

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Biodiversity and Forest**' issue 5 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] UN opens Biodiversity Year with plea to save world's life-supporting ecosystems

January 1, 2010

In a bid to curb the unprecedented loss of the world's species due to human activity at a rate some experts put at 1,000 times the natural progression the United Nations is marking 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, with a slew of events highlighting the vital role the phenomenon plays in maintaining the life support system on Planet Earth.

Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate.

Source:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33393&Cr=environment&Cr1>

OR

<http://bit.ly/54HX7j>

[2] Lhasa to create 1,333 ha of shelter forests in 2010

January 1, 2010

Tibet's capital of Lhasa will create 1,333 ha of shelter forests in 2010, in a move to curb grassland degradation, soil and water loss and desertification, according to the city's Forestry Bureau.

The forest coverage in Lhasa hits 10.49 percent now. Of the city's landmass of 2.95 million ha, 564,120 ha are wooded and 32,666 ha are the land suitable for afforestation.

Source:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/01/content_12733926.htm

OR

<http://bit.ly/57h117>

[3] Unique call gives away new bird species in Laos and Vietnam

December 21, 2009

A beautiful little warbler inhabiting limestone karsts in Vietnam and Laos has been named a new species. When the limestone leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus calciatilis*) was first sighted in 1994 it was thought to be a member of the similar-looking species, the sulphur-breasted warbler, but ornithologists began to question that assumption when the bird produced a call significantly different from the sulphur-breasted's.

Source:

http://news.mongabay.com/2009/1221-hance_warbler.html

OR

<http://bit.ly/873Nx2>

[4] E-forestry pilot service a success

December 21, 2009

The e-forestry service was introduced and piloted to improve the forest department's public service delivery, with the ultimate aim of reproducing the system all across the country, if successful. Officials of the forest department say the service in Trongsa, Bhutan has succeeded.

Trongsa was chosen as the pilot dzongkhag, since the forest department's public service in the district was largely a cumbersome and inefficient process. Trongsa residents usually waited weeks to obtain required documents to procure firewood, bamboo, and wood for fencing and flagpoles.

Source:

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14281>

OR

<http://bit.ly/7WKWGd>

[5] Quaint Chilka lagoon still bird poachers' haven

December 21, 2009

Nearly five lakh birds from different parts of the globe have already arrived in Orissa's Chilka Lake, Asia's biggest brackish water lagoon and one of the topmost winter homes in the country for migratory birds.

According to officials manning the lake, while nearly three lakh birds have congregated on the Nalabana bird sanctuary within the lake, the rest two lakh have made their temporary homes in the islands inside the lake as well as in the nearby villages. However, the picturesque water body continues to be a poachers' haven as killing of the avian guests has already been reported from different areas of the lake.

Source:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/42561/quaint-chilka-lagoon-still-bird.html>

OR

<http://bit.ly/8sL4FI>

[6] Science Museum unveils rich biodiversity in China

December 18, 2009

Life prevails in almost every possible niche on Earth, from luxuriant forests to vast deserts to volcanic crevices in deep seas. The world is beautiful because of life. China boasts a vast area with diverse land forms, complex river networks, numerous lakes and extreme climate regimes.

The Yangtze River is the largest river in China and is also the habitat of many rare wild aquatic animals. Many of the species are endemic to China and listed as the national Grade I or II protected animals, such as the Chinese Sturgeon which is the largest and most ancient fish species in the world.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/329246/science_museum_unveils_rich_biodiversity_in_china.htm

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OR

<http://bit.ly/4CaI88>

Events

[1] International Symposium on Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Mountainous Regions of Southeast Asia, 21-23 July 2010 at Hanoi, Vietnam

Abstract submission deadline: March 1, 2010

More at: <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/sfb564/uplands2010/index.php>

[2] UNESCO IYB Biodiversity Science-Policy Conference, 25 -29 January 2010, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Abstract submission deadline: January 15, 2010

More at: http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=8090&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html