

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 12 (02 August 2010), prepared for members of Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership network.

Regards,
Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) team

P.S: Compiled links to news, events, opportunities, and resources are regularly updated on our del.icio.us page. Please add apmn.media to your network. More on del.icio.us [here](#)

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News

1. Firefighters gain control over wildfires in Russia

02 August 2010

With nearly 86,000 people evacuated from fire-ravaged regions, Russian authorities said Sunday that firefighters were gaining control over blazes sweeping across thousands of acres in western Russia. At least 28 people have been killed and thousands left homeless by the wildfires, which are among the worst ever to hit western Russia. No fire-related deaths were reported since Friday, officials said Sunday. Latest figures from the ministry showed that 128,500 hectares (317,530 acres) were burned or had burned, and 774 "hotbeds of wildfire" were counted as of 6 a.m. Sunday. About half the fires had either been extinguished or contained, the ministry spokesman said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aNUEI4>

2. 125 big cats in Chitwan's Chure region

01 August 2010

A census of tigers was held for the first time in the Chure region of Chitwan National Park. The census showed the presence of 125 adult tigers in the region, Chief of the Park, Narendra Pradhan said. The census also showed that there are 6.53 tigers per square kilometres of area inside the park. There are a total of 155 tigers in the country.

The tiger census for the country in the previous year was 121, conservationist Jhamak Bahadur Karki said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bf6Dtu>

3. Ethiopian environmentalists criticise report on forest recovery

30 July 2010

Ethiopian environmentalists criticise report on forest recovery – Environment activists in Ethiopia have questioned a recent government report that said forest cover has tripled. They argue that the report is

“inaccurate and premature” saying, given the deforestation trend, it is very unlikely to achieve such a recovery. Ethiopia’s Ministry of Agriculture this month said the country’s forest size had increased from three to nine per cent since 2000 as a result of large- scale reforestation campaigns.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bFr4AX>

4. Cactus helps drought survival

30 July 2010

A paper by John Kangara and Josiah Gitari, animal nutritionists at (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute) KARI, concludes that *Opuntia* species — the prickly pear or paddle cacti — have extreme tolerance to drought and remain succulent and easily digestible even in times of extreme water shortages, which makes them an excellent source of water and nutrition in harsh conditions. *Opuntia* is used for human food during famine and one species can be used in water purification. The researchers are now asking regional governments to encourage cactus plantations to help livestock survive drought.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9WFjg9>

5. World's most ancient creatures found in Scottish field

29 July 2010

Two colonies of a prehistoric shrimp that evolved when the dinosaurs ruled the Earth have been found alive and well in the Caerlaverock nature reserve on the Solway coast. The ancient creatures, known as *Triops cancriformis* or tadpole shrimps, are thought to have the oldest pedigree of any living animal. Fossil evidence suggests they have hardly changed in the more than 200m years that they have been around.

Source: <http://bit.ly/955gwy>

6. Nepal-India ink pact to combat illegal trade in animal parts

29 July 2010

Nepal and India today inked a key pact to conserve biodiversity and combat illegal trade in wild animals coinciding with the first International Tiger Conservation Day. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which aims to conserve biodiversity and strengthening ecological security in the trans-boundary region, was signed by Gopal Prasad Upadhyaya, director general, department of national parks and wildlife conservation, Nepal and SPYadav, DIG and joint director, national tiger conservation authority, ministry of environment and Forest, India.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aGYVR4>

7. Study shows tiger numbers rising in Nepal Park

29 July 2010

The number of rare tigers in a national park in Nepal has increased by more than one third in the last two years, a study has shown, after authorities set aside more land for the animals. Experts riding elephants placed cameras in the jungles of the Chitwan National Park in southern Nepal for three months and counted 125 adult tigers, up from 91 two years ago, officials said on Thursday.

Source: <http://bit.ly/by61yG>

8. UN-backed conservation project helps save Tanzanian forest

27 July 2010

Thousands of hectares of fragile mountainous forest in north-eastern Tanzania have been preserved through a recently completed seven-year biodiversity project managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Eastern Arc Mountains project, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was concluded last month after an independent evaluation reported that at

least 10,000 hectares of forest had been saved from destruction, and that the rate of forest loss had been reduced by 10 per cent.

Source: <http://bit.ly/8Xbpz8>

9. Shade-Grown Coffee Farms Support Biodiversity

28 July 2010

Researchers at the University of Michigan University, California, Berkeley found that by pollinating native trees on shade-coffee farms and adjacent patches of forest, the bees help preserve the genetic diversity of remnant native-tree populations. Approximately 32.1 million acres of tropical forest are destroyed annually by the expansion of cropland, pasture and logging. Often grown adjacent to remnant forest patches, coffee crops cover more than 27 million acres of land in many of the world's most biodiverse regions.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b6rtbL>

10. NASA to Start Monkey Irradiation

22 July 2010

For the first time in years, monkeys are set to become the subjects of NASA experiments. It's part of a \$1.75 million project that NASA announced last year, saying the monkeys will be used to determine the health effects of radiation exposure during deep space travel. NASA maintains that the experiments are necessary if humans are to travel to Mars, while Congressmen and animal groups point out that (and NASA agrees) that travel to Mars is not likely under NASA's current budget anyway. PETA points out, "modern in vitro and clinical research methods are available that can be used to study the effects of space radiation on the human body.

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

11. Roads impact dramatically on forests

22 July 2010

In Indonesia, new roads are opening up in the last intact forests in Sumatra, 52 000 km of new logging roads are being built in the Congo Basin and 7500 km of new highways are emerging in the Brazilian Amazon. The major expansion of roads into pristine forests results in habitat destruction, road kill, barrier effects for animals and deforestation.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b23eY5>

12. Philippine precision farming gets a mobile upgrade

21 July 2010

Rice farmers in the Philippines will be able to dial a specialised service on their mobile phones to obtain tailored advice on fertiliser use when they plant their crops in September. Under the IRRI scheme, the farmer becomes the 'sensor'. After calling a toll free number, the farmer answers a menu of questions, such as whether the farm is upland or lowland, the variety of rice they plant, and the previous season's yield, simply by pressing the appropriate number on the phone keypad.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bI8zZl>

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Events

1. 05-07, August 2010

The Planned World: Urban, Rural, Wild; British Columbia, CANADA

This is an interdisciplinary international conference dealing with all things relating to the planned world. Conference presentation includes publication in our online journal, Interdisciplinary Themes Journal.

Deadline: 04 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/bKicNX>

2. 18-20, December 2010

29th EERC Research Workshop Kyiv, UKRAINE

Proposals for policy-relevant research on the border of economics and other disciplines, such as political science, sociology, demography, geography and ecology are encouraged. Grants of up to \$12,000 are awarded to individual researchers or small research teams (up to 3 persons) for up to 18 months. Grant size depends on the number participants and specific budget requirements of the project.

Deadline for applications: 12 October 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/baFo38>

3. 20-22, May 2011

North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS)-Climate Change, Agri-Food, Fisheries, and Ecosystems: Call for Proposals/ Abstracts; Agadir, MOROCCO

ICCAFFE2011 intends to bring together many participants from all over the world to share research outcomes and relevant experiences; contribute to the setting of future research and policy agendas; and explore possible networking with regard to the relevant debates.

Deadline: 15 October 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/aaU8lO>

4. 15-17 December 2010

The 15th Biological Sciences Graduate Congress (BSGC2010); Call for Abstracts; Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

The Biological Sciences Graduate Congress (BSGC) is an annual collaborative activity undertaken by the University of Malaya (UM), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Chulalongkorn University (CU).

Deadline: 15 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/d1bejZ>

5. 22-23 March 2011

International Symposium on Ecosystem-Based Management; Call for Participation; Burgos, Castilla y León, SPAIN

Explore and strengthen our understanding of forest ecosystem management by bringing together world renowned experts in the policy and practice of managing complex ecosystems.

Deadline: Not available

More at: <http://bit.ly/bhz9O0>

6. 11 November 2010

Green Conclave; Call for Participation; Delhi, INDIA

The conference is designed for those who are in environmental professions, academicians, researchers and students in the environmental and earth sciences disciplines, and all those people who are interested in finding solutions to environmental challenges, drive the environmental movement

and wish to switch over to sustainable ways of operations. We also have a poster presentation wherein the students can present their posters.

Deadline: Not Available

More at: <http://bit.ly/9Pn0js>

7. 01-03, December 2010

International Conference on Biodiversity; Call for participation; Frankfurt/Main, GERMANY

The conference will be a unique opportunity to discuss the major components of biodiversity, and to discuss possible contributions of biodiversity conservation and management to achieve the new targets under development. Focus is on scientific reviewing current and future action in the field of the CBD and the MDGs.

Deadline: Not available

Source: <http://bit.ly/c8wexU>

8. 28-30, December 2010

2010 International Conference on Biology, Environment and Chemistry (ICBEC 2010); Call for Papers; Hong Kong, CHINA

ICBEC is an international forum for state-of-the-art research in Biology, Environment and Chemistry, 2010 International Conference on Biology, Environment and Chemistry (ICBEC 2010). It is one of the leading international conferences for presenting novel and fundamental advances in the fields of Biology, Environment and Chemistry.

Deadline: 25 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/9Sv5JT>

9. 2-6 July 2012

MMM3: Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management Galle, SRI LANKA

MMM is the only recurrent conference (6 yearly) on mangrove ecosystems world-wide. After MMM in Kenya and MMM2 in Australia, MMM3 is organised in Galle Sri Lanka as a conference followed by an expert workshop.

Deadline: 31 November 2011

More at: <http://bit.ly/9HJkzD>

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Opportunities

1. Vacancy: EDCTP Partnership Board members (position starting date 1 January 2011)

Applications are invited from senior scientists in the areas of malaria and industry/regulatory affairs (preferably having worked or coming from such sector).

Deadline: 15 October 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/c6U1wv>

2. ESRC/DFID call for research applications

The UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) have announced their second round of funding for their research programme on Poverty Alleviation. Applications are invited for projects with a value of between £100,000 and £500,000.

Deadline: 30 September 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/da16r0>

3. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Benefit-sharing Fund: Call for Proposals 2010

The Call for Proposals 2010 under the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty, which will invest more than USD 10 million in projects globally, is now opened for its biennial cycle 2010-2011. The thematic focus is helping ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a targeted set of high impact activities on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Deadline: 08 September 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/akeGnc>

4. Call for Proposals (CFP) for Partnership Development Activities (PDAs) between Canada and India

The Calls invite university researchers, technology experts and industry leaders to propose PDAs that will help forge new research and technology development partnerships between Canadian and Indian innovators, and stimulate R&D or business collaboration that increases the competitiveness of both countries.

Deadline: 03 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/95xa7i>

5. Senior Program Officer - Agriculture and Food Security at IDRC

The Agriculture and Food Security (AFS) program supports research to increase production and incomes from small-scale farming, while contributing food to rural and urban consumers. The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund, a collaborative program of the International Development Research Centre and the Canadian International Development Agency, is an integral component of the AFS program.

Deadline: 13 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/clmsf3>

6. TWAS Fellowships: Call for applications now open

The fellowships are offered to scientists from developing countries and are tenable at centres of excellence in various countries in the South, including Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan and Thailand. Eligible fields include: agricultural and biological sciences, medical and health sciences, chemistry, engineering, astronomy, space and earth sciences, mathematics and physics.

Deadline: 16 September 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/a5cutj>

7. ILRI vacancy: Post doctoral fellow at The World Agroforestry Centre; Nairobi, KENYA

The post doc will participate in the multi-centre Global Futures project which is coordinated by IFPRI. The post doc will work closely with post docs at ILRI and CIMMYT who will also be based in Nairobi. This position is on International terms and will be for an initial period of two (2) years, renewable subject to nine (9) months' probation period, assessment of performance, continued relevance of the position and availability of resources.

Deadline: 15 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/ajMi6S>

8. Vacancy for Director, Forests and Livelihoods Programme; at the Center for International Forestry Research - Bogor, INDONESIA

The Director will lead research and outreach on how forests contribute to sustainable livelihoods. The Director will manage a team of scientists to bring together and expand existing research in CIFOR on the role of forest products and services as safety nets and as a means to improve human wellbeing.

Deadline: Rolling until fulfilled

More at: <http://bit.ly/dcDefh>

9. Vacancy for Project Coordinator at International Rice Research Institute based at Dhaka, BANGLADESH

The Project Coordinator will assume the responsibility of management and implementation of the project through strong coordination with partner organizations.

Deadline: 10 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/a48xFt>

10. Three Calls for Proposals for Partnership Development Activities Between Canada and India in ICT, Photonics, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Energy, Environment and Aerospace

International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada), the Department of Science and Technology (DST)/ Global Innovation and Technology Alliance or GITA (India), and the Department of Biotechnology or DBT (India) are hosting three Calls for Proposals (CFP) for Partnership Development Activities (PDAs) between Canada and India.

Deadline: 03 August 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/95xa7i>

11. Agriculture in transition- Innovative approaches to sustainable farming; Short Training Course; 09-20 May 2011

This course aims to offer the participants' a systems perspective on agriculture as well as tools to design innovative and sustainability farming systems. Participants will be able to analyze their own agricultural systems and propose transition paths towards improved sustainability.

Deadline: 09 April 2011

More at: <http://bit.ly/d6Ri1T>

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Organisations working on Biodiversity and Forest

1. Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge; Kunming, Southwest China

CBIK aimed to explore alternative development approaches like the support to Indigenous Initiatives and practice them with indigenous people and rural communities. These ways of practical action address the aspirations of local groups whose visions of the future rely on the continuity of their livelihoods and maintaining cultural and biological diversity through applying indigenous knowledge.

URL: <http://bit.ly/cmt0CU>

2. The Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance

The Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) is a partnership of international NGOs and research institutes seeking to promote integrated solutions to land management around the world. The CCB Standards identify land-based climate change mitigation projects that simultaneously generate climate, biodiversity and sustainable-development benefits.

URL: <http://bit.ly/aMdbXL>

3. Carbon, biodiversity & ecosystem services: exploring co-benefits

URL: <http://bit.ly/bydvBK>

4. DIVERSITAS; Integrating biodiversity science for human well-being, Paris, FRANCE

DIVERSITAS achieves these goals by synthesizing existing scientific knowledge, identifying gaps and emerging issues, and promoting new research initiatives, while also building bridges across countries and disciplines. The Programme also investigates policy implications of biodiversity science, and communicates these to policy fora, including international conventions.

URL: <http://bit.ly/ctIDYs>

5. The Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, NAMBIA

Since 1962, Gobabeb has been conducting environmental research in the Namib Desert. In 1997 the Centre became a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Centre of Excellence. In addition to its highly regarded research, Gobabeb is also involved in Training, Sustainable Development, Appropriate Technology, Education, and Environmental Awareness projects.

URL: <http://bit.ly/c0WRqb>

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Resources

1. Biodiversity: Why DNR, researchers, others keep a close eye on 'indicator' species

URL: <http://bit.ly/bLqyom>

2. REDD for dummies: UN-REDD Q&A - Version July 2010

URL: <http://bit.ly/9c0JYH>

3. Forest Sector Advisory Service: EU

Offer management consulting services to clients throughout the forest products value chain, from resource providers to end users.

URL: <http://bit.ly/bLDF6F>

4. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability: Special issue on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being

URL: <http://bit.ly/9vANOS>

5. Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities

URL: <http://bit.ly/9r2cpV>

6. Global biodiversity plan needs to convince local policymakers

URL: <http://bit.ly/a2aGjc>

7. Biodiversity Media Alliance

This network, created by the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Internews, connects journalists with scientists to help in improve media reporting of biodiversity issues.

URL: <http://bit.ly/9wmhJs>

8. International Press Centre Biodiversity Research (IPCB)

The International Press Centre for Biodiversity Research, run by the European-funded ALTER-Net project, links to biodiversity research news and press releases from universities and research institutes.

URL: <http://bit.ly/9ZiDON>

9. Studying Intertwined Networks of Human-Natural Relationships in Northwest Yunnan, China

URL: <http://bit.ly/9pQDRZ>

10. Piece by piece: A showcase for local campaigns fighting for the UK's natural habitats (Initiative)

URL: <http://bit.ly/cUFVGD>

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