

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below the periodic thematic digest on 'Biodiversity and Forest', Issue 24 (30 August 2011), prepared for members of Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership network.

Regards,

Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) team

P.S: You can also find our thematic digests at ICIMOD Thematic digest archives. Compiled links to news, events, opportunities, and resources are regularly updated on our del.icio.us page.

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**In this Issue**  
-----

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

[Global News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Organisations](#)

[Resources](#)

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**News from Regional Member Countries (RMCs)**  
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**1. Nepal: Confiscated Pangolin Bones, Scales Lost From DFO**

16 August 2011

The bones of pangolin that were held from smugglers on March were lost from District Forest Office, Sindhupalchowk. Around 46 kg bones and scales of the rare animal cost around Rs. 3.6 million and disappeared from the store of the office. Police have started investigation to search for the lost bones.

Source: <http://bit.ly/qTM2ez>

**2. Bhutan: A New Species of Porcupine Discovered in Bhutan**

14 August 2011

Besides numerous animals, Bhutan can now boast of being the native place for the smallest and the rarest Asiatic Bush-tailed Porcupine, the *Atherurus macrouru*.

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

**3. Bhutan: Tigers' Sanctuary Under Threat**

14 August 2011

The Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS) has denied clearance to the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (MoWHS) for the construction of Shinghar-Gorgan Secondary Highway (km) that will cut through the Thrumshingla National Park, a core tiger habitat. Of the approved 67 kilometers (km) of road, 36 km (s) will pass through the tigers' sanctuary. The Manager of Thrumshingla National Park, Ratu Wangchuk said that the area is critical to ensure the survival of the Royal Bengal Tiger and also the preferred habitat of the endangered Red Panda.

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

**4. China: 7-Million-Year-Old Bird Fossil Found in NW China**

19 August 2011

A county museum in northwest Gansu province announced on Friday that it has found an intact bird fossil dating back seven million years. Archeologists have found more than 30,000 ancient animal fossils in the county and neighboring areas, including those of the primitive three-toed horse, the platybelodon, which is known as a shovel tusk, and a woolly rhino, which dates back 2.5 million to 30 million years.

Source: <http://bit.ly/pEx39N>

**5. Nepal: Grant for Carbon Storage Project: Village Forests in Nepal**

August 2011

Randy Bluffstone, PSU professor of economics and fellow with the Institute for Sustainable Solutions, received 3-year, \$393,000 grant from the World Bank to study this topic in Nepal, a nation leading the trend of local forest stewardship to reduce poverty. The research project is built on a program called REDD+ (the U.N. Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries) that provides funding for developing nations to increase carbon sequestration.

Source: <http://bit.ly/qOR5yX>

**6. India: Jumbo, Rhino Carcasses Found in Kaziranga**

8 August 2011

The world famous Kaziranga National Park has lost a rhino calf and an elephant at its Bagori forest range on Wednesday. Park authorities said the causes of the death of both animals are yet to be ascertained and the carcasses have sent for autopsy.

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

[Top](#)

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**Global News**  
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**1. Sri Lanka: Kanneliya Rain Forest Threatened by Mystery Disease**

28 August 2011

Kanneliya Rain Forest in the Galle district, a rich biodiversity hotspot known world over, is threatened with a mystery disease. The disease that resembles the 'Rust' that completely destroyed coffee cultivations 150 years ago, covers the leaves of the affected plants with a brick red coating, blocking its food production process that may lead the plants to wither.

Source: <http://bit.ly/q8xQXc>

**2. USA: 'Aquatic Fleas' To the Rescue of World's Amphibians**

27 August 2011

Researchers at the Oregon State University have discovered a freshwater organism that might be the key to fight a fungus, which is the principal cause for the worldwide amphibian decline. A freshwater species of zooplankton, called *Daphnia magna*, could provide a desperately needed tool for biological control of the deadly fungus whose impact, one researcher has called, "the most spectacular loss of vertebrate biodiversity due to disease in recorded history."

Source: <http://bit.ly/p0kDOA>

**3. Patagonia: Elusive Lager Yeast Found in Patagonian Forest**

27 August 2011

Deep in the forests of South America's Patagonia region, scientists have tracked down the wild ancestor of the yeast that makes cold-brewing ale possible, according to a US study published Monday. The finding provides the missing piece in a centuries-long tale of beer-drinking, today a \$250 billion a year industry, that began with the first batches of European lager brewed in the cool, dank caves of Bavaria.

<http://ind.pn/oCn1wf>

**4. Laos: 20 endangered Siamese crocodiles hatch in Laos**

27 August 2011

One of the world's rarest crocodile species has moved a little bit further from extinction with the hatching of 20 wild eggs plucked from a nest found in southern Laos.

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

**5. Colombia: New Species Emerge as Rebels Fade from Colombia's Rainforest**

26 August 2011

A band of humid rainforest hugs Colombia's Pacific coast, isolated from the rest of South America by the formidable Andes mountain range. Known as the Chocó biogeographic region, it is a treasure trove of biodiversity. And Las Orquídeas National Park, straddling the border between the rainforest and the mountains, is like a jewel in the crown.

Source: <http://bit.ly/p2pLvS>

**6. USA: NRCS Announces Recipients of Conservation Innovation Grants in Texas**

25 August 2011

Through CIG, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing nearly \$22.5 million in innovative conservation technologies and approaches that address a broad array of existing and emerging natural resource issues. More than \$1.2 million of that has been awarded to conservation efforts in Texas.

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

**7. Global: Global Warming May Cause Higher Loss of Biodiversity than Previously Thought**

24 August 2011

If global warming continues as expected, it is estimated that almost a third of all flora and fauna species worldwide could become extinct. Scientists from the Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre and the SENCKENBERG Gesellschaft für Naturkunde discovered that the proportion of actual biodiversity loss should quite clearly be revised upwards: by 2080, more than 80 % of genetic diversity within species may disappear in certain groups of organisms, according to researchers in the title story of the journal Nature Climate Change.

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

[Top](#)

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**Events**  
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**1. 11-13 November 2011**

**World Congress for Man and Nature Global Climate Change & Biodiversity Conservation**

**Haridwar, India, Uttarakhand, India**

**Call for Participation**

In 2011 MANU – International Council for Man and Nature (Asia Chapter) and Gurukula Kangri University, Haridwar, India is ready to join the movement against climate change.

Deadline: Rolling for Participation

Contact: Dr. Rakesh Bhutiani, rbhutiani@gmail.com

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

**2. 13-15 December 2011**

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

**Malaysia**

**Call for Abstracts**

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 trans-disciplinary in order to find appropriate sustainable solutions, i.e. those involving collaboration across a wide range of disciplines. Like the first two, the aim of this conference is to take stock of our situation and try to facilitate constructive principles and policies for a way forward.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Beverley Copland, bcopland@wessex.ac.uk

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

**3. 1-4 November 2011**

**Natural Areas Conference 2011**

**Tallahassee, Florida, United States**

**Call for Participation**

Plan to attend the 38th-annual Natural Areas Conference, hosted by the Natural Areas Association (NAA) with co-host National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). Each year, this conference gives natural resource professionals and natural areas managers the chance to connect with and learn from others working in fields related to natural areas conservation.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Deb Kraus

Event website: <http://bit.ly/r1ZPHL>

**4. 4-7 October 2011**

**Conference Announcement Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy**

**Bonn, Germany**

**Call for Nominations for Participation**

The conference will be organized in close collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat and FAO and will be guided by an International Steering Group. The results of the conference shall also feed into the preparatory process of the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The conference seeks to attract balanced representation across UNFF and CSD member countries, as well as representatives of major groups and CPF organizations. Interested countries and organizations are asked to nominate 1 or 2 participants to attend the meeting

Contact: Matthias Schwoere, matthias.schwoerer@bmelv.bund.de

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

**5. 28-29 October 2011**

**International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2011**

**University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka**

**Call for Participation**

This symposium is a forum for researchers in the fields of Natural Resources Management, to present their research findings, and networking with policy makers and industry.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Symposium Organising Committee, fesymposium@gmail.com

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

**6. 3-4 November 2011**

**Asia Regional Forum on Biodiversity**

**Phetchaburi, Thailand**

**Call for Abstracts**

Abstract and paper must include, in the main body of the document, a title, company name and affiliations of all authors. You are also required to send in postal address, telephone number and email address for at least one contact author.

Deadline: 10 September 2011

Contact: Ms. Areeporn Sittiyanpaiboo, areey\_tui@hotmail.com

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

**7. 29-31 May 2012**

**Mountain Resource Management in a Changing Environment**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Call for Abstracts**

The Symposium represents the culmination of the second phase of NUFU supported project "Education, Research and Training for Sustainable Management of Himalayan Watersheds" (HIMUNET, which has been a network project among five universities.

Deadline: 31 January 2012

Contact: Dr. Roshan M Bajracharya, kuhimal@ku.edu.np

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

[Top](#)

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**Opportunities**  
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**1. Vacancy: Bioethicist**

**The McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health (MRC), University Health Network Toronto, Ontario**

**Call for Application**

The Bioethicist's primary responsibility is to lead and/or participate in ESC2 consultations as a core member of the ESC2 Program team. Specific duties include: planning and executing responses to ESC2 Program consultation requests; writing and publishing papers in relation to the consultations and research activities within the ESC2 Program; participating in the development and implementation of case studies; providing support to other members of the program and across the MRC in general with respect to ESC2 issues; assisting with development of program reports. Some international travel is required.

Deadline: 30 August 2011

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

**2. Vacancy: Senior Research Fellow**

**United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies Yokohama, Japan**

**Call for Application**

The Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow is expected to be fully involved in the academic activities of UNU-IAS in the area of environmental governance with a focus on biodiversity, including teaching in the new master's programme in biodiversity. The incumbent is expected to spend a substantial amount of time in carrying out research and research supervision of postdoctoral and doctoral fellows and graduate students at UNU-IAS. The Fellow will be involved in other academic and advisory functions and fundraising efforts of the Institute. The Fellow will report directly to the Director of UNU-IAS.

Deadline: 30 August 2011

Contact: [arima@ias.unu.edu](mailto:arima@ias.unu.edu)

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

**3. Vacancy: APAN Regional Hub Coordinator**

**The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Regional Centre Bangkok**

**Call for Application**

The APAN Regional Hub Coordinator is a senior position and is expected to play a leading role in implementing APAN activities and develop mid/long-term plans and strategies for the network's expanded operation in consultation with partner institutes. A dynamic person with strong communication/coordination skills and willing to take up multiple challenging tasks is suitable for this position. A small team of experts will work directly under his/her supervision.

Deadline: 31 August 2011

Contact: Ms. Narudee Lerdphornsuttirat, [regionalcentre@iges.or.jp](mailto:regionalcentre@iges.or.jp)

More at: <http://bit.ly/nhjiM6>

**4. Senior Fellowships, Ethics and Member States Initiated projects at The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)**

**Call for Proposals**

The aim of this grant is to identify and support mid-career to senior researchers capable of building and leading research groups at sub-Saharan African institutions that will be internationally competitive and capable of winning grants from international funding bodies. This grant is available for both researchers already working in Africa as well as those looking to return to the continent (re-entry grant).

Deadline: 15 December 2011

Contact: [media@edctp.org](mailto:media@edctp.org),

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

**5. Postdoctoral Training Program at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research  
University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana**

**Call for Applications**

Young African scientists planning academic or research career paths in African institutions. Applicant should have a Ph.D., MD/Ph.D. or equivalent degree in relevant biomedical sciences (biochemistry, biological sciences, molecular biology etc.). Individuals who have submitted their

Ph.D dissertations are also eligible to apply. Applicants must be highly motivated, have strong research and conceptual skills and be interested in developing novel research directions.

Deadline: 30 September 2011

Contact: The Coordinator, [postdoc@noguchi.mimcom.org](mailto:postdoc@noguchi.mimcom.org)

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

## **6. 2012–2013 Faculty for the Future Fellowships**

### **Schlumberger Foundation**

#### **Call for Applications**

Candidates should have applied to, have been admitted to, or be currently enrolled in a university abroad when submitting their Faculty for the Future grant request. Candidates must hold an excellent academic record and be able to evidence their commitment to teaching, research or using science in public policy advocacy. This includes demonstrated leadership track record in encouraging young women into the sciences.

Deadline: 30 October 2011

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

[Top](#)

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**Organisations**  
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#### **1. GRAIN, Barcelona**

GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems.

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

#### **2. Foundation for Ecological Security, India**

The crux of FES' efforts lie in locating forests and other natural resources within the prevailing economic, social and ecological dynamics in rural landscapes and in intertwining principles of conservation and local self governance for the protection of the natural surroundings and improvement in the living conditions of the poor.

URL: <http://bit.ly/ptFG4E>

#### **3. Global Alliance of Community Forestry, Nepal**

Major objective of GACF is to link community organization efforts in order to have a joint incidence in international and regional forums on common issues of interest for those organizations and promote capacities and knowledge exchanges acquired between the organizations.

URL: <http://bit.ly/r0WmLT>

#### **4. World Forestry Centre, Portland, Oregon**

The World Forest Institute was established in 1989 as the information services division of the World Forestry Center. WFI provides valuable services designed to meet the diverse needs of manufacturers, consultants, researchers, brokers, government agencies, and others. The primary program of WFI is the International Fellowship Program.

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

**5. Fresh Water Association, UK**

The FBA, founded in 1929 and a charity since 1966 (Charity number 214440), aims to promote the study and application of freshwater biology through membership services, research and information dissemination.

URL: <http://bit.ly/rgTz5h>

[Top](#)

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**Resource**  
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**1. FAO Biosafety Resource Book**

URL: <http://bit.ly/r99BR4>

**2. Biotechnologies for Agricultural Development**

URL: <http://bit.ly/p2TuxG>

**3. Agro-biodiversity in Nepal: Wise insurance by Marty Logan**

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

**4. Mukhia1,P.K.M.; Wangyal,J.T.; Gurung, D.B. (2011) Floristic composition and species diversity of the chirpine forest ecosystem, Lobesa, Western Bhutan College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, Lobesa, Punakha, Bhutan**

URL: <http://bit.ly/pllc02>

**5. Bhusal, R. Means for communities to adapt to climate-change The Himalayan Times 23 August 2011**

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

**6. VIS-IBIS - An Avian Information System - Indian BioDiversity Information System**

URL: <http://bit.ly/nLF9dV>

**7. REDD in the news: 1-7 August 2011 By Chris Lang, 8th August 2011**

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

**8. Proceeding of National Workshop on Forests and Climate Change - Guiding Forest Management on Bio-Diversity Conservation and Climate Adaptation- 2011 Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC)**

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

**9. Dahal, G.R.; Ojha, H; Silpakar, S. (2011) Community Forestry Networks and Federations in Asia and Their Role in Democratizing Forest Governance**

URL: <http://bit.ly/mTJr2j>

**10. Forest for People; A co-publication between Tudor Rose and United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat for the International Year of Forests 2011**

URL: <http://bit.ly/pwkzX5>

**11. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Newsletters: EU-China Biodiversity Programme**

URL: <http://bit.ly/nVS9II>

**12. Biodiversity Action Plan of China**

URL: <http://bit.ly/p7UVd4>

**13. Endangered Species (EE Link contains lists, facts of endangered species)**

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

**14. Forest Conservation Portal**

URL: <http://bit.ly/phb5wB>

[Top](#)

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