

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 17 (07 December 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](http://del.icio.us) page. Please add [apmn.media](http://apmn.media) to your network. More on [del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us) [here](#)

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**News form Regional Member Countries (RMCs)**  
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**1. Doubling tiger count by 2022 realistic goal**

03 December 2010

At the Global Tiger Recovery Program, it was pledged to double the number of wild tigers from around 3,200 to 7,000 by 2022, the next year of the tiger according to the Chinese lunar calendar. Source: Source: <http://bit.ly/e9owQo>

**2. Wild elephants electrocuted in China: Report**

02 December 2010

Two wild elephants were electrocuted in a nature reserve in south-western China after coming into contact with a high-voltage cable, state media reported Wednesday, quoting local officials. Source: <http://bit.ly/er5CFZ>

**3. Extinction threat looms large over Gangetic dolphins**

28 November 2010

The Gangetic dolphin, which at one point of time existed in large numbers in the Brahmaputra river and its other tributaries, is facing the threat of extinction owing to alleged government apathy to protect and preserve this aquatic species. The Wildlife Preservation Act of the Government of India has listed the river dolphin as a Category One animal, but there is no major endeavor on the part of any quarters to save it from getting annihilated.

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

**4. 75 tigers died in zoos in last three years**

22 November 2010

Zoos do not seem to be safe for the royal Bengal tigers with infighting, disease and old age taking the toll on at least 75 big cats in zoological parks across the country in the last three years. The highest number of deaths in captivity - 28- took place during 2009-10, while in the previous two years the figure stood at 25 and 22 respectively.

Source: <http://bit.ly/fBC83F>

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## Global News

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### 1. Amazon tribe establishes first indigenous forest carbon fund

04 December 2010

By 2006, that world beyond had engulfed them – a fact their young chief, Almir Narayamoga Suruí, saw all too clearly the first time he logged onto Google Earth. “Like everyone back then, I was curious to see my home from the sky,” he says. “But when I found the Suruí territory, it looked so lonely – like a little patch of green in a sea of brown and yellow.” To achieve that vision, he and his people created the Suruí Fund, which the tribe's marketing brochure describes as “a financial mechanism aimed at implementing the Management Plan of the Indigenous through principles of good governance and transparency, where representative indigenous advisers have a strong role”.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ha3BhX>

### 2. Poison plot aims to make rhino killers sick

04 December 2010

The controversial owners of a Joburg wildlife reserve who mooted the idea of injecting cyanide into the horns of their rhino to poison illicit Asian consumers are dabbling with a deterrent pesticide they believe could “strike fear in the hearts of poachers”.

Source: <http://bit.ly/elt2fR>

### 3. Brazil to help African, Asian countries in satellite-based forest monitoring

03 December 2010

Brazil will provide technical assistance to help tropical countries improve their forest monitoring capabilities, according to an official with the South American country's satellite agency. "The goal is to train countries in geospatial information systems so they can eventually adapt and benefit from the REDD system that will be defined under the UN Convention on Climate Change," said Nobre in a statement.

Source: <http://bit.ly/f6cEPX>

### 4. Breaking all of life's rules: scientists discover bacteria that can survive on arsenic

02 December 2010

While for days rumors have circulated around the Internet that NASA had discovered alien life, the truth may be even less expected. Instead of aliens, NASA-funded researchers have discovered a microorganism on Earth that breaks all the rules of life: in Mono Lake in California scientists found a bacterium that can survive wholly on arsenic. The microorganism is capable of replacing phosphate, one of the essential blocks of all known life, with the toxic chemical arsenic according to new researched published in Science.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ehsXv2>

### 5. UNDP Report: Latin America and Caribbean are "biodiversity superpower"

02 December 2010

An extraordinary array of goods and services provided by the rich plant and wildlife of Latin America and the Caribbean hangs in the balance unless governments in the region take hold of their full potential as biodiversity superpowers, according to a new report from UNDP.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dRx80I>

### 6. Forest plans essential

02 December 2010

Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) are plans that licensees must prepare to comply with the Forest and Range Practices Act. FSPs must identify broad areas planned for road building, harvesting, and silviculture activities and outline how these proposed activities will meet government objectives for a variety of values such as cultural heritage resources, soils, water, fish, wildlife, biodiversity, timber, and recreation.

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

**7. Polar bears 'spotted swimming with cubs on back'**

01 December 2010

Polar bears have been spotted carrying their cubs on their backs while they swim through icy waters, according to an article in UK online newspaper the Telegraph. According to the article, the practice is thought to be the result of the bears having to swim longer distances in the sea because of recent reductions in the arctic summer sea ice.

Source: <http://bit.ly/f1OMY7>

**8. NASA images reveal disappearing mangroves worldwide**

01 December 2010

In August NASA and the US Geological Survey released the first-ever satellite analysis of the world's mangrove ecosystems. What they found was dire: mangroves covered 12.3% less area than previously estimated. Now, NASA has released images of the world's mangrove ecosystems (see below), which currently cover 137,760 square kilometers. Yet this number keeps shrinking: mangroves are vanishing rapidly due to rising sea levels, deforestation for coastal developments, agriculture and aquaculture.

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

**9. Mercury 'turns' wetland birds such as ibises homosexual**

01 December 2010

Mercury affects the behavior of white ibises by "turning them homosexual", with higher doses resulting in males being more likely to pair with males. Scientists in Florida and Sri Lanka studied the effect of mercury in the birds' diet. Their aim was to find out why it reduced the ibises' breeding. The report, in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, shows that wetland birds are particularly badly affected by it.

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

**10. Dwindling biodiversity raises disease risk in humans, study finds**

01 December 2010

Dwindling biodiversity could cause more humans to contract infectious diseases such as Lyme disease and West Nile virus, according to scientists who have reviewed the results of 24 separate studies. Biodiversity hotspots must be protected to prevent the transmission of dangerous diseases from increasing, they warn.

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

**11. A healthy argument for biodiversity**

01 December 2010

Several studies in the US have shown that when the diversity of bird species is high, the risk of humans being infected is relatively low - perhaps, again, because mosquitos are busy pumping their viral load into birds where the virus will not multiply.

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

**12. REDD could save species from extinction, if well-funded**

01 December 2010

The burgeoning global program REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) could do more than mitigate climate change, according to a new study in Conservation Letters by scientists with Conservation International (CI).

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

**13. Huge study of Breckland habitat reveals rare species**

30 November 2010

More than a quarter of the UK's rare species have been discovered by a large scale biodiversity study of farmland on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. The university and a team of 200 naturalists collated nearly 1m records, showing 12,500 species and, of these, more than 2,000 are of national conservation concern.

Source: <http://bbc.in/fCG5ax>

**14. Progress made on protecting sharks, but none on Atlantic bluefin tuna, environmental groups say**

30 November 2010

An international conservation conference in Paris made progress Saturday on protecting sharks but didn't do anything to save the Atlantic bluefin tuna, which has been severely over-fished to feed the market for sushi in Japan, environmental groups said.

Source: <http://lat.ms/eggT7j>

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**Events**  
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**1. 08-09, March 2011**

**International conference: women of the mountains, Call for papers, Utah valley university, Orem, Utah, US**

Proposals from scholars in global mountain communities are especially welcome. Please send a 250-300 word abstract and c.v. After confirmation of acceptance, the complete paper should be submitted by 1 February, 2011 to the same individuals.

Deadline: 30 December, 2010

Contact: Roger Blomquist, [rblomquist@uvu.edu](mailto:rblomquist@uvu.edu)

Event website: <http://bit.ly/e8lITn>

**2. 01-03, April 2011**

**2011 2nd International Conference on Biotechnology and Food Science (ICBFS 2011), call for papers, Bali Island, INDONESIA**

ICBFS 2011 will be published in the conference proceeding, and all papers in the proceedings will be included in IEEE Xplore, and indexed by Ei Compendex and Thomson ISI.

Deadline: 15 December 2010

Contact: [icbfs@cbees.org](mailto:icbfs@cbees.org)

Event website: <http://bit.ly/fn0fqZ>

**3. 29 July-04 August, 2011**

**2011 International Biodiversity Conference, Call for proposals, Banos, ECUADOR**

We invite college professors and field experts in wildlife conservation who teach biology, biodiversity, geography, geology, and life science to participate in our event.

Deadline: 01 June 2011

Contact: Dr. Barry W. Barker, [barkerb@wildspotsfoundation.org](mailto:barkerb@wildspotsfoundation.org)

Event website: <http://bit.ly/esrum3>

**4. 24-28, August 2011**

**15th International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) Conference; call for papers, Aberdeen, SCOTLAND**

The central theme of the conference is 'Responding to Climate, Biodiversity and Resource Changes in Ladakh and elsewhere in the Western Himalaya'. It will also be a multidisciplinary event, where scholars from many disciplines can interact.

Deadline: 01 April 2011

Contact: Martin Mills, [m.a.mills@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.mills@abdn.ac.uk)

Event website: <http://bit.ly/fjz3Tw>

**5. 15-23, October 2011**

**21st ICID Congress & 8th Micro Irrigation Congress, call for papers 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" will be held in Tehran in 2011 by the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) and ICID. The new deadline has been scheduled for the submission of abstracts.

Deadline: 15 January 2011

Contact: Congress Secretariat, icid2011@gmail.com

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

**6. 20-22, October, 2011**

**Second global summit on sustainable development and biodiversity (GLOSS 2011), Call for proposals, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA**

The objective of the conference is to explore different models of sustainable development on preservation of indigenous knowledge, lands, sovereignty and culture while providing for integrated economic development, institutional capacity building and technological advancement.

Deadline: 30 September 2011

Contact: Dr. R.N.Pati, Director of the Conference, drpati54@gmail.com

Event website: <http://bit.ly/guaNlw>

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**Opportunities**  
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**1. Islamic Development Bank M.Sc. Scholarship Programme 2011**

The objective of the M.Sc. is to assist Selected LDMCs in the development of their human resources in science and technology that are both relevant and necessary for their socio-economic development. The Programme is open only to students from the 20 Selected LDMCs.

Deadline: 31 December 2010

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

**2. PhD Studentship in Environmental Molecular Science, Sweden**

Scholarship program in Environmental Molecular Science within the Division for Molecular and Condensed Matter Physics at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Uppsala University will participate in our joint research on the physics and chemistry of aqueous surfaces at the microscopic level. This for example includes how the concentration of solvated ions and molecules differ between the bulk water and the outermost molecular layers.

Deadline: 12 December 2010

Contact: Uppsala, [registrator@uu.se](mailto:registrator@uu.se), fax - +46-18-471 2000, or by mail to Registration, Box 256, S-751 05

More at: <http://bit.ly/ifyec6>

**3. Vacancy at UNDP: Chief Community Empowerment- CHTDF Project, Bangladesh**

Under the guidance of the Project Director of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) Project the Chief Community Empowerment will be responsible for manage and follow up activities of CHTDF, UNDP project efficiently and transparently.

Deadline: 15 December 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/fS7TGF>

**4. Scientific Coordinator, Identification of Tree Species and Geographic Origin**

Superior interpersonal and communications skills including effective advocacy, facilitation, networking, consensus building skills, and an ability to interact effectively with a wide range of collaborators from different cultural backgrounds. Proven expertise in project proposal development and collaborative research management is required.

Deadline: 10 December 2010

Contact: [f.fabi@cgiar.org](mailto:f.fabi@cgiar.org)  
More at: <http://bit.ly/beWhSB>  
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## Organisations working on Biodiversity and Forest

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### 1. Amphibian Ark

Amphibians are an important component of the global ecosystem, as indicators of environmental health and contributors to human health. They watched the dinosaurs come and go, but today almost half of them are themselves threatened with extinction. Addressing the amphibian extinction crisis represents the greatest species conservation challenge in the history of humanity.

URL: <http://bit.ly/euH7Uw>

### 2. Flora and Fauna International

FFI's work spans across the globe, with over 100 projects in nearly 40 countries, mostly in the developing world. We proudly stand up for biodiversity and aim to show just how relevant it is to all of those who share the planet.

URL: <http://bit.ly/d3parA>

### 3. Conservation International

Every person on Earth deserves a healthy environment and the fundamental benefits that nature provides. But our planet is experiencing an unprecedented drawdown of these resources, and it is only by protecting nature and its gifts – a stable climate, fresh water, healthy oceans and reliable food – that we can ensure a better life for everyone, everywhere.

URL: <http://bit.ly/htyaW2>

### 4. Kerela Forest Research Institute

Established in 1975, the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is an institution of the Government of Kerala under its Science and Technology Department. The Institute is dedicated to research in tropical forestry, environment and biodiversity conservation.

URL: <http://bit.ly/hDBQ1j>

### 5. TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

URL: <http://bit.ly/g3DqUJ>

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## Resources

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### 1. Protecting Biodiversity Might Just Protect Us from Disease article by Brayan Walsh

URL: <http://bit.ly/hJSye9>

### 2. Rainforest conservation needs new direction to address climate change

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

### 3. Management of sapota seed borer- an exotic species of plant in India

URL: <http://bit.ly/hk96Ed>

### 4. What are the prospects for the Nagoya biodiversity summit?

URL: <http://bit.ly/g4sT8R>

5. **Joining the Dots - The report of the Tiger Task Force**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/hb7vjS>
6. **Christensen, M. (2009); Forest biodiversity gradients and the human impact in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal; Biodiversity and Conservation**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/hwWQnt>
7. **Khatri, T.B; (2010) Conservation governance in Nepal: Protecting forest biodiversity and people's livelihoods**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/hI5LVO>
8. **Forest & Biodiversity Rights of the Nagas**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/gXODkL>
9. **Forest resource of Bhutan (FAO): Country report**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/i89BRD>
10. **Biodiversity and community knowledge protection act of Bangladesh**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/eEqqEa>
11. **Great extinction really will come? 33 percent of species from extinction**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/gq2OKw>
12. **The Economic Evaluation on China's Forest Biodiversity**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/hNjjYT>
13. **WEEK IN PHOTOS: Tiger Escapes, Embassy Burns, More**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/iaoNb9>  
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