

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on '**Biodiversity and Forest**', **Issue 16 (02 November 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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Global News

1. Kenya: 3 suspected poachers, 5 elephants killed

01 November 2010

The Kenya Wildlife Service says three suspected poachers have been killed after the poaching deaths of five elephants in two national parks over the last week. The suspects had shot and killed an elephant and were removing its ivory tusks when rangers ambushed them.

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

2. COP10 signs off on protocol Pact reached on biodiversity, genetic assets

31 October 2010

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits (ABS) was COP10's keystone agreement, to which all other issues were linked.

Under the new protocol, 193 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which sponsored COP10, will be legally obliged to follow rules designed to prevent biopiracy and provide benefits, including financial ones, to other parties when their genetic resources are accessed.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9YQj7L>

3. UK spends £100m to protect foreign forests as it threatens to axe its own

31 October 2010

The UK government has announced it has committed to spending £100 million on international forestry projects despite confirming plans it is looking to sell off 2.5 million acres of its own woodland to private buyers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bR3RIW>

4. British drivers hit more than 70,000 deer a year

27 October 2010

Around 74,000 deer are hit on Britain's roads every year, according to figures from breakdown service Autonationl Rescue. Such accidents can cause up to 700 human casualties, including several fatalities, and annually cost more than 21 million pounds (23.5 million euros, 33 million dollars) in damage, according to the data.

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

5. Britain plans to sell off forests to raise cash

25 October 2010

Caroline Spelman, the Environment Secretary, is expected to announce plans within days to dispose of about half of the 1.85 million acres of woodland overseen by the Forestry Commission by 2020, according to the newspaper report.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9veuq5>

6. Island nation announces Mongolia-sized sanctuary for whales and dolphins

25 October 2010

Dolphins, whales, and dugongs will be safe from hunting in the waters surrounding the Pacific nation of Palau. At the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, Palau's Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism, Harry Fritz, announced the establishment of a marine mammal sanctuary covering over 230,000 square miles (60,000 square kilometers) of the nation's waters, an area the size of Mongolia.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aT9NLP>

7. Elephant ecological engineering 'benefits amphibians'

23 October 2010

Areas heavily damaged by elephants are home to more species of amphibians and reptiles than areas where the beasts are excluded, a study has suggested. US scientists recorded 18 species in high damage areas but just eight species in unaffected habitats.

Source: <http://bbc.in/9daizx>

8. Rhino horn GPS used to deter poachers

21 October 2010

Five rhinos in South Africa's North West province have been fitted with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device to help protect them from poachers.

Source: <http://bbc.in/c985JI>

9. Political action is needed to harness value of biodiversity

20 October 2010

The ambitious plan includes more than 20 targets on issues such as public awareness, subsidy reform and pollution control. It has been drafted in the belief that biodiversity plays a critical role in human wellbeing and poverty reduction.

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

10. Scientists claim GM cowpea could generate US\$1 billion

01 October 2010

A pest-resistant version of the black-eyed pea, a subspecies of the cowpea, is on track for commercial introduction, promising higher yields and claimed savings of up to US\$1 billion on a crop that has found new popularity among African smallholders.

Source: <http://bit.ly/b3exBy>
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News from Regional Member Countries (RMCs)

1. **Saved in one swoop - The Asian houbara bustard in China**

01 November 2010

The Asian houbara bustard is at grave risk of extinction. But help is now coming from countries whose ancient hunting traditions pose a major threat to this shy bird. With financial and technical support from the center, XIEG's researchers have now determined the bird's distribution, migration routes and breeding grounds, made an estimate of its population, unraveled the mysteries surrounding its breeding and identified the main threats to its survival.

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

2. **Four wildlife smugglers held in Assam**

01 November 2010

A wildlife trade racket has been busted in Assam's Kokrajhar district with the arrest of four smugglers who used to transship elephants through inter-state border with forged documents, police said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bx5dt1>

3. **Biodiversity mapping identifies unique plant species in W Ghats**

01 November 2010

The Science and Technology Park (STP) has undertaken biodiversity mapping of 11 high altitude plateaux, ranging from 900 metres to 1,646 metres in four districts of the state and found that these plateaux exhibit several botanical curiosities. The plants found on the plateaux have unique habitats and some species are so short-lived their life cycle spans just a week.

Source: <http://bit.ly/993aVO>

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Events

1. **20 - 21, November 2010**

A National Conference on Conservation of Biodiversity Call for Participation, Bangalore 560 012, INDIA

The Centre provides opportunities for science communicators to explore and express their talents and creativity and also recognizes such talents. Presently, the membership of NCSC is over 200 strong across the country.

Deadline: Rolling (Closed for abstracts)

Contact: Suhas B. Naik-Satam

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/aXP6JH>

2. **26 - 27 November 2010**

International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2010; Calls for participation, Nugegoda, SRI LANKA

This symposium is a forum for researchers in the fields of Natural Resources Management, to present their research findings, and networking with policy makers and industry.

Deadline: Registration rolling (Abstract Closed)

Contact:

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/aWhMCa>

3. 02-06, July 2012

MMM3: Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management, Calls for abstracts, 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

Contact: Farid Dahdouh-Guebas

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/9HJkzD>

4. 04 -07, October 2011

The 7th International Conference on Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products; Call for abstracts FRANCE

ICMBMP7 has as its goal the exchange of information about new findings in the aspects of mushroom biology and mushroom products including (i) Genomics, genetics, molecular biology and breeding (ii) Evolution, biodiversity and systematics (iii) Biochemistry, Physiology, Nutritional and medicinal aspects, Innovative products from mushrooms, (iv) Cultivation technology and bioconversions.

Deadline: 01 April 2011

Contact: Jean-Michel SAVOIE, CMBMP7.2011@bordeaux.inra.fr

Website: <http://bit.ly/drLqtt>

5. 06-08, February 2011

International Conference Preparing Agriculture for Climate Change, Call for Proposals, Ludhiana, INDIA

The conference is being organized in the context of likely drop in agricultural productivity as a consequence of climate change. Deliberation will attempt at developing a consensus global view on mitigating such losses.

Deadline: 15 December 2010

Contact: Dr Allah Rang, icpacc@pau.edu

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/bjWOLF>

6. 07-09, January 2010

2011 International Conference on Life Science and Technology (ICLST 2011); Call for Papers, Mumbai, INDIA

The conference is a international forum for the presentation of technological advances and research results in the fields of Life Science and Technology. The conference will bring together leading researchers, engineers and scientists in the domain of interest from around the world.

Deadline: 05 November 2010

Contact: iclst@cbees.org

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/99kyfh>

7. 25 - 27, March 2011

3rd International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Technology (ICBBT 2011); Calls for Papers, Sanya, CHINA

ICBBT 2011 will bring together top researchers from Asian Pacific areas, North America, Europe and around the world to exchange research results and address open issues in all aspects of bioinformatics and biomedical technology.

Deadline: 10 November 2010

Contact: icbbt@vip.163.com, Tel- (+86) 28 8652 8228 - Fax - (+86) 28 8652 8228

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/aqElie>

8. 15-23, October 2011

21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage, Call for Participation; Tehran, IRAN

The 62nd ICID IEC Meeting and 21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage under the title of "Water Productivity towards Food Security", as well as, 8th International Micro Irrigation Congress on "Innovation in Technology and Management of Micro-irrigation for crop Production Enhancement". All the interested participants and the honorable members of ICID, NC's and the other National and International Institutes, Entities, and Companies are welcome to exchange ideas, experiences, new technologies and innovations, as well as, share benefits from scientific aspects of the above events.

Deadline: 30 November 2010

Contact: icid@icid.org

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/bhM7jq>

9. 07–09, December 2010

Fifth Western Native Plant Conference; Calls for participation, Portland, Oregon, USA

The registration fee is \$295 if received by November 30, 2010 or \$325 if received after November 30, 2010. The registration fee includes a book of speaker materials, 2 lunches and refreshments.

Deadline: 30 November 2010

Contact: Michele, michele@westernforestry.org, Tel- (888) 722-9416 or (503) 226-4562 or

Event Website: <http://bit.ly/bzB7VN>

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Opportunities

1. The Wildlife Conservation Society Fellowships

The WCS Research Fellowship Program (RFP) is a small grants program administered by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Institute that is designed to build capacity for the next generation of conservationists by supporting individual field research projects that have a clear application to the conservation of threatened wildlife and wild places. Applicants must currently be enrolled in a Masters, PhD, or DVM program, or the equivalent.

Deadline: 05 January 2011

Contact: detail:fellowship@wcs.org

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

2. The Conservation Leadership Award

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is a partnership of four conservation organisations – BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, the Wildlife Conservation Society. Conservation Awards are open to applicants working across Africa, Asia, Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Deadline: 15 November 2010

Contact: clp@birdlife.org

More at: <http://bit.ly/cbkbF8>

3. Asia Pacific Human Rights and Democratisation Scholarships 2011

Up to 30 scholarships are available for citizens of countries in the Asia Pacific region to undertake the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific). Successful applicants for the scholarships will receive funding for their tuition fees and contributions to accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

Deadline: 10 December 2010 (Scholarships deadline); 11 April 2010 (Application deadline)

Contact: io.info@sydney.edu.au Tel: +61 2 8627 8300

More at: <http://bit.ly/9eL4UU>

4. The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards will be available for the 14th consecutive year to students who are going to give oral or poster presentations at the 2011 Annual Symposium of the U.S. Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE 2011), held in Portland, Oregon from April 3 through April 7, 2011.

Deadline: 01 December 2010

Contact: Dr. Jianguo (Jack) Liu, jliu@panda.msu.edu

More at: <http://bit.ly/c9iVNR>

5. Asia Pacific Leadership Programme Fellowships

The APLP is a graduate certificate program combining the development of regional expertise with the enhancement of individual leadership capacity. Based at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, the program has created a network of dynamic leaders in 48 countries who are helping to build a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community. All participants receive an APLP Entrance Fellowship valued at approximately \$15,000.

Deadline: December 2010

Contact: aplp@eastwestcenter.org

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

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Organisations working on Biodiversity and Forest

1. National Wildlife Federation - NWF

NWF works to protect and restore wildlife wonders and to provide a sustainable future for both wildlife and man.

URL: <http://bit.ly/c4hEjy>

2. WWF Global Network

The world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organization, with around 5 million supporters and a global network of 27 national organizations, 5 associates, and 21 program offices.

URL: <http://bit.ly/c4kNbQ>

3. The Nature Conservancy

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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

4. Defenders of Wildlife

A defender of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

URL: <http://bit.ly/dA8D5v>

5. Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) works to save wildlife and wild lands throughout the world.

URL: <http://bit.ly/a3LgaL>

6. Meadowview Biological Research Station

Meadowview is an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring rare wetland plants and habitats on the coastal plain of Maryland and Virginia.

URL: <http://bit.ly/cRiKp0>

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Resources

1. New UN report warns of risks of biological production of renewable energy

URL: <http://bit.ly/9u4KWR>

2. Henry, S; and Federico, L; (2010); Customs Collaboration to Combat the International Trade in Illegal Timber, IGES (Hayama, Japan)

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

3. Job Opportunities at Biodiversity International

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

4. Opinion by Yansen, Bengkulu (2010), Biodiversity, Indonesia and poverty

URL: <http://bit.ly/b4zvSK>

5. Executive Summary A safer bet for REDD+: Review of the evidence on the relationship between biodiversity and the resilience of forest carbon stocks; UN-REDD PROGRAMME Working paper: 27 October 2010 (v.2) Multiple Benefits Series 10

URL: <http://bit.ly/d1chvb>

6. Carnivorous Plant Database

URL: <http://bit.ly/bnN6hx>

7. Animal Diversity Web

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

8. Kinver, K; (2010) Warming 'destabilises aquatic ecosystems' BBC News

URL: <http://bbc.in/9tzkC1>

9. Butterfly in India

URL: <http://bit.ly/cc8tIN>

10. UNECE Timber Committee Forecasts

URL: <http://bit.ly/akY7FR>

11. Peter, R.J.; (2002), Estimation of fAPAR, LAI, and vegetation fractional cover from ATSR-2 imagery. Remote Sensing of Environment 80 (2002), 114– 121

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

12. Latest Forestry and Timber Section Press Releases of UNECE

URL: <http://bit.ly/akY7FR>

13. Directory of open Journals

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

14. COP 16 and Nepal: Unmistakable lack of enthusiasm

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

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