

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 7 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Global forest cover shrinking by 20,000 hectares a day
January 20, 2010

Global forest cover shrank between 1990 and 2005 by three per cent. That corresponds to an average annual loss of 0.2 per cent or 20,000 hectares a day. As an examination of the Ifo Institute shows, the development of forested areas is regionally quite different. A particularly large amount of forest area has been cleared in recent years in tropical countries especially Brazil, Indonesia and Sudan.

Source: <http://bit.ly/clhVks>

[2] Forestry sector needs transparency to reduce risks of REDD
January 25, 2010

A new project aims to increase transparency in the forestry sector, an area long plagued by corruption and mismanagement. The Forest Sector Transparency Report Card, launched by Global Witness, an environmental NGO, assesses 70 transparency indicators, evaluating the public availability of land use maps, logging contracts, and other forestry-related information in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Peru. The effort will eventually be expanded to other countries.

Source: <http://bit.ly/c4XoSO>

[3] Biodiversity loss matters, and communication is crucial
February 5, 2010

The failed UN climate talks in Copenhagen in December could hardly have been a less promising prelude to the International Year of Biodiversity, which opened last month (January). As with climate change, the threat of large-scale biodiversity loss and the need for global political action to stop it is growing every day.

Source: <http://bit.ly/btULmt>

[4] To double the big cat's number by 2022
February 5, 2010

Thirteen tiger range countries, including Bhutan, pledged to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022, the next Year of the Tiger, during the first Asian ministerial conference for tiger conservation, enforcement, 11 and innovative financing held last week at Hau Hin, Bangkok.

Populations of wild tigers have declined to 3,200 worldwide from 100,000 a century ago, according to the latest estimates by the conservation charity world wildlife fund (WWF). Representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam, committed to try harder to reverse the continuing decline in tigers in the wild.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9xMlj>

[5] Bhutan pushes for eco-literacy in schools

February 8, 2010

Bhutan is formulating policies for the construction industry to employ green technology and practices, said Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y Thinley, while speaking to world leaders and other members at the Delhi sustainable development summit in India over the weekend.

Lyonchhoen, in his keynote address, also informed participants that a process is underway to augment Bhutanese school curricula promoting eco-literacy among students within zero-waste and green schools.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9KsoMI>

[6] Migratory birds fluttering, twittering at Baikkabeel

February 8, 2010

A large number of tourists are thronging Baikkabeel, a birds' sanctuary in Hailhaor wetland covering areas in Srimongal and Sadar upazilas in Moulvibazar district, as the sanctuary with immense natural beauty now buzzes with chirping and fluttering of migratory birds.

Management of Aquatic Ecosystem through Community Husbandry, a non-governmental organisation, conducted a survey in 100 acres of land in Baikkabeel in 1999 and declared the water body 'an area rich in biodiversity'.

Source: <http://bit.ly/c1UE2m>

[7] Tibet afforests 49,520 ha of land in 2009

February 5, 2010

Tibet afforested 49,520 ha of land last year, surging by 62.9 percent from 2008, according to the Tibet Autonomous Regional Forestry Department.

Of the total forestry funding, 1.06 billion yuan RMB (155 million U.S. dollars) has arrived, up 67.15 percent year on year.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dnjC7k>

[8] Nepal: communities take up cudgels for forest conservation

February 2, 2010

Tired of walking, Shankar Prasad Ghimire, 87, a retired government worker, puts his walking stick aside and takes rest on a vast expanse of lush green land.

Such dramatic backdrop of dense forest cover gives this former bureaucrat reason to be proud. As chairman of the Kafle Community Forest, he helped transform the once dying forest into a 94-hectare green treasure trove in Lamatar village in Lalitpur district, 13 kilometres south-east of Kathmandu.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bKnxKG>

[9] Birds from Siberia add colour to lakes

January 22, 2010

It is wintertime and the water bodies surrounding Mysore city have for once turned all lively and vibrant. Courtesy arrival of hundreds of winged visitors, all the way from Siberia. Escaping the cold climatic conditions of the place, bar-headed geese have arrived in the lookout for food and warmer climatic conditions, much to the delight of bird lovers in the city.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cokToT>

Events

[1] XXIII IUFRO World Congress, 23 - 28 August, 2010, Seoul, Korea
More at: <http://www.iufro2010.com/>

[2] Mountain Climate Research Conference June 7 - 10, 2010 in Blue River, Oregon
More at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/mtnclim/>

[3] EFIMED Annual Meeting 2010 and Scientific Seminar 'Knowledge base management of Mediterranean forests under climate driven risks: the ways ahead', 14 - 16 April, 2010, Antalya, Turkey
Call for posters presentations: 15 February, 2010
More at: <http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/1205>

[4] CITES: 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 13 - 25, March 2010, Doha, Qatar
More at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2009/E030.pdf>

Announcements

[1] Ecosystem Vulnerability to Climate Change: Methods for Assessment, Observations, and Forecast , 5 - 14, July 2010, Budapest, Hungary Extended application deadline: March 15, 2010
More at: <http://www.summer.ceu.hu/02-courses/course-sites/ecosystem/index-ecosystem.php>

[2] Job opportunity: Senior Water Specialist, Water and Sanitation, New Delhi, India
Application deadline: 28 February, 2010
More at: <http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/careers.nsf/Content/JobDetails?OpenDocument&JobReqNbr=100263>

[3] Coordinator, Institutional Learning and Change Initiative (ILAC), Bioversity International
Application deadline: 28 February, 2010
More at: https://hr4u.bioversity.cgiar.org/Recruitment/AdvertisementDetails.aspx?PRF_ID=000022

[4] Hazard and Community Adaptation Specialist at ICIMOD, Nepal
Application deadline: 12 February 2010
More at: <http://www.icimod.org/?page=723>

Resources

[1] CBD Practical Guide on Protected Areas Stresses Their Mitigation and Adaptation Potential
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-44-en.pdf>

[2] Global forest resources assessment 2010 Nepal country report march

2009, Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Available at: http://www.forestrynepal.org/images/publications/fra_2010_nepal.pdf

[3] Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in the Eastern Himalayas, ICIMOD

Available online at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/675>