

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Biodiversity and Forest**' from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,  
APMN team

## News

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### **[1] ASEAN member countries encouraged to jointly tackle the challenges of biodiversity conservation**

October 21, 2009

The ASEAN region is home to rich and unique biodiversity. Though occupying only 3% of the Earth's surface, Southeast Asia houses over 20% of all known flora and fauna. Three of the world's seventeen mega-diverse countries characterised by species richness and endemism are located in Southeast Asia, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The rich biodiversity in Southeast Asia is an important source of food, livelihood and shelter to over 500 million people in the region.

Source:

[http://thegovmonitor.com/world\\_news/asia/asean-member-countries-encouraged-to-jointly-tackle-the-challenges-of-biodiversity-conservation-11541.html](http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/asia/asean-member-countries-encouraged-to-jointly-tackle-the-challenges-of-biodiversity-conservation-11541.html)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ygeqfsk>

### **[2] ADB and WWF discuss major programs to protect the environment**

October 19, 2009

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are seeking to strengthen their partnership toward the sustainable management of natural resources in the Asia and Pacific region.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/13044-asian-envirnmental-protections/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yjg4w6a>

### **[3] Food production 'must rise 70%'**

October 12, 2009

Food production will have to increase by 70% over the next 40 years to feed the world's growing population, the United Nations food agency predicts.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation says if more land is not used for food production now, 370 million people could be facing famine by 2050.

Source:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8303434.stm>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yjf6foo>

#### **[4] Saving forests five times better than carbon capture for climate action**

October 12, 2009

In a new research, WWF (Worldwide fund for Nature) Sweden has determined that saving forests is five times better than carbon capture for climate action.

WWF Sweden is urging its government to get behind an effective international agreement on halting forest loss as a key and highly cost effective measure on climate change.

Source:

<http://newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/127761>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yz7afv6>

#### **[5] Landscaping can be for the birds**

October 11, 2009

Gardening and bird-watching naturally go hand in glove. The fall migration season is an ideal time to spot unusual birds, and a pretty garden full of sparkling berries, handsome seedheads and bright blooms will attract a lively crowd of colorful, winged visitors.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091011/LIFE/910110319>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yf4ujel>

#### **[6] Pakistan to achieve 6% forest cover target by 2015**

October 8, 2009

Pakistan is committed to ensure environmental sustainability by achieving the target of forest cover from 4.8 percent to 6 percent and protected area coverage from 9.1 percent to 12.0 percent by the year 2015.

Source:

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\08\story\\_8-10-2009\\_pg11\\_9](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\08\story_8-10-2009_pg11_9)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yjj717e>

## **[7] More than 5,000 rare trees found in SW China**

October 6, 2009

More than 5,000 dove trees have been discovered in Zhijin county of southwest China's Guizhou Province, local government sources said. Dove tree (*Davidia involucrata* Baill), a sort of deciduous arbor, is regarded as living fossil in flora world with a history of 10 million years.

In addition to Guizhou, dove trees have been found in Shennongjia of central Hubei Province and Mount Emei in southwestern Sichuan Province.

Source:

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-10/06/content\\_8765792.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-10/06/content_8765792.htm)

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yl6gkox>

## **[8] Creating naturally pest-free rice**

October 5, 2009

A Charles Sturt University (CSU) expert in pest management is using helpful plants and 'good' insects to naturally protect rice in South East Asia.

CSU Professor of Applied Ecology, Geoff Gurr, is working with an international team to develop new methods for insect control that minimise the use of insecticides.

Source:

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20090510-19924-2.html>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yfseha3>

## **[9] REDD project unlikely to save forest in Indonesia**

October 1, 2009

The IPCC estimates that destruction of forests contributes around 20% of the greenhouse gas emissions entering Earth's atmosphere. With that in mind, the UN set up the REDD programme – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries – with a multi-donor trust fund in 2008; it's likely that REDD will be incorporated into the post-Kyoto agreement due to be negotiated in Copenhagen in December.

Source:

<http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/futures/40574>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yk484tm>

## **Events**

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[1] International Forestry and Environment Symposium, 18 - 19 December 2009 at University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

More information: <http://www.environmentlanka.com/sympo/>

[2] Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference in conjunction with the UNEP Business and Industry Global Dialogue, November 30 - December 02, 2009, Jakarta, Indonesia

More information: <http://www.forest-trends.org/event.php?id=445>