

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 18 (29 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 page. Please add apmn.media to your network. More on del.icio.us [here](#)

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News from Regional Member Countries (RMCs)

1. Four Pobitora rhinos for Manas in India

27 December 2010

The world famous Manas National Park cum Tiger Project is soon going to add another feather to its cap when four more rhinos would be brought to the park on December 29. As part of the initiative two male rhinos were translocated to Manas way back on April 12, 2008 and the second batch was scheduled to be brought in November- December that year.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dl1X7p>

2. Steep decline in Yak population in India

24 December 2010

The population of yak, the friendly long-haired bovine found in the Himalayan region, is rapidly declining in the country for a variety of reasons ranging from reproductive disorders, improper nutrition and degradation of natural grasslands.

Source: <http://bit.ly/f8FFhz>

3. China's GM debate goes public, surprising scientists

21 December 2010

A growing perception that the Chinese public is uneasy about genetically modified (GM) crops has led to a roundtable dialogue on GM crops between scientists and the general public.

Scientists who participated in the dialogue — held on the sidelines of the Communication and Dialogue of Agribiotech Symposium at Huazhong Agricultural University in October — said it was the first time they had been made aware of the extent of the public's fears.

Source: <http://bit.ly/h63o3v>

4. Giant panda breeding breakthrough in China

07 December 2010

A critical breakthrough has been made in efforts to save the giant panda, one that could kick-start attempts to reintroduce the animals to the wild. The breakthrough, mainly by scientists at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Centre, China, should lead to the first panda being reintroduced into the wild within 15 years.

Source: <http://bbc.in/fEb5p6>

5. Strong adaptation strategy needed

04 December 2010

Bangladesh is yet to receive any grant from the global fund of \$30 billion for vulnerable countries, which was supposed to be raised by 2012 in the Copenhagen Summit last year. Little has been achieved to mitigate the suffering of the people in the countries severely affected by climate change. Bangladesh, with its denuded forests zones, burgeoning population growth and ever increasing use of pesticides is already at peril.

Source: <http://bit.ly/g47c5E>

6. Kerala Social forestry gets UN recognition

04 December 2010

The programmes, implemented by the state Forest Department, like 'Ente Maram Padhathi' (My Tree Scheme), 'Haritha Keralam' (Greening Kerala), 'Haritha Theeram' (Greening the Coast Programme), 'Vazhiyorthanal Thanal' (Road-Side Planting of Shade Trees) have been widely appreciated for its effective implementation by the international agency.

Source: <http://bit.ly/hjA6fM>

7. Tk 956m projects to fight climate impacts okayed

01 December 2010

The government is going to develop a digital map of the country's forest to build a stronger forest monitoring system. So far, Tk 506 has been allocated for 45 government projects and 28 non-government projects, said the environment ministry officials.

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

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Global News

1. Crop raiding African elephants are 'stressed out'

14 December 2010

Elephants that invade farmers' crops have higher levels of stress hormones. Scientists found high levels of glucocorticoid metabolites in dung collected from crop raided fields. Researchers from the University of Missouri, Columbia and African Conservation Centre, Nairobi, Kenya collected dung samples from elephants involved in five crop raids and from the two closest protected areas for comparison, Amboseli National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Source: <http://bbc.in/gll2jJ>

2. Soil erosion threatens to leave Earth hungry

14 December 2010

Within 40 years, there will be around 2 billion more people – another China plus India – on Earth. Food production will have to increase at least 40%, and most of that will have to be grown on the fertile soils that cover just 11% of the global land surface.

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

3. On a wing and a prayer: British birds under threat

13 December 2010

One in every five species of bird in Britain has declined at such an alarming rate over recent years that it has been included on our national Red List. Every bird in decline tells its own story about the environment, and a number of themes have emerged as the proportion of threatened farmland and woodland species, long-distance migrants and rare northerly breeding birds has increased.

Source: <http://ind.pn/hSaZ8W>

4. UN Agencies Laud Agreement On 'Redd+' Agreement Reached in Cancun

11 December 2010

Heads of the three UN agencies involved in the UN-REDD Programme (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) call the REDD+ agreement a positive step forward in the conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests.

Source: <http://bit.ly/g7UU3j>

5. Russia offers China Amur leopard cooperation

11 December 2010

Russia has offered to work with China to create a joint nature reserve to help prevent the extinction of the Amur leopard, a Russian official said on Saturday. "The Amur leopard is on the brink of extinction," Ivanov told the Russian Geographical Society, blaming poaching, logging and forest fires. "We need to take urgent measures to save the leopard."

Source: <http://reut.rs/hdVFOs>

6. Mountain gorilla numbers have increased, census reveals

07 December 2010

The population of endangered mountain gorillas has increased significantly in the last 30 years, say researchers. A 2003 census estimated the population in Virunga at 380 individuals - so the current figure suggests that the population has increased by just over 25% in the last seven years.

Source: <http://bbc.in/g6myN2>

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Events

1. 03-08, April 2011

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2011 Call for papers, Vienna, AUSTRIA

Please note that the EGU2011 introduces an Abstract Processing Charge (APC) of €40 per abstract, with registration fees €40 less for EGU2011 compared to EGU2010. A person submitting one abstract will therefore pay the same for EGU2011 and EGU2010.

Deadline: 10 January 2011

Contact: egu2011@copernicus.org, Tel:+49-551-900339-20

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

2. 24 January - 04 February 2011

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9 Session), Call for participation, New York, USA

As in the past, the deliberation and discussion during the UNFF9 will be conducted in plenary session, and in two parallel working groups. All agenda items of the UNFF9 and relevant Secretary General's reports and other official documents will be introduced in the plenary sessions.

Deadline: NA

Contact: unff@un.org, Tel+1 212 963 3401 / +1 917 367 4244

More at: <http://bit.ly/fwhF20>

3. 22 -24, March 2011

Symposium on Ecosystem and Landscape-Level Approaches to Sustainability, Call for papers and posters, Burgos, SPAIN

The participation fee for the International Symposium is 150 Euros, with a discount of 50% for students, if you complete your registration before February 28th. The participation fee will increase by 35% for the registrations completed from March 1st.

Deadline: 07 January 2011

Contact: info@globalforum2011.net,

More at: <http://bit.ly/bhz900>

4. 02-05, May 2011

Australia and New Zealand Institute of Forestry (ANZIF) Conference 2011, Call for participation, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

ANZIF 2011 "Pacific Forestry – Growing a Forestry Future" is a conference targeting forestry policy makers, managers and practitioners from the South Pacific region.

Deadline: 25 March 2011

Contact: Colleen Walters, Tel- 64 9 428 4783

More at: <http://bit.ly/hB1sul>

5. 11 -13, February 2011

Conservation of Sacred Groves to Protect Local Biodiversity, Call for papers, Tamilnadu, INDIA

As part of the UN Decade of Biodiversity, CPREEC is organizing a Conference on Conservation of Sacred Groves to Protect Local Biodiversity at Chennai. Papers will be published with ISBN numbering.

Deadline: 31 January 2011

Contact: Mr. P. Sudhakar, cpreec@vsnl.com Tel- 91- 44 -24337023 / 24346526 / 24359366

More at: <http://bit.ly/eJl7ko>

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Opportunities

1. Vacancy at UN: Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation Technical Advisor, INDONESIA

The Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation Technical Advisor is the lead technical specialist on climate change, biodiversity, and forestry operations and management;

provides technical inputs to design, implementation, and reporting activities in these technical areas; technical backstop for STTA in these areas; supports the Communications and Learning Specialist and Spatial Planning and Carbon Accounting Advisor.

Deadline: 07 January 2011

Contact: ifacs.recruitment@gmail.com

More at: <http://bit.ly/f8a05Q>

2. Vacancy: Director, Environment and NRM Programmes, USA

The Director provides technical quality control and contributes to the technical design of proposals that ensure the strength of Pacts' business development pipeline while assuring compliance with Pact standard operating procedures, relevant quality service guidelines, legislation, and all applicable national and international regulations- S/he is an involved member of the Program Management Team, which advises the Vice President of Advancement on a range of issues.

Deadline: 31 December 2010

Contact: info@pactworld.org

More at: <http://bit.ly/eVeX5S>

3. Online Postgraduate Opportunity in Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health

This new online M.Sc. programme draws together expertise from the University of Edinburgh's Global Health Academy and Royal (Dick) Vet School, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and partner global associates, to deliver first class teaching and research in the field of Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: WEB.onlineMSc@ed.ac.uk

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

4. The Leopold Fellow in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The newly formed Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (CEES) at Wake Forest University is accepting applications for a postdoctoral fellowship to begin February 01, 2011 (start date negotiable).

Deadline: 10 January 2011

Contact: cees.postdoc@wfu.edu

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

5. Danida Fellowship - for research grants 'PhD and post-doc' related to development research individual

Deadline: 11 February 2011

The objective of the support is to generate knowledge in order to promote the overall objective of the Danish development assistance to reduce poverty and support sustainable development.

Contact: dfc@dfcentre.dk Tel +45 3536 1322

More at: <http://bit.ly/hD1Umb>

6. PhD Program in Science and Management of Climate Change

The PhD Program in Science and Management of Climate Change was established in 2007, through an agreement between the Università Ca' Foscari in Venice (Unive) and the

Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC), a consortium comprising several Italian public and private research institutions.

Deadline: 22 March 2011

Contact: Prof. Carlo Barbante, barbante@unive.it, Tel- 0039 0412349125

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

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Organisations working on Biodiversity and Forests

1. The Palni Hills Conservation Council, Tamil Naidu, INDIA

The Palni Hills is basically the Eastern spur of the Western Ghats mountain range in the South Indian State of Tamilnadu. The forests of the hills vary from dry deciduous to wet temperate zones. The hills start at 280 Mts. above sea level and raise up to 2300 Mts.

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

2. Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, NEPAL

SMCRF is a Non-Profit-making, Non-Governmental Organization based at Kathmandu, Nepal. It's dedicated for the conservation and research of Small Mammals within it's priority areas and other potential sites throughout Nepal.

URL: <http://bit.ly/e9IGiX>

3. Zoo Outreach Organisation, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Zoo Outreach Organisation is an exceptionally unique, dynamic and productive conservation, research, education, and welfare NGO.

URL: <http://bit.ly/ey64gc>

4. Endangered Species International - San Francisco USA

Endangered Species International is strongly committed to reversing the trend of human-induced species extinction, saving endangered animals, and preserving wild places.

URL: <http://bit.ly/gbsk62>

5. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is an international charity working globally towards our mission of saving species from extinction. Committed to conserving the diversity and integrity of the life on earth, Durrell has developed a worldwide reputation for its pioneering conservation techniques.

URL: <http://bit.ly/e6A2Qs>

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Resources

1. BBC showcases decade of wildlife discovery

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

2. Sri Lanka: Plantation Development Project- ADB project completion report

URL: <http://bit.ly/hFEbS5>

3. **Information Note on the work of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests- (UNFF9) including during the High Level Ministerial Segment (24 January- 4 February 2011, New York)**
URL: <http://bit.ly/eGpBDz>
4. **Rahman, M; (2010) Native plantation for biodiversity restoration, The Daily Star**
URL: <http://bit.ly/eKWufr>
5. **Korea: a model in sustainable forestry**
URL: <http://bit.ly/ezclpL>
6. **Boscolo, M; van Dijk, K; Savenije, H; Financing sustainable small-scale forestry: policy issues and lessons from developing national forest financing strategies in Latin America**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fDquls>
7. **Zagt, RJ; Sheil, D; Putz, FE (2010) Biodiversity conservation in certified forests: an overview; Tropenbos International, Wageningen, Netherlands**
URL: <http://bit.ly/e4SQ3Z>
8. **Taylor, PL; Cronkleton, P; Barry, D (2010) Learning in the field: using community self studies to strengthen forest-based social movements; Sustainable Development**
URL: <http://bit.ly/eNiPHW>
9. **Animal Info**
URL: <http://bit.ly/gQiuEb>
10. **BiologyBrowser**
URL: <http://bit.ly/ghaKKl>
11. **Encyclopedia of Life**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fDy8PE>

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