

Dear Colleagues,

2011 is the International Year of Forests and forest biodiversity is the theme for this year's International Day of Biodiversity (IDB). We believe that designation of IDB 2011 on the theme of forests provides Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and everyone interested in forests, the opportunity to raise awareness of the issue and increase practical action.

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 23 (25 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

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News from Regional Member Countries (RMCs)

1. India: Forest dept waiting for funds to tackle conflict

23 May 2011

The Coimbatore forest division has recorded at least 400 instances of elephants straying into human zones, often located close to reserve forests. Currently, the forest department and district administration are awaiting clearance from the state government for an allotment of Rs 5 crore to resolve the human-animal conflict.

Source: <http://bit.ly/lq9i04>

2. Pakistan: Agreement to protect Murree Forests Division signed

23 May 2011

A crucial agreement for the mapping and monitoring of Murree Forests Division (MFD), highlighting encroachments on forest land, was signed between the Punjab Forest Department and World Wide Fund for Nature – Pakistan (WWF –Pakistan).

Source: <http://bit.ly/juXZ4H>

3. Nepal: International Biodiversity Day Celebrated in Nepal

22 May 2011

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) will conduct tree plantation programmes throughout this year and increase efforts to conserve forests, informed Bhanubhakta Joshi,

Minister, MoFSC at a function. This year's theme is forest biodiversity, in recognition of 2011 as the International Year of Forests, drawing attention to the importance of forest biodiversity in our lives, livelihood, and well being.

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

4. Pakistan: Climate change may cause loss of biodiversity level of 1.3b hectares worldwide by 2050

10 May 2011

Director General, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) Dr.Syed Azhar Hasan Tuesday feared that an area of 1.3 billion hectares worldwide will completely lose its original biodiversity level by 2050 due to current rate of extinction of species which is 1,000 times higher than the natural rate of extinction.

Source: <http://bit.ly/iVx8Xo>

5. Bangladesh: The world's largest mangrove forest is under threat

04 May 2011

Extreme natural events and unsustainable human activities are destroying the biodiversity of the Sundarbans and putting the largest mangrove forest in the world under threat, speakers at a workshop said on 3 May 2011.

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

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Global News

1. Syria: IDB Marked, Syria Works to Restore Balance to Environment

23 May 2011

For this year, forest biodiversity is the theme of the IDB. The celebration theme is focused on forests and protecting them. The primary thought for the day is saving the forests and its biodiversity.

Source: <http://bit.ly/iGI0Ti>

2. Siberia: Forest fires rage in Russia's Far East

23 May 2011

Fires are spreading fast across vast Siberian forests in a reminder of last year's worst drought on record which killed dozens of people and forced Russia to suspend grain exports, writes Reuters. The European part of Russia, the country's agricultural hinterland, remained largely unaffected but the authorities say the situation may worsen as dry weather persists.

Source: <http://bit.ly/m2QZIC>

3. UAE: Concerted efforts must to protect biodiversity

23 May 2011

On the occasion of the International Day for Biodiversity, the Secretary General of the Saudi Wildlife Commission (SWC), Prince Bandar Bin Saud Bin Mohammed Al-Saud, called for greater cooperation from all government agencies, the private sector, and the public at large to take action against the impending loss of biological diversity in the Kingdom.

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

4. NZ: Highlanders Help Kick Off Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Planting Season

23 May 2011

Over 20 Trust volunteers, staff and supporters pitched in alongside Highlander players Siale Piutau, Shaun Treeby and Highlander marketing manager Doug McSweeney to plant 1000 native trees, shrubs, flaxes and pikao. The aim of the day was to extend the current planting towards the southern beach to enhance the biodiversity where the rare yellow-eyed penguins breed.

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

5. UNEP/IUCN: New web tool provides coherence for forest protection

22 May 2011

New web-based tool helps address gaps in reporting on forest biodiversity and facilitates coordination and coherence in the implementation of forest-related obligations and commitments. The tool was developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity for use by governments, civil society, international organizations and expert staffs related to forest issues.

Source: <http://bit.ly/INb9qy>

6. USA: Bonneville Power Administration increases hydroelectric output to protect salmon

21 May 2011

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has curtailed coal, natural gas and wind generation in the Pacific Northwest so it can increase hydropower output to protect salmon and other fish.

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

7. UN: On biodiversity day, UN highlights social, economic and green benefits of forests

20 May 2011

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today voiced concern over alarming deforestation and the degradation of woodlands and urged States to implement the recently agreed international treaty on sharing the benefits of the Earth's genetic resources, including forests and the natural valuables found in them. Over the period 2011 to 2050, investment of \$15 billion annually would raise the value added in the forestry industry by more than 20 per cent, relative to business as usual. A transition to a Green Economy could increase forested land – currently close to 4 billion hectares – by over three per cent in 2020, eight per cent by 2030 and over 20 per cent by 2050.

Source: <http://bit.ly/mxamG5>

8. Africa: High Atmospheric CO2 Levels May Cause Mass Extinctions in the Oceans

19 May 2011

British and Australian scientists examined ocean sediment samples taken off the coast of west Africa. They dated the samples to about 85 million years ago, a period during the late Cretaceous, and a time of high atmospheric CO2 levels. In these layers, they found a significantly high amount of organic matter buried within de-oxygenated sediment.

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

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Events

1. 06-07, June 2011

Human evolution, migration and history revealed by genetics, immunity and infection; Call for Registration for waiting list, London

This meeting offers a journey from molecules to history, bringing together geneticists, immunologists, anthropologists and historians. Infection has been the most potent evolutionary force in human history, eliminating genes offering poor resistance and selecting for new mutations conferring protection against a threat. Can genetics help us understand natural selection, human evolution and migration over the past 70,000 years?

Deadline: Rolling for waiting list only

Contact: discussion.meetings@royalsociety.org, The Royal Society

Event website: <http://bit.ly/j0HB2m>

2. 27-29, June 2011

World Conference of Science Journalists 2011; Call for Participation, Doha

With a truly international program with strong representation from the global South, the conference will tailor to the need of all science journalists worldwide. From workshops on the most pressing issues facing science journalists today to discussions of the newest technologies at hand to improve their work, there is something for everyone.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: adia.elawady@wcsj2011.org, Nadia El-Awady

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

3. 05-07, July 2011

International Conference of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation; Call for Papers, Missouri, USA

The goal of this conference is to bring together plant conservation scientists, policy makers and practitioners from throughout the world to share methods and results that will advance plant conservation measurably. We hope that the conference will attract a wide range of participants to share their experiences and further the development of plant conservation science in this the U.N. Decade of Biological Diversity.

Deadline: 15 June 2011

Contact: gppc2011@mobot.org,

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

4. 29 July - 04 August 2011

2011 International Biodiversity Conference; Call for Papers, Banos, Ecuador

College professors and field experts in wildlife conservation who teach biology, biodiversity, geography, geology, and life science are to participate in this event.

Deadline: 01 June 2011

Contact: barkerb@wildspotsfoundation.org, Dr. Barry W. Barker

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

5. 23-24, September 2011

(De-) Constructing Biodiversity; Call for Abstracts, Göttingen, Germany

The workshop (De-) Constructing Biodiversity encourages participants from diverse disciplines to find a common ground for research on biodiversity. It seeks to provide a discussion forum for a fruitful multidisciplinary engagement with the concept of biodiversity.

Deadline: 15 June 2011

Contact: nsadath@gwdg.de, Md. Nazmus Sadath

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

6. 02-06, July 2012

MMM3: Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management; Galle, Srilanka

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 August 2011

Contact: Farid Dahdouh-Guebas, Conference Chair

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

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Opportunities

1. M.Sc. in South Asia and International Development, University of Edinburgh 2011

From September 2011, the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh introduces a new MSc program in South Asia and International Development. It will be the only UK postgraduate international development programme with an explicit South Asia focus.

Deadline: 15 June 2011

Contact: Professor Patricia Jeffery

Event website: <http://bit.ly/jzMe5W>

2. M.Sc. on Integrated Drylands Management Scholarships, United Nations University 2011

The M.Sc. Programme is designed to enhance the capacity of developing countries to manage their dry lands resources. It is intended to provide young professionals and scientists an international perspective on resource management approaches in dry lands.

Deadline: 10 June 2011

Contact: contact@inweh.unu.edu, M.Sc. Programme Committee

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

3. Master and PhD Scholarships at Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Science 2011

Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Science (hereinafter referred to as "SIAT"), offers 8 Master's Degree programs and 2 PhD Degree programs to international students. The duration of a Master program is 2-3 years, and a PhD program 3-6 years.

Deadline: Rolling (Throughout the year)

Contact: grad@siat.ac.cn

Event website: <http://bit.ly/ji3mNn>

4. 2011 ICBE Research Fund Grants Competition

This Call for Proposals is the second in Phase II and the fourth overall since the ICBE Research Fund was established in 2006. Small Grants: up to US\$10,000

Intermediate Grants: above US\$10,000 but not exceeding US\$50,000 Large Grants: above US\$50,000 but not exceeding US\$100,000

Deadline: 29 July 2011

Contact: nfo@trustafrica.org, TrustAfrica

Event website: <http://bit.ly/kPmWN4>

5. Vacancy: Evaluation Officer

The role of the evaluation officer is to ensure that scidev.net is fulfilling this mission by monitoring and evaluating our success in achieving our objectives, and ensuring that we understand and respond to our stakeholder needs, so that we can facilitate the use of science to support poverty reduction and sustainable development in the developing world.

Deadline: 28 May 2011

Contact: jobs@scidev.net

Event website: <http://bit.ly/kKVp5T>

6. Vacancy: ASI Accreditation Program Officer

ASI is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate nationality; ethnicity or religion. The ASI Accreditation Program Officer is responsible for providing support to the Accreditation Program and undertakes administrative, financial, communication and technical activities.

Deadline: 29 May 2011

Contact: r.anton@accreditation-services.com

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

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Organisations

1. Endangered Species International, San Francisco

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/IQ1HRB>

2. Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge, Kunming

The Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK) is an NGO based in Kunming (China) 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. The website includes links, articles and notices of events.

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

3. Greenpeace International, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

It also Campaign for forest protection because, without healthy, thriving forests, planet Earth cannot sustain life. As much as eighty per cent of the world's forests have been degraded or destroyed. Greenpeace is campaigning for zero deforestation by 2020 to protect what is left of these extraordinary ecosystems.

URL: <http://bit.ly/mtbHw4>

4. Safe Environment Nepal, Kathmandu

Safe environment Nepal (SEN) is a nonprofit organization working with the aim of conserving environment in a sustainable way. This is a women leading organization that believes on the power of youth to protect the environment.

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

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Resources

1. **Key Message by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Executive Secretary, Bonn Germany on International Biodiversity Day Forest Biodiversity 22 May 2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/mDlvsg>
2. **Shakya, B., Sheltering forests for people. Opinion My Republica on 22 May 2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/IUMKyG>
3. **Tshering, U., (April 2011) Treading on the trodden path of Community Forest inception in Bhutan**
URL: <http://bit.ly/IUNOEA>
4. **Statement by Ahmed Djoghlaif Executive Secretary Of The Convention On Biological Diversity On The Occasion Of World Day For Cultural Diversity For Dialogue And Development 21 May 2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/mjWi48>
5. **The International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2011**
URL: <http://bit.ly/kq9rEV>
6. **Ramos, G., (23 May 2011) Biodiversity Issues on Cebu Daily News**
URL: <http://bit.ly/jpptel>
7. **Mdzungairi, W., (22 May 2011) Viewpoint: Does environmental protection require new politics?**
URL: <http://bit.ly/ijRUcs>
8. **Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD is a global agreement addressing all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems. Primary site for information, implementation, reports, documents and links**
URL: <http://bit.ly/fiUDza>
9. **Australia's Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism - serves the information needs of those organisations involved in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.**
URL: <http://bit.ly/kBFJLW>
10. **Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism - The Belgian node of The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Languages: French, English, Dutch**
URL: <http://bit.ly/iWDSEq>
11. **Clearing-House Mechanism for Convention on Biological Diversity - Information resources, on-line forums, etc., related to the world-wide implementation of the Convention**
URL: <http://bit.ly/lepQPF>

- 12. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species - CITES is an international treaty drawn up in 1973 to protect wildlife against over-exploitation, and to prevent international trade from threatening species with extinction. Text of the convention, publications, research programs, databases of CITES-listed flora and fauna**
URL: <http://bit.ly/lXBnj3>
- 13. Convention on Migratory Species - The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or the Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range**
URL: <http://bit.ly/esglaj>
- 14. Global Biodiversity Forum - GBF - An independent and open mechanism to analyze and discuss priority ecological, economic, institutional and social issues related to the options for action to conserve biodiversity, and use biological resources sustainably and equitably. Designed to provide a forum to support and enhance the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other biodiversity-related instruments at the national and international levels**
URL: <http://bit.ly/iS31q7>
- 15. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities - The GPA aims at preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by facilitating the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment**
URL: <http://bit.ly/IO2a4Y>
- 16. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - The Convention promotes new approaches to managing dry land ecosystems. Official documents, reports, action programmes, regional and general information about desertification**
URL: <http://bit.ly/lavyMe>
- 17. World Commission on Protected Areas - WCPA's international mission is to promote the establishment and effective management of a world-wide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, as an integral contribution to the IUCN mission**
URL: <http://bit.ly/k6czp6>
- 18. WICE is the creator of an integrated webnet system that together makes up NATURE WORLDWIDE. It is the heart of a seamlessly integrated network of non-profit web sites that cause you to jump from one domain to the other, without change of format. The navigation bar on your left will help you find your way through the system.**
URL: <http://bit.ly/kGVOMs>
- 19. Belief and butchery: how lies and organized crime are pushing rhinos to extinction**
URL: <http://bit.ly/jka95i>
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