

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Biodiversity and Forest**', Issue 8 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Mixed systems key to food security

February 15, 2010

Sustainably increasing production in mixed crop-livestock systems is essential to ensure food security, write M. Herrero and colleagues in Science.

Mixed crop-livestock systems are home to two-thirds of the global population and produce almost half the world's cereals and most of the staple crops, meat and milk consumed by poor people.

Source: <http://bit.ly/c26lsR>

[2] Asia sees fewer wildfires

February 19, 2010

Over the last two decades, Asian countries have experienced much less wildfire. That's according to researchers at Peking University, China, who have set up a new inventory of emissions from non-agricultural open fires in the region for 2000–2009.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9mQj1m>

[3] Livestock owners in RAK will be paid for caracal attacks

February 20, 2010

The (EPDA-RAK) has expressed worry for the killing of the caracal in the mountainous areas of Ras Al Khaimah, especially since the caracal is the number one animal in appendix one of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) which the UAE has signed.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cwo0wg>

[4] A home from home: saving species from climate change

February 12, 2010

Picture an elephant in the wild, making its stately progress across the savannah, tall grass bending beneath its feet. Now transplant that image to the American prairie. In one of the most startling new ideas to emerge about climate change, a leading conservation biologist is calling for plants and wildlife facing extinction to be saved simply by picking them up and moving them.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b0DTWJ>

[5] New bird species found in Solukhumbu, Nepal

February 21, 2010

A new species of bird has been discovered in the area of Burtal lake, Cheskam VDC, Solukhumbu district, Nepal over the last three months.

According to eyewitnesses the bird has mostly black wings with white spots and a long beak and weighs around 8 kgs.

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

[6] Top WWF prize for Chinese ecologist

19 February 2010

Freshwater ecologist and visionary environmentalist Chen Yiyu has been awarded the 2009 WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal. The ceremony took place on 18 February at Buckingham Palace, London.

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

[7] Poachers kill 300 endangered Vicuñas in Peruvian Andes

February 9, 2010

Poachers have killed some 300 vicuñas, which were on the verge of extinction in the 1990s and are a protected species, in the past two weeks in the Peruvian Andes, the press reported over the weekend.

The camelids' remains were found by residents of Lucanas, which is located in the southern province of Ayacucho, and the peasants fear an encounter with the criminals, who have superior weapons, the El Comercio newspaper said.

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

[8] Ladakh: Chasing the snow leopard

February 8, 2010

Nigel Richardson heads to Ladakh in India to seek out the snow leopard, one of the planet's most elusive - and endangered - creatures.

She wasn't visible at first. Then she moved, rippling silently down a gully of rocks and padding straight up to us. This was *Uncia uncia*, the snow leopard, one of the most endangered species on Earth and one of the most beautiful. She was certainly the most captivating creature I have ever seen: fur like mist, pale jade eyes, the regal and remote air of a monarch whose realm is the roof of the world.

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

[9] Bhutan: The last bastion of the hornbill

February 8, 2010

Bhutan's forests provide a safe haven for the rufous-necked hornbill, a bird that is classified vulnerable by the international union for conservation of nature (IUCN) and Birdlife international, according to a Thrumshingla national park official.

The rufous-necked hornbill species is found in mature, dense, evergreen and broadleaved forest, mainly in the hills up to altitudes of 1,800 m. The hornbill, a big bird with an impressive curved bill and block-like casque on top of the head and bill, is found in Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and northeast India.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bBe84u>

Events

[1] Taking stock of smallholder and community forestry: Where do we go from here?, 24 - 26 March 2010, Montpellier, France
Registration deadline: Open
Contact: n.djoko@cgiar.org
More at: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/Smallholder+and+community+forestry/Introduction.htm>

[2] Regional Workshop on Strengthening Community Forestry's Networks and Federation in Asia, 25 - 29 March, 2010, Bangkok, RECOFTC
More at: <http://www.forestrynepal.org/images/GACF-FECOFUN-Workshop.pdf>

[3] Conservation Conference 2010, Biodiversity Without Boundaries, April 26–28, 2010, Austin, Texas
<http://www.natureserve.org/visitLocal/conferences/ConsConf2010.jsp>

[4] Berlin Conference 2010: 'Social dimensions of environmental change and governance', Berlin from 8-9 October, 2010
Paper submission deadline: 6 April, 2010
More at: <http://www.berlinconference.org/2010/>

[5] International Conference on Forestry Education and Research for the Asia Pacific Region, Manila, Philippines, November 23-25 2010
Abstract submission: 31 May, 2010
More at: <http://worldagroforestry.org/sea/ph/?q=node/110>

Announcements

[1] Call for application: Summer Symposium on Sustainable Systems, 14 - 17 June, 2010, Sannäs, Finland
Application deadline: 1 March, 2010
Contact: registration4S@mekpros.fi
More at: <http://4s.mekpros.fi/>

[2] Call for abstracts: The International Conference Deltas in Times of Climate Change September 29 October 2, 2010, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Abstract Submission deadline: 15 March, 2010
More at: <http://www.climatedeltaconference.org/nl/25222734-Home.html>

[3] Announcement Metsähallitus-Grant 2010 for PhD studies: PhD research grant on the topic 'Sustainable use of forests for different purposes, including economical and recreational forest functions and biodiversity values'

Application deadline: 15 April, 2010

Contact: foundation@fefr.org

More at:

http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/human_resources/metsahallitus_fund_call_text_feb_15_2010_2.pdf

[4] Call for applications - Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation, Belpasso (Italy), 12-18 September 2010

Application deadline: 1 May, 2010

http://www.feem-project.net/belpasso_2010/

[5] Rothamsted International Fellowship Scheme - sustainable agriculture in developing and emerging countries

Application deadline: 7 May, 2010

Contact rothamsted.international@bbsrc.ac.uk

More at: http://www.rothamsted-international.org/RIFS_applying_deadlines.shtml

Resources

[1] Legal Frameworks for REDD: Design and Implementation at the National Level, IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper No. 77

Available at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eplp_77.pdf

[2] Asia Pacific Mountain Courier: Winter Vol. 10 No. 2, ICIMOD

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/678>

[3] Potential for carbon finance in the land use sector of the HKH region: A preliminary scoping study (2009)

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/674>

[4] Diversified livelihoods in changing socio-ecological systems of Yunnan Province, China (2009)

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/670>

[5] Climate Change and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan rangelands (2009)

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/657>