

Dear Colleagues,
Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 21 (13 April 2011), 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.

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News from ICIMOD Regional Member Countries (RMCs)

1. India: Tracking Big Cats in India

11 April 2011

World Bank President Robert Zoellick pledged a last-ditch strategy to avert the extinction of tigers. Tiger poaching for medicinal uses and exotic cuisine is threatening the world's tiger reserves. World Bank's goal pledges to double the current global tiger numbers from 3,500 to 7,000 by 2022.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ghRr1E>

2. Nepal: WB's US\$ 3 M Support for Wildlife Protection for Eco-Tourism

10 April 2011

The World Bank (WB) has approved a US\$3 million grant to Nepal for the First Phase of the Adaptable Program Loan (APL) on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia in support of the conservation and protection of wildlife species.

Source: <http://bit.ly/eh4ahu>

3. Bangladesh: Tiger Cubs Found in Tripura

09 April 2011

Confirming government information wrong that there are no tigers in the wild in Tripura, villagers in the state found two tiger cubs in a forest, officials said Saturday. The forest official said that as per the latest (in 2002) tiger census there are no tigers in the northeastern state that borders the Chittagong hill tracts (CHT) of southeast Bangladesh.

Source: <http://bit.ly/eHk8Jl>

4. India: Indian Company Controls 1.82M Acres of Forest

09 April 2011

An Indian company that took over a forest concession in a biodiversity-rich area has been granted an additional concession to harvest lumber, which it will ship to India to make furniture and this was only disclosed yesterday by the government after questions were asked.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dGv7Gg>

5. China: China Celebrates 30 Years Of Conserving and Sustainably Using Biodiversity Through CITES

08 April 2011

Thirty years ago today, China became the 63rd Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It was the first multilateral environmental treaty that the country joined.

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

6. India: Forest Fire Rages in Bor, Gorewada

07 April 2011

Close on the heels of ground forest fire in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), fire has gutted hundreds of hectares in Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, 60km from Nagpur in Wardha district. Fire was also reported in Gorewada, on the city outskirts.

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

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Global News

1. Germany: The Former East/West Germany Barrier Now a Nature Reserve

08 April 2011

The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation has established over 20 large protected areas along the old East/West German border. Some groups have even suggests stretching the green belt the entire length of the old Iron Curtain, from Finland to the Black Sea.

Source: <http://bit.ly/i1C8Zl>

2. USA: Northern Rockies Wolves are Safe for Now

10 April 2011

A federal judge on Saturday rejected a plan negotiated between the government and wildlife advocates to remove most wolves in the Northern Rockies from the Endangered Species List.

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

3. USA: Biodiversity May Clean Up Water

08 April 2011

Conserving biodiversity could help shield waterways against nitrogen pollution, says a study that showed how streams with more species are better at removing excess nutrients from water.

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

4. Canada: LEAF and OPG Want Families to Get Growing

08 April 2011

Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests and Ontario Power Generation have teamed up for the International Year of Forests to build awareness and promote the value of urban trees.

They will be giving away free White Spruce seed kits at select Cadillac Fairview malls in the GTA for the next two weekends.

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

5. Nigeria: Slash-and-burn Threatens African Forests

07 April 2011

Strategies to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in West Africa must focus on transforming agricultural practices from those traditional practices to modern science-based methods, researchers said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/geYuD9>

6. Indonesia: Two of Earth's Ocean Carbon Sinks Shrinking

07 April 2011

New research reveals that mangroves and kelp forests, crucial for carbon storage and cycling, are under threat from development and climate change. For the first time, scientists have crunched the numbers on the carbon sequestered in these trees, dead organic matter and soil in 25 sites across Micronesia, Indonesia and Bangladesh — which house a large portion of Earth's mangroves — and gleaned insight into salty forests worldwide.

Source: <http://reut.rs/fbxs1y>

7. USA: Billion Dollar Bats in Danger

05 April 2011

A U.S. Geological Survey study, published in Science, put a dollar sign on the services bats offer free of charge. The study found that bats are high rollers in the game of insect control. But the researchers are worried.

Source: <http://bit.ly/e7bWwx>

8. Norway: Hundreds of Whales Face Slaughter as Norway's Killing Season Resumes

01 April 2011

Despite the international opposition, Norway resumed commercial whaling in 1993 and has since killed over 9,500 whales. This year, 1,286 sociable and sentient minke whales are earmarked to die in Norwegian waters in the hunting season which runs between April and August.

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

9. Minorca: Largest Ever Bunny Discovered... And It Didn't Even Hop!

24 March 2011

An enormous bunny that lived three to five million years ago was so hefty -- six times the size of most rabbits today -- that it didn't hop and had no enemies. According to Discovery News, the "Minorcan King of the Rabbits," or *Nuralagus Rex*, weighed over 26 pounds and roamed Minorca over 3 million years ago.

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

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Events

1. 15 June 2011

Counting on the Environment: The Contribution of Forests to Rural Livelihoods; Call for Participation; London

It is a Global forum on the role of environmental income & forests in rural livelihoods & poverty alleviation, with the aim to strengthen the case for institutionalizing data collection of previously 'hidden' environmental income.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: cifor-pen@cgiar.org, Rita Hasibuan

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

2. 23-24, June 2011

Present and Future Role of FOREST Resources in the Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas; Call for Abstracts; Rome

An event to describe, analyze and discuss the role played by the forest sector in the rural development of European Countries.

Deadline: 09 May 2011

Contact: info.romaforest2011@inea.it

Event website: <http://bit.ly/g21JdZ>

3. 18-20, July 2011

The Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS), Call for participation, Sabah

The Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) is a series of international symposia aimed at providing a platform for active discussion on issues related to wetland conservation and the wise-use of wetland resources. It is the premier forum for management, research, education and public awareness on wetlands.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: secretariat@awssabah.com.my

Event website: <http://bit.ly/fBB45J>

4. 29-31, July 2011

2011 International Conference on Environmental and Agriculture Engineering (ICEAE 2011), Call for Participation; Chengdu

The aim of the ICEAE conference series is to provide a forum for laying the foundations of a new principled approach to Environmental and Agriculture Engineering.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: iceae@vip.163.com, Conference Secretary

Event website: <http://bit.ly/gJKv81>

5. 06-08, September 2011

Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Services; Call for Participation; Telford, Shropshire

The 18th annual ialeUK meeting will explore landscape ecology & ecosystem services. There will be 2 days of presentations on science, policy & practice, networking events and workshops, followed by fieldtrips to landscape-scale projects.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: conference2011@iale.org.uk, Chris Young

Event website: <http://bit.ly/gfsr1n>

6. 10 -11, September 2011

International Conference on Environmental Aspect of Bangladesh; Fukuoka

The ICEAB11 provides vibrant opportunities for researchers, industry practitioners, volunteers, students and fellow citizens to share their research experiences, research results, ideas, review of various aspects and practical development experiences on environmental aspects of Bangladesh (specifically), Japan and other regions.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: ICEAB10@gmail.com, M Ahad

Event website: <http://bit.ly/gu2RNC>

7. 16-19, September 2011

International Conference on Membranes: Environmental and Biological Applications (ICM-2011), Call for Abstracts; Kottayam, Kerala

ICM-2011 intends to bring together chemists, physicists, biologists, environmental scientists and engineers to display their latest findings and to discuss potential avenues in both environmental and biological applications of membranes

Deadline: 01 July 2011

Contact: membrane11@gmail.com, Dr.K. Usha,

Event website: <http://bit.ly/h9o0YI>

8. 04-07, October 2011

The 7th International Conference on Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products (ICMBMP7), Call for Abstracts; Arcachon

During the meeting there will be ample opportunity to meet with colleagues and friends in a relaxed atmosphere to strengthen collaborations between mushroom scientists and also between scientists and persons involved or interested in all aspects of the Mushroom Industry including Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms.

Deadline: 01 May 2011 (extended)

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

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

9. 10-14, October 2011

7th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium, Call for Abstracts; Kimberley

The greatest contribution that wildlife ranching can make is in its extension to rural peoples throughout the world and the benefit from its sustainable use.

Deadline: 30 April 2011

Contact: kruger@kruger-associates.com, Glaudin Kruger

Event website: <http://iwrs.co.za>

10. 13 -15, December 2011

Third International Conference on Management of Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and Ecological Hazards, Shah Alam

The conference will discuss the objective of reaching sustainability in the framework of all different disciplines in order to arrive at optimal solutions. Hence this meeting is essentially transdisciplinary.

Contact: bcopland@wessex.ac.uk, Alice Jones

Event website: <http://bit.ly/fC082V>

11. 20–22, December 2011

National Conference on Environment and Biodiversity of India, Call for abstracts, New Delhi
Researchers, academicians, students, conservationists, environmentalists, foresters and policy makers across the country are welcomed to be part of this conference. Exciting programme of lectures, panel discussions, poster presentations and social events will be organized.

Deadline: 30 September 2011

Contact: ebi2011.neceer@gmail.com, Khuraijam Jibankumar Singh

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

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Opportunities

1. Fellowship: The Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (LEAP) 2011

Borlaug LEAP is inviting applications from qualified women who are sub-Saharan students or developing country students for fellowship awards of up to US\$20,000.

Deadline: 18 May 2011

Contact: BorlaugLEAP@ucdavis.edu, Rachel (Chelo) V. Abrenilla

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

2. Opportunity: Grab a Copy of Water DVD for Water Experts and Students in Indian Region for Free

The DVD contains all reports of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), all reports from the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC), the Value of Water series of UNESCO-IHE, and many more. It also includes the UNECE Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change and its report on Transboundary Flood Risk Management.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: water@unesco.org Dr. Bhanu Neupane

More at: <http://bit.ly/f4rKgd>

3. Vacancy: Director, UN Information Centre - UN, Pakistan

The position is located in the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Islamabad, within the Information Centres Service (ICS), Strategic Communications Division (SCD), Department of Public Information (DPI). The incumbent is under the general supervision of the Director of SCD and the Chief of ICS.

Deadline: 31 May 2011

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

4. Training: Invitation Summer School on Participatory Methods in Social Sciences for the analysis of Water, Land use and Climate Change, Aosta

The 2011 ICRES Summer School will address the participatory methodologies available to social researchers to analyze environmental change, specifically in the fields of water, land and climate (common pool resources).

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: m.olmedo@icrees.org, Ms. Marcela Olmedo

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

5. Research Project Proposals are Invited For on Gender, Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is searching for women scientists who are interested in conducting research on gender issues related to the climate change, agriculture, and food security nexus for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS) programme.

Deadline: 01 May 2011

Contact: ccafs@life.ku.dk, Department of Agriculture and Ecology

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

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Organisations Working on Biodiversity and Forest

1. Biodiversity and Communities Rights Action (BIOTHAI Foundation Thailand) Muang Nontaburi

Founded in 1995, BIOTHAI raises awareness of the links between biodiversity and local livelihoods among policymakers and the general public. The organisation campaigns on issues surrounding biotechnology and genetically modified organisms in South-East Asia.

URL: <http://bit.ly/f6tB5k>

2. BioWatch, Cape Town

BioWatch South Africa is a nongovernmental organisation founded in 1997 to publicise, monitor and research issues of genetic engineering and promote biological diversity and sustainable livelihoods'.

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

3. Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge, Kunming

The Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK) is an NGO dedicated to conserving nature and culture. CBIK promotes socially equitable and environmentally sound development in mountainous areas of southwest China that is inhabited by ethnic minorities.

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

4. Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), Tunis

The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) was established in June 2008 to provide accessible funding for projects that avoid deforestation and contribute to poverty alleviation in the Congo Basin.

URL: <http://bit.ly/9Vd8sF>

5. Conservation International, Arlington, VA

Conservation International is a US-based group set up in 1987 to work on habitat conservation and community participation in Bolivia, Costa Rica and Mexico. Together with the Ford Foundation, CI has set up the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, which promotes business practices that reduce industry's ecological footprint and contribute to conservation.

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

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Resources

- 1. State of the Forest Carbon Markets 2009 Report**
URL: <http://bit.ly/gOrlCz>
- 2. REDD-plus & Biodiversity e-Newsletter**
URL: <http://bit.ly/g7CVIm>
- 3. Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2010**
URL: <http://1.usa.gov/f0NcWz>
- 4. Green Jobs Learning Forum**
URL: <http://bit.ly/dRlxnT>
- 5. The Small, Delicate Side of Wildlife – Opinion**
URL: <http://bit.ly/eag1eg>
- 6. Biological Conservation Newsletter- No. 316 April 2011, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History**
URL: <http://bit.ly/hMt7mQ>
- 7. Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture: Contributing to Food Security And Sustainability in a Changing World**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fGRJp4>
- 8. Plant Bio-magnetism**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fxnPPS>
- 9. Scientific Journals, Newsletters and Magazines Links**
URL: <http://bit.ly/bSMVbj>
- 10. Agricultural Biodiversity in the Tajik Pamirs**
URL: <http://bit.ly/gO8IHj>
- 11. The Green Belt Initiative**
URL: <http://bit.ly/hekL8m>
- 12. Grants for Forestry Research**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fiHskG>
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