Environmental-Flows

03-06 September 2007 - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

10th International Riversymposium. [More](#)

Members of the DIVERSITAS Freshwater CC Network, GWSP and The Nature Conservancy have worked throughout 2006-07 to help plan the 10th International River symposium and Environmental Flows Conference. Click [here](#) for a summary of contributions of DIVERSITAS freshwaterBIODIVERSITY members and [here](#) to read the Brisbane declaration.

25-27 February 2008, Seattle, University of Washington, USA

freshwaterBIODIVERSITY SC meeting (upon invitation only)

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)

GMBA project on **Geo-referenced Biological Databases as a tool for Understanding Mountain Biodiversity**. There is a strong potential in biological databases linked to geophysical data (e.g. altitude, temperature) for the analysis of mountain biodiversity patterns. In cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)), the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) encourages a global effort to mine georeferenced archive databases on mountain organisms. The EUROMONT initiative is one example of such a data analysis. It assesses climate threat to alpine plant diversity and focuses on European mountain ranges. [More](#)

Please, read the paper by A Guisan, EM Spehn and C Körner. 2007. MRI Newsletter 8: [Georeferenced Biological Databases - A tool for Understanding Mountain Biodiversity. Mountain Research and Development](#), 27(1):80-81

GMBA office funding secured for 2008-2010

The Swiss National Science Foundation agreed to continue funding of the GMBA office for 2008- 2010. The funding includes three part-time staff and means for travel & workshops. Since October, the GMBA office has two visiting PhD students, Yuan Zhu from Beijing/China, exploring a mountain biodiversity dataset from Mount Helan in China, and Antonio Monteiro from Milan/Italy, working with GIS and remote sensing on two GMBA sites in Switzerland and Bolivia.

Job announcement: GMBA Database expert for mountain biodiversity datamining

GMBA is looking for a Database expert for 1.5- 2 years (starting 2/ 2008), who will assess and compile available geo-referenced databases on mountain biodiversity worldwide (online, electronic, literature), and construct a GBIF mountain data portal, providing a commented catalogue of electronic geo-referenced mountain biodiversity data bases.

[More](#)

Attended and co-organized meeting.

GMBA-GBIF Copenhagen meeting on geo-referenced biological databases.

Following the workshop on geo-referenced biological databases in Kazbegi (Georgia) last summer, GMBA had a second GMBA workshop in Copenhagen on **26-28 September 2007** at the GBIF secretariat. The meeting gathered great examples of e-database-mining for mountains for a GMBA synthesis book on "E-mining for global trends in mountain biodiversity", and discussed with GBIF the construction of a mountain diversity data portal.

[More](#)

GMBA Research Agenda on Mountain Biodiversity databases is now [available](#).

C NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

Australia

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources has just released a report on "**Biodiversity conservation research in a changing climate**". It is downloadable from:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/climate-priorities/index.html>

CSIRO is setting up a new Climate Adaptation Flagship research program, a multidisciplinary, collaborative research program, initially \$44M over 4 years, aimed at helping Australia adapt to the impacts of climate change. It has four themes: Biodiversity sits in Theme 3 on "Protecting Ecosystems and Natural Resources".

China

03 June 2007 - 06 June 2007 - Beijing, China

Evolutionary Biology in the 21st Century - Tracing Patterns of Evolution through the Tree of Life

Organised by NNSFC, China-CAS, JSPS, DIVERSITAS. Click [here](#) to read the meeting report

July 2008, Jinhua, Zhejiang Province, China

"Biodiversity and Ecological Security—the 8th National Symposium on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in China". [More](#)

Germany

6 October 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel met with scientists of the BIOTA-AFRICA project, during a visit to S-Africa. Discussions ranged from climate change aspects to the future development of countries in Africa.

[More](#)

3.-4. April 2008, Germany

4th National Colloquium. The German National Committee for Global Change Research (NKGCF) will hold its 4th National Colloquium in April 2008 on: "Coping with Global Change - Land Use in the Area of Tension of Resource Conservation, Food and Energy". Members of the NKGCF, representing IHDP, WCRP, IGBP and DIVERSITAS, will discuss this topic together with invited scientists and funding agencies. More information on www.nkcf.org

15-19 September 2008

EURECO-GFÖ 2008 "Biodiversity in an ecosystem context". Joint conference of the European Ecological Federation and the Ecological Societies of Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Call for symposia open until 15 January, 2008: [More](#)

France

IFB Publication:

Levrel H. October 2006. Selecting indicators for the management of biodiversity. 93 pp. To order please Contact: ifb@gis-ifb.org

20 September 2007, Paris, MEDAD, France, Anne Larigauderie

Third meeting between the Environment Ministry (MEDAD) and national and international NGOs to exchange on international questions related to the environment. [More](#) (in French)

18-19 October 2007, Paris, MNHN, France

Buffon International Symposium hosted by the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) to celebrate the 300th birthday of the French naturalist Buffon.

[Read the Buffon Declaration.](#)

03-07 December 2007 - Tours, France

5e Journées de l'Institut Français de la Biodiversité, Meeting of the French Biodiversity Institute ([IFB](#), DIVERSITAS-France). This year's theme will be : "**Changement global, biodiversité et écosystèmes : vers quels services écologiques ?**" [More](#)

The **BiodivERsA** coordinated call for research proposals on biodiversity is out (17.56 Million Euros). It is open to 12 countries in Pan-Europe (deadline: 3 March 2008) on three themes linking scientific advancements to policy and practice: Global change & dynamics; Ecosystem functioning; Ecosystem services. This is an IFB-led initiative. [More](#)

Norway

June 2007-2015 - Oslo, Norway

Norwegian research programme "Environment 2015". Within the framework of its national research programme "Biological Diversity -Dynamics, Threats and Management (BIOMANGFOLD)", that started in 1997 and ended in 2007, the Norwegian Research Council funds individual research projects carried out in collaboration with institutions in various developing countries. From 2007, biodiversity research will be continued within the new research programme "Environment 2015", possibly in collaboration with developing countries provided sufficient funding

29 October-02 November 2007 - Trondheim, Norway

Fifth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity: Safeguarding ecosystems.

The 5th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity was held under the banner of "Ecosystems and People - Biodiversity for Development - The road to 2010 and beyond". The conference brought together some 250 people from 75 countries, to explore further the relationship between biodiversity, ecosystem services and people, to understand the synergies and tradeoffs in development paths, and to consider how to make best use of time remaining before 2010 to make progress towards reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the broader set of MDGs. The conference expressed the need for

urgent action in order to make progress towards the 2010 target, reaffirmed the negative consequences for people if biodiversity loss continues at current rates, and supported the establishment of longer-term targets and action to ensure that biodiversity loss is halted in the first half of the 21st Century.

The conference also issued a "Call for Interaction" to the UNFCCC meetings in Bali in December, noting that realising the multiple benefits of climate change adaptation, reduced emissions from deforestation, and ecosystem management for carbon sequestration will require further consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and functioning, further interdisciplinary research, increased cooperation at the national level for the implementation of the CBD and UNFCCC, and the development of new mechanisms to fully realise these synergies.

Click [here](#) to read the Chairman's report.

Philippines

The Philippines is now an official member of the **International Long-Term Ecological Research Network**. V Amoroso (Chair DIVERSITAS Committee in the Philippines) presented the Philippine ILTER activities and sites at the last ILTER meeting (Beijing, China, Aug 20-24, 2007).

13-17 November 2007, The Central Mindanao University (CMU), Musuan, Bukidnon, Philippines

4th Symposium on Asian Pteridology and Garden Show. "The Richness of Asian Ferns: Their Uses and Study". This symposium is organized by the Central Mindanao University, Los Angeles International Fern Society, Japan Pteridological Society and the Philippine Horticultural Society in cooperation with *DIVERSITAS*. Contact: [Dr. V Amoroso](#)

[More](#)

Spain

12-14 November 2007, Segovia, Spain

1st DIVERSITAS Spanish committee meeting. More (in Spanish): <http://www.diversitas-es.org>

This Spanish Biodiversity Conference organized by the DIVERSITAS and IUBS national committees. Over 100 delegates and invited speakers discussed for a couple of days the current state of biodiversity research in Spain and its degree of interdisciplinarity. Taking advantage of the moderate size of the event, the organizers deliberately mixed communications topics so that attendees were exposed to the wide variety of approaches used from genetics to taxonomy, ecology, or economy, resulting in a celebrated and rewarding experience.

Switzerland

An ecological continuum in the Alps

In the long run, biodiversity in the Alps can only be conserved if there is good connectivity between populations and habitats. Borders for plants and animals have to become more permeable. In collaboration with several Alpine network organizations (ALPARC, CIPRA, WWF), the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR) and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum work towards the realization of an ecological continuum in the Alps.

OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Switzerland isn't doing enough for the conservation of its species and habitats

In May the OECD handed over the new Environmental Performance Review to federal council Moritz Leuenberger. The report states that Switzerland is one of the leading industrialised countries in terms of efforts to tackle air, noise and water pollution. However, it isn't doing enough for the conservation and promotion of biodiversity. No other European countries have as many endangered or extinct species as Switzerland. A national strategy on how to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity is lacking.

Past events

Swiss Forum on Conservation Biology 2007 **SWIFCOB**, 9 November 2007, Museum of Natural History of Bern, Switzerland

Congrès: **Réseau biologique – de la théorie à la pratique**. Dialogue entre chercheurs et praticiens. Le congrès a pour objectif d'analyser le potentiel des mises en réseau et leurs limites sur la base des connaissances scientifiques et des contrôles d'efficacité effectués dans la pratique.

[More](#) (in French)

D DIVERSITAS PRODUCTS

ecoSERVICES

Andy Hector and Michel Loreau are co-authors of these articles that came out of the DIVERSITAS-BIOMERGE meetings hosted in Switzerland in 2006.

Cardinale BJ, Wright JP, Cadotte MW, Carroll IT, **Hector A**, Srivastava DS, **Loreau M** and Weis JJ. 2007. [Impacts of plant diversity on biomass production increase through time because of species complementarity](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 104 (46): 18123-18128

Hector A, Joshi J, Scherer-Lorenzen M, Schmid B, **Spehn EM**, Wacker L, Weilenmann M, Bazeley-White E, Beierkuhnlein C, Caldeira MC, Dimitrakopoulos PG, Finn JA, Huss-Danell K, Jumpponen A, **Leadley PW**, **Loreau M**, Mulder CPH, Nesshoover C, Palmborg C, Read DJ, Siamantziouras ASD, Terry AC and Troumbis AY. 2007. [Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning: reconciling the results of experimental and observational studies](#). *Functional Ecology*. 21 (5): 998-1002

Vojtech E, Turnbull LA and **Hector A**. 2007. [Differences in Light Interception in Grass Monocultures Predict Short-Term Competitive Outcomes under Productive Conditions](#). *PLoS ONE*. 2 (6): e499

E OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS AND PRODUCTS

Barcode of Life

17-22 September 2007 - Taipei, Taiwan

Second International Barcode of Life Conference organised by [CBOL](#) and [Academia Sinica](#).

More: [DNA barcodes 'tackle disease, protect biodiversity'](#)

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010BIP)

The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010BIP) was officially launched in Paris on July 12th, by the CEO of the Global Environmental Facility, Monique Barbut, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ahmed Dhjoglaf. The 2010BIP brings together a wide range of organisations developing and using global biodiversity indicators, and aims to provide the best available information on trends in global biodiversity in support of the 2010 biodiversity target. [More](#)

Conventions

28 October-04 November 2007 - Changwon, Rep of Korea

10th Conference of the Parties to the [RAMSAR Convention](#). Contact: [L Sello](#)

01 November 2007 - Spain to be confirmed

COP-8 for the [UNCCD](#) (UN Convention to Combat Desertification)

03-14 December 2007 - Bali, Indonesia

13th COP on the climate convention (UNFCCC) and 3^d COP/MOP on Kyoto protocol. [More](#)

18-22 February 2008 - FAO, Rome, Italia

13th meeting of CBD-SBSTTA. Preparation of the review on international agricultural works for COP9
[More](#)

12-16 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany

CBD PreCOP-9: Biodiversity Research - Safeguarding the Future. [More](#)

For more details see www.precop9.org.

19-30 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany

CBD COP-9: Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The main subject will be the implementation of the programme of work on, agricultural biodiversity and the related international initiative on pollinators, soil biodiversity and food, and nutrition. [More](#)
Click [here](#) to read the full text of notification.

European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT)

03-05 October 2007, Leiden, The Netherlands

DNA Barcoding in Europe Meeting, [More](#)

Contact: [Dr. R van der Linden](#)

European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

10-12 October 2007, Vilnius, Lithuania

EPBRS Meeting bioplatform

06 November 2007, Porto, Portugal

EPBRS Steering Committee

07-09 November 2007, Porto, Portugal

EPBRS Meeting: Life on the blue planet: Biodiversity Research and the New European Marine Policies.

[More](#)

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL)

18-20 October 2007, Paris, France

Steering Committee for the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL)

Click [here](#) to read a short description of the EOL.

Health and Biodiversity

25-29 February 2008 - Galway, Ireland

2nd Cooperation On Health And Biodiversity (COHAB) conference: COHAB 2008 will promote research and action on the links between the loss of biological diversity and the health and well-being of people worldwide. [More](#)

Contact: [F Murray](#)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

Vacancy announcement:

Prof. Thomas Rosswall will be retiring as Executive Director of ICSU, the International Council for Science, at the end of January 2009 and the process is now underway to identify his successor. Click [here](#) to read the advertisement. Please note that the deadline has now been changed to **30 November**. ICSU is one of the international organisations which have established and sponsor DIVERSITAS. [More](#)

20-24 October 2008, Maputo, Mozambique

ICSU 29th General Assembly

Hosted by the Scientific Research Association of Mozambique.

International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)

30 October-01 November, Vienna, Austria

IGFA Annual Meeting. [More](#)

DIVERSITAS reported on its influence on global change policy and strategy, and future plans.

MARBEF

11-15 November 2008, Valencia, Spain

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Co-sponsored by DIVERSITAS. [More](#)

Sustainable management of biodiversity

14-16 April 2008 - Stockholm, Sweden

Resilience Alliance Conference: Resilience 2008[More](#)

F EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP (ESSP) NEWS

DIVERSITAS is a member of the **ESSP**, which also includes: [IGBP](#), [IHDP](#) and [WCRP](#)

The ESSP delivers research outputs of value to users seeking information regarding changes that are occurring to the Earth System and the implications of these changes for global sustainability

16-17 August 2007, Stockholm, Sweden

ESSP Review Meeting. A panel appointed by ICSU and IGFA, and chaired by Prof. L. Fresco is currently performing a review of the ESSP.

23-25 October 2007, Paris, France

ESSP SC meeting (upon invitation only)

The ESSP convened its inaugural Scientific Committee meeting, chaired by Rik Leemans. DIVERSITAS participated as an ESSP partner programme with ESSP SC member (Anne Larigauderie, DIVERSITAS Executive Director). Major issues addressed included the ESSP review, vision and strategic planning, science highlights and major activities of the joint projects (*GCP*, *GECAFS*, *GWSP*), *START* and *MAIRS*, and cross cutting activities, e.g. ESSP interaction with the assessments and conventions and a new biofuel activity, as well as further development of the ESSP business plan. The meeting was held in conjunction with an ESSP review panel meeting, with a joint session chaired by Johan Rokström (review panel member). At the ESSP SC meeting, the ESSP Health Project's science plan was adopted by the IHDP (the Project is now co-sponsored by all ESSP partner programmes - including DIVERSITAS). The carbon reductions and offsets report (prepared by the *GCP*) was also adopted in an effort to implement an ESSP operation wide carbon emissions reduction strategy.

07-08 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany

ESSP Side Event at [SBSTTA 26 on Climate Change](#): Connecting earth system science research to climate change policy to strengthen the dialogue between scientists and the policy community. The event focused on further identifying relevant Earth System science research that will meet the needs and requirements of the UNFCCC. DIVERSITAS supported M Beniston to present *Climatic extremes in a changing climate*. [More](#)

Global Carbon Project (GCP)

The Global Carbon Project has just published a new analysis of the state of the carbon cycle and its immediate drivers of perturbation (economic growth, carbon intensity of the global economy, and natural CO₂ sinks on land and oceans).

<http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/activities/AcceleratingAtmosphericCO2.htm>

24-26 August 2007 - Kruger NP, South Africa

Symposium: **Carbon Cycle Research in Africa**. Contact: [G Midgley](#), [P Canadell](#), [S Dhakal](#)

02-05 October 2007 - Sydney, Australia

Greenhouse 2007 conference [More](#)

08-12 October 2007 - Poznan, Poland

5th Annual CARBOEUROPE-Integrated project meeting Contact: [A Freibauer](#)

Global Water System Project (GWSP)

Workshop Report published by GWSP

Global Environmental Assessments: Bridging Scales and Linking to Policy

The Global Water System Project (GWSP) and The Integrated Assessment Society (TIAS) organised a joint workshop on 'Global Assessments: Bridging Scales & Linking to Policy'. The extended abstracts of the workshop presentations are now available as No. 2 of the GWSP Issues in Global Water System Research series. The document is available for download at the [GWSP website](#).

Contact: [D Petry](#) (GWSP IPO).

25-27 August 2007 - Brisbane, Australia

GWSP SSC meeting in connection with the 3rd International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes (invitation only)

12-15 November 2007 - Basel, Switzerland

1st International Conference on "Adaptive & Integrated Water Management: Coping with complexity and uncertainty" (CAIWA 2007). Contact the [secretariat](#), [More](#)

Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS)

02-04 April 2008 - Oxford, UK

International Conference: **Food Security and Environmental Change: Linking science, development and policy**. Contact: [GECAFS IPO](#), [More](#)

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

Vacancy announcement: IGBP Executive Director. Review of applications will begin 15 November 2007. [More](#)

7 September 2007, Paris, MNHN, France

Plant Functional Types Fast Track Initiative meeting.

The meeting was on "a joint IGBP-DIVERSITAS Fast Track Initiative called "Refining plant functional classifications for earth system modeling".

Coord: S Lavorel, C Prentice, S Diaz and P Leadley. [More](#)

17-18 September 2007 - Stockholm, Sweden

20th IGBP Anniversary Symposium "Earth System Science and Society: 20 Years of IGBP Research, Future Perspectives"

05-09 May 2008 - Cape Town, South Africa

4th IGBP Congress: Sustainable Livelihood in a Changing Earth System. The Congress will have a major focus on Africa and will be a mixture of plenary presentations, working group discussions and poster sessions. 31 Working Group Proposals have been received and are under review by the International Scientific Committee. The Congress will allow direct interaction between the IGBP Scientific Steering Committees, the IGBP Scientific Committee and IGBP National Committee representatives. Guests will be invited from ICSU, DIVERSITAS, IHDP, WCRP, SCOR and other partner organisations operating at regional level (IAI, APN and AfricanNESS, amongst others) and local stakeholders (the public, the private sector and the policy community). [More](#)

International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP)

IHDP Annual Report 2006 - 2007 released. The document can be downloaded from [here](#).
Hard copies are available upon request from [secretariat \[AT\] ihdp.unu.edu](mailto:secretariat@ihdp.unu.edu)

27 November 2007, Bonn, Germany

2nd Bonn Dialogue "Melting Ice, Vanishing Life: the impacts of environmental change on human society and biodiversity". Co-organised by IHDP, UNU- EHS and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV). Contact: [IHDP Secretariat](#). [More](#)

16-19 October 2008 - New Delhi, India

7th IHDP Open Meeting. Contact: [L Mullin](#). [More](#)

The upcoming deadlines for submissions to both the 7th IHDP Open Meeting and 6th International Human Dimensions Workshop, on November 30th 2007. Please visit the [IHDP](#) and [Open Meeting websites](#) for more information.

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

04-06 October 2007 - Sidney, Australia

Workshop: **Future Climate Change Research and Observations: GCOS, WCRP and IGBP Learning from the IPCC** (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) **AR4** (invitation only)

28 January-01 February 2008 - Tokyo, Japan

Third WCRP International Conference on Reanalysis [More](#)

Global change SysTEM for Analysis, Research, and Training (START)

START/PACOM 2008 Call for Proposals: The International START Secretariat and the Pan African START Committee (PACOM), with funding from the US National Science Foundation/ US Climate Change Science Program (NSF/USCCSP) requests proposals for small research grants to be awarded to scientists based at African institutions for research projects related to global environmental change that address the following themes (deadline: 19 December 2007: Theme 1: climate variability & climate change; theme 2: impacts/adaptations/vulnerability to climate change; theme 3: land use change/ecosystems/biogeochemical change/biodiversity.

Contact: cskauffman@aqu.org

G IN THE MEDIA

IMoSEB

Media campaign on IMoSEB consultation: <http://www.imoseb.net/>

Brazilian Press on IMoSEB

<http://www.diversitas-international.org/uploads/File/Folha%20de%20S.%20Paulo%20030807.pdf>

Escobar H. 03 August 2007. Biodiversidade, Paìs Estuda apoio a novo IPCC. *O Estado de Sao Paulo*.

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