

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 22 (06 May 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. More on del.icio.us [here](#)

In this Issue

[News from Regional Member Countries \(RMCs\)](#)

[Global News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Organisations](#)

[Resources](#)

News form Regional Member Countries (RMCs)

1. China: China's Log, Sawnwood Imports Jump

05 May 2011

China imported \$6.1 billion worth of logs in 2010, a 22.4 percent increase over 2009, according to the country's customs bureau. Russia dominated the trade, accounting for 41 percent by volume and 30 percent by value. New Zealand (17.3 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively) and the United States (8.1 percent and 9.6 percent) were second and third by volume and value.

Source: <http://bit.ly/k1ngf2>

2. India: Decks Cleared for Biodiversity Park

03 May 2011

The way for the construction of biodiversity centre at the Manasa Gangotri was cleared on Tuesday after a site visit by the activists, who have mandated to the University of Mysore to ensure that green cover is not lost at the PG campus.

Source: <http://bit.ly/l4u7iz>

3. Nepal: Denuding Nepal Lush Green Forest

25 April 2011

A shocking report published in one of the major dailies have it that since the advent of democracy in 1990, some 1 Lakh 50 thousand (0.15 Million) hectares of forest have been encroached upon by the political parties, social organizations, homeless and other associations.

Source: <http://bit.ly/iwjU41>

4. Bhutan: National Stakeholders' Workshop on Developing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Policy

22 April 2011

A National ABS policy, in addition to guiding the country in regulating access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable share of benefits arising out of their utilization, would also enable the country in fulfilling the national obligation of developing a National ABS Policy and legal framework under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Resources (CBD).

Source: <http://bit.ly/mlDia3>

5. Bangladesh, Nepal: World Bank Supports Wildlife Protection

07 April 2011

The World Bank approved a US\$36 million credit to Bangladesh and a US\$3 million grant to Nepal for a project to support the conservation and protection of wildlife species, including tigers, in both countries.

Source: <http://bit.ly/kGE4gV>

[Top](#)

Global News

1. Global: New Study Navigates Forest Standards Maze

03 May 2011

The growing maze of forest carbon and conservation certification standards facing project developers these days, while crucial for the credibility of any project activity, is proving a barrier to the financing and implementation of what is a critical component of the global climate change and sustainable development challenge. Not just project developers themselves, but the carbon offset buyers, investors and donors ultimately financing them having to navigate an array of certification standards, each with a different emphasis.

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

2. USA: Bahamian Pufffish Evolve at 'Explosive' Rates

02 May 2011

Two groups of small fish, one from a Caribbean island and one from the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, exhibit some of the fastest rates of evolution known in any organism, according to a new UC Davis study.

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

3. Global: Scientists Scramble to Save Dying Amphibians

28 April 2011

More than 200 species have gone silent, while scientists estimate one third of the more than 6,500 known species are at risk of extinction. Amphibians are even experiencing rapid decline in habitats unmarred by the pathogen, pesticides, or direct human influence. Research in Costa Rica has recorded a 70 percent decline in amphibians over the past 35 years in pristine habitats, suggesting that climate shifts are taking a toll.

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

4. Syria: Devastating Wheat Rust Spreading Rapidly, Experts Warn

28 April 2011

Wheat stripe and stem rust diseases are spreading rapidly and dodging farmers' defences by evolving quickly. Farmers in affected developing countries, which include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Kenya, Morocco, Syria and Yemen, are struggling with economic hardship because wheat supplies 40 per cent of people's daily calorie intake in many areas.

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

5. USA: Lawsuit Launched to Protect 400-plus Freshwater Species in Southeast under Endangered Species Act

22 April 2011

The Center for Biological Diversity and five southeastern conservation groups filed a formal notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wednesday for failing to respond to an April 2010 petition seeking Endangered Species Act protection for 403 species dependent on the region's troubled waterways. Among the fish, crayfish, mussels, birds and others included in the petition are the Florida sandhill crane, hellbender and Black Warrior waterdog salamanders, Alabama map turtle and burrowing bog crayfish.

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

6. Kenya: Antimalarial Plants 'in Danger of Extinction'

18 April 2011

Many of the plants used in traditional medicines to prevent or treat malaria are endangered by deforestation and overexploitation for medicinal use, according to research findings. Some of the species identified as endangered are knobwood, *Zanthoxylum chalybeum*, and the African wild olive, *Olea europaea Africana*.

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

7. Switzerland: Promoting Small-Scale Planting of Trees in Dryland Areas

18 April 2011

International aid agencies and governments have been promoting large-scale planting for more than a century. But the practice is becoming increasingly controversial. Advocates say it improves land control, raises its value, helps combat desertification and creates jobs. Opponents argue that planting trees in large areas means that communities using the land get evicted. New forests can also change ecosystems and negatively impact biodiversity.

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

[Top](#)

Events

1. 09-29, May 2011

South and Central Asia Regional Virtual Consultation on Youth Perspectives on Rio +20; Call for Participation, Kathmandu

The South and Central Asia regional virtual consultation on youth perspectives on Rio +20 is being organised by ICIMOD's Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) together with the Small Earth Nepal (SEN) and the Environmental Challenge Organisation, also known as ECO Singapore. The findings of the consultation will be presented at the World Leadership Conference 2011 in Singapore, which is dedicated to pave the way towards the Rio + 20 as a consultation for the Asia and Pacific region.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: youthmedia@icimod.org, Tek Jung Mahat
Event website: <http://bitly.com/k41wfy>

2. 22 May 2011

**Conference on International Day for Biological Diversity on the Theme "Forest Biodiversity";
Call for Participation Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board**

The central theme of the conference is "Forest Biodiversity". This conference presents and excellent opportunity for the forest community and stake holders to discuss advances on various aspects related to forestry.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Pawan Kuma, upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com

Event website: <http://bit.ly/m3NXvJ>

3. 29 July - 04 August 2011

2011 International Biodiversity Conference; Call for Papers, 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: barkerb@wildspotsfoundation.org, Dr. Barry W. Barker

Event website: <http://bit.ly/g5QsYO>

4. 08-12, September 2011

2nd World Biodiversity Congress; Call for Participation, Kuching, Malaysia

The full range of users of biodiversity data, including basic and applied researchers, Ecologists, policy makers, conservation biologists, Economists, environmentalists, Anthropologists, climatologists and land use officials are encouraged to participate. All individuals who wish to present their work in any respect of Biodiversity are invited and encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration as an ORAL or POSTER presentation at the congress. Authors may indicate their technical session preference in which they wish to present their work. All abstracts will be published in the book of abstracts to be distributed at the congress.

Deadline: 30 May 2011

Contact: biodiversity2011@gmail.com

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

5. 24-28, October 2011

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Open Science Conference, Denver, USA

Individuals who wish to present their work at the WCRP Open Science Conference are encouraged to submit an abstract of their presentation for review and selection by the Programme Committee. Abstract Submissions will be used to select presentations for poster and oral sessions. The selected abstracts will be posted on the conference website. Poster sessions will be the main form of presentation during the conference. The number of oral presentations is limited and only a selected number of talks will be chosen for the three parallel sessions planned for each day.

Deadline: 15 May 2011

Contact: cstephens@usclivar.org, Cathy Stephens

Event website: <http://bit.ly/lwMok0>

6. 06-08, November 2011

Sustainable Consumption Conference 2011; Call for Papers, Hamburg, Germany

The focus of the conference is on consumer behaviour, its social and cultural embeddedness, and its interdependencies with institutional, economic, physical and political frameworks. Researchers from different disciplines (e.g. Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Political Science, Business Administration, Environmental Sciences, Ethics), studying different fields of consumption (e.g. residence, mobility, nutrition, clothing, leisure) are addressed.

Deadline: 10 May 2011

Contact: soefkonsum@ikaoe.unibe.ch

Event website: <http://bit.ly/l8dqGw>

[Top](#)

Opportunities

1. Call for Submission of Interest for the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Sub Regional Node/Thematic Node

APAN is now calling for submission of interest for its Sub regional nodes and thematic nodes. Sub regional nodes will lead the implementation of the sub-regional activities of APAN in collaboration with the Regional Hub, national governments and other institutes.

Deadline: 16 May 2011

Contact: rss-info@iges.or.jp

More at: <http://bit.ly/jpdix6>

2. Call for Proposals: The Darwin Initiative for Biodiversity Conservation: Round 18

Defra is now inviting applications from UK institutions and organisations in the UK Overseas Territories for support for Main projects to commence from 1 April 2012 and for Post Projects to commence from 1 October 2011. There will be up to £9m available for this new round.

Deadline: 20 June 2011

Contact: Darwin-applications@ltsi.co.uk

More at: <http://bit.ly/mUCq0H>

3. PhD Research Project: Wind Risk Forecasting for Forest Investments, University of Edinburgh, UK

The key focus will be on managing risk for institutional investment in carbon forestry, across 3 Forest Management Types (FMTs): commercial biomass, community managed woodfuel & Amazonian natural forest.

Deadline: 03 June 2011

Contact: School of GeoSciences

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

4. EMBL International PhD Fellowships in Molecular Biology, Germany

EMBL's students obtain their degree from a national university or jointly with EMBL. EMBL is also interested in promoting research at the interface between Molecular Biology and Medicine. Furthermore please make sure to contact your referees before completing this part in order to find out if they are available and willing to provide a reference. It is your responsibility to ensure that references reach us on time.

Deadline: 13 July 2011

Content: predocs@embl.de, Milanka Stojkovic

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

5. Vienna University of Technology “Die Presse” Scholarship for MSc 2011, Austria

The candidates interested in the scholarship are kindly asked to send their application documents (CV and a compelling motivation letter) in English. The scholarship will be awarded by a jury. EUR 5,000 have to be paid on the scholarship’s own risk. Any recourse of law is excluded. The winner will be informed.

Deadline: 31 May 2011

Contact: newenergy@tuwien.ac.at, DI Andrea Würz

More at: <http://bit.ly/mMsp1W>

6. International PhD Scholarship in School of Built & Natural Environment, UK

Applications are invited for a full-time scholarship available in the School of Built & Natural Environment. The scholarship is tenable for up to 3 years for a PhD (via MPhil route) [subject to satisfactory progress] and is open to international applicants only. UK/EU applicants are not eligible to apply. The scholarship will provide £15000 towards the cost of the International tuition fee over 3 years.

Deadline: 13 May 2011

Contact: krbutt@uclan.ac.uk, Kevin Butt

More at: <http://bit.ly/IYKK5T>

7. The Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Award 2011

This year there are nine award categories as listed below. To apply, read about each of the award categories below and follow the link to the application form and guidelines.

Deadline: 20 June 2011

Contact: awards@smk.org.uk, The Resource Centre

More at: <http://bit.ly/IPaj2v>

[Top](#)

Organisations

1. International Network of Forests and Communities, Canada

INFC is a Canadian-based organization which promotes an ecosystem and community-based approach to forestry.

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

2. Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), UP, India

Non-profit organisation set up to prevent destruction of India's wildlife, especially endangered species (tigers, elephants, rhinos) & threatened habitats; aids research & projects, educates public, acquires land for wildlife conservation.

URL: <http://bit.ly/m0ITcT>

3. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USA

The NRCS helps set conservation goals, works with people on the land, and provides assistance. Its partners include conservation districts, state and federal agencies, NRCS Earth Team volunteers, agricultural and environmental groups, and professional societies.

URL: <http://1.usa.gov/maWQR7>

4. Bear Research Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal

The BRCN aware the local communities and make them active partner in the conservation of Bears and other wildlife, and their habitats. Its mission is to find out the conservation threats of bears and fight against them in support of local people and governmental organization.

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

5. Tree for the Future, Silver Spring, USA

Since 1989, Trees for the Future has been helping communities around the world plant trees. Through seed distribution, agroforestry training, and our country programs, we have empowered rural groups to restore tree cover to their lands. Planting trees protects the environment and helps to preserve traditional livelihoods and cultures for generations.

URL: <http://bit.ly/mJE8fx>

6. Society for Conservation and Protection of Environmetn (SCOPE) Pakistan

SCOPE is registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, as a non-governmental organization (NGO). SCOPE is enlisted by Income Tax Department as an NGO, under Income Tax Ordinance 2001, and donations received by it are tax exempted. SCOPE strives to achieve its mission through non-political, non-religious, non-racial, non ethnic, commitment driven approach.

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

[Top](#)

Resources

- 1. Global Association of Online Foresters (G.A.O.F.) - The GAOF web site provides a range of forest information but also the various mailing lists available to the members are a source of shared forest knowledge.**

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

- 2. Elephants: the gardeners of Asia's and Africa's forests by Jeremy Hance in mongabay.com**

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

- 3. Earth Day pictures: International Year of Forests**

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

- 4. The Aleppo Decleration: Controlling rust disease in wheat**

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

- 5. Agricultural intensification: food insecurity to income security in a mid-hill watershed of Nepal**

URL: <http://bit.ly/lnwi9P>

- 6. Sharma, P., (2009) Climate Change Implications, Planning, and Federalism in Nepal, IOF**

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

- 7. Agricultural Models DSSAT Training Course document**

URL: <http://bit.ly/kzI9QZ>

- 8. Dahal, R.P., (2009) Status of Restoration and its Linkage in Conserving Biological Corridor**
URL: <http://bit.ly/kdITsN>
- 9. Certification of Community Managed Forests, ANSAB**
URL: <http://bit.ly/iOPIlk>
- 10. Conservation and agriculture must work together - Opinion**
URL: <http://bit.ly/jUwlp9>
- 11. An ambitious challenge for conserving biodiversity**
URL: <http://bit.ly/k8ANd3>
- 12. Monthly Bulletin of Activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity Issue No. 3/2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/k7krUU>
- 13. Redeveloping agriculture in mined-out areas in Jamaica**
URL: <http://bit.ly/j2R4bA>
- 14. Monthly Bulletin of Activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity March 2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/k7krUU>
- 15. Options For REDD+ Voluntary Certification to Ensure Net GHG Benefits, Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Biodiversity Conservation**
URL: <http://bit.ly/ikdT8N>
- 16. Whitby, S.M., (2002) Biological Warfare against Crops, University of Bradford**
URL: <http://scr.bi/iHS24M>
- 17. Forest Health Focus: An Even-aged Approach to Forest Regeneration and Biodiversity**
URL: <http://bit.ly/jsuGVR>
- 18. ScienceDaily (Jan. 19, 2011) Mountain Ranges May Act as 'Safe Haven' for Species Facing Climate Change**
URL: <http://bit.ly/jsEf5Q>

[Top](#)