

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Biodiversity and Forest**' issue 4 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Fragile mountain ecosystem needs preservation

December 12, 2009

The increasing fragility of mountain ecosystems now direly needs the attention not only of concerned departments but also of the general public who must understand the impacts of unsuitable development that are particularly intense, more rapid and more difficult to correct than in other ecosystems.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated December 11, from 2003 onwards, as the International Mountain Day that is observed every year with a different theme relevant to sustainable mountain development. The theme for the International Mountain Day 2009 was 'Disaster Risk Management in Mountains.'

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=212841

OR

<http://bit.ly/6ppud5>

[2] Bar-headed goose: World's highest flying bird

December 11, 2009

The Bar-headed Goose is a goose which breeds in Central Asia including China's Tibet Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province in colonies of thousands near mountain lakes.

The Bar-headed Goose is one of the world's highest flying birds, having been seen at up to 10,175 meters. It has a slightly larger wing area for its weight than other geese and it is believed this helps the goose to fly high. Studies have found that they breathe more efficiently under low oxygen conditions and are able to reduce heat loss.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6839213.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/64FC5f>

[3] 5,000 swans spend winter at Qinghai Lake area

December 7, 2009

The improving environment of the Qinghai Lake area, a state natural reserve, over 5,000 Whooper swans came to spend winter here, which is the largest number of its yearly record. The Qinghai Lake has actually become a "Swan Lake" on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6833884.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/5p5SKb>

[4] Climate change puts Myagdi musk deer in danger

November 24, 2009

Increasing temperature and human activities have not spared the musk deer found in mountainous areas of Myagdi district--the small deer with a stocky build have been fleeing to other areas leaving their habitats.

Earlier, musk deer were found in abundance at Mudi, Lulang, Gurja, Kuimenga, Dana and Muna VDCs situated on the foothill of Mount Dhaulagiri.

http://myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=12126

OR

<http://bit.ly/5zqoeI>

[5] Agriculture can adapt to climate change

November 20, 2009

Innovative agricultural technologies can produce crops that meet climate change challenges, says ICRISAT head William Dar.

Sustainable land and water management combined with innovative agricultural technologies could mitigate climate change and help poor farmers adapt to its impacts.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/opinions/agriculture-can-adapt-to-climate-change.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/5wAtTy>

[6] Forest Service says trees can slow climate change

19 November, 2009

National forests can be used as a carbon "sink" with vast numbers of trees absorbing carbon dioxide to help slow global warming, the Forest Service chief said Wednesday, but that goal must be balanced.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iKYvXWA3EOF-6Nw8QcN-CKr5Mv-QD9C289IG0>

OR

<http://bit.ly/3kmyXb>

[7] 2.7 bln yuan invested in Sanjiangyuan eco-protection

November 19, 2009

An investment totaling 2.7 billion yuan has been spent on China's largest eco-protection and construction project of the Sanjiangyuan area, according to Qinghai Provincial Government.

Known as "China's water tower," the Sanjiangyuan area at an altitude of 4,000 meters is the source of two of China's most important rivers, i.e., the Yangtze and Yellow, and an international river the Lancang, which winds through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before flowing into the South China Sea.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6818148.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/2pvBnb>

Resources

[1] UNDP and World Bank Release Report on Protected Areas' Role in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The publication identifies the significant contribution of protected areas in reducing climate change impacts as carbon dioxide sinks and natural buffers against disasters, as well as through their function in stabilizing soil against landslides and blocking storm floods. UNDP notes that maintaining and expanding protected areas needs to be recognized by the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as an effective tool in the fight against climate change and should be mainstreamed into national climate change strategies.

More information: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/natural_solutions.pdf

Events

[1] The 2010 International Conference on Agricultural and Animal Science (CAAS 2010), February 26-28, 2010, Singapore

More information: <http://www.iacsit.org/caas/index.htm>

[2] International Conference on climate change and bioresource from 9 - 12 February, 2010

More information: <http://www.bdu.ac.in/icccb/index.htm>

Announcements

[1] Assistant Forest Officer cum Hub Officer at FAO

Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Application Deadline: 12/16/2009

More information: <http://coin.fao.org/cms/world/nepal/en/Vacancies.html>

[2] On the occasion of International Mountain Day 2009 Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) has launched the new FP7 project, mountain. TRIP (Mountain Sustainability: Transforming Research Into Practice, more at <http://www.mountaintrip.eu>).