

WASWC HOT NEWS 2007 (02) FEBRUARY (February 4, 2007)

Compiled by Samran Sombatpanit, Editor and Tom Goddard, Co-editor
Pls send your contributions/ information for next issue/s of HOT NEWS and WASWC
Newsletter to sombatpanit@yahoo.com

This document is NOT properly edited, to enable a quick release, to meet many deadlines.
Previously available information is available in Vol. 2006 Q1+2 (Jan-Jun), Q3 (July-Sept) & Q4
(Oct-Dec), posted on the website <http://waswc.ait.ac.th>, subpage HOT NEWS

NEW items in this issue are highlighted with blue shading to assist in quick identification.

In Memoriam



JOSE D. RONDAL

of No. 72 Zulueta Subdivision, Guimba, Nueva Ecija,
Philippines

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 30, 2007
at the age of 57*

His loving wife, **Perlita**; children **Ma. Antonette**, **Ma. Kristine**, and
Rommel Josue; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in
praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Bureau of Soil and Water Management,
Department of Agriculture, Diliman, Quezon City
from January 30 to February 1, 2007

and at their residence in Guimba, Nueva Ecija
from February 1-4, 2007.

Interment will follow at the Guimba cemetery.

(Condolences can be sent to his son Rommel J. Rondal at romsky2000@yahoo.com)

^^

Jose, or 'Joe' as we Wocateers call him, was a loving husband and father – and a faithful friend. A tireless worker, he was greatly dedicated to the WOCAT programme in the Philippines and abroad, for a sustainable land management purpose. He was the first volunteer to hold a voluntary job of National Representative in WASWC since 2002 and had worked with us hand in hand to shape the system to reach its best at this time.

We all will miss him! May His Soul Rest in Peace,

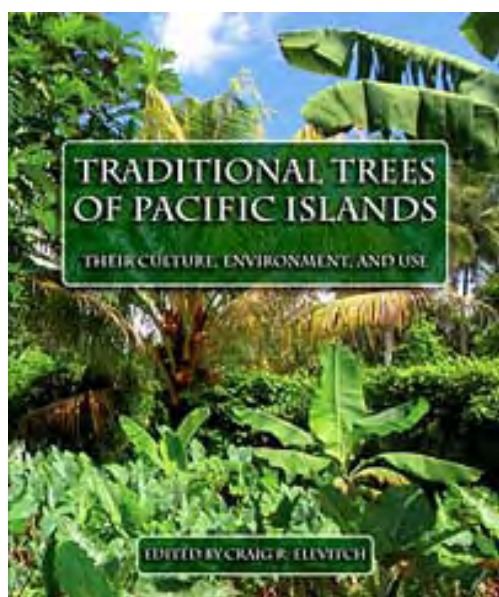
With fond farewell from all *Wocateers* and *WASWCers*

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HOT BOOK

Traditional Trees of Pacific Islands: Their Culture, Environment, and Use



edited by Craig R. Elevitch, Permanent Agriculture Resources, Hawai'i, USA

Price: \$90 (plus shipping), **available through February 5, 2007 at the introductory price of \$65**

Hardcover - 816 pages

Full color - over 800 photographs

Format - 9" X 11" (22.8 x 27.9 cm)

Weight: 7 lb (3.2 kg)

Release date: July 2006

Publisher: Permanent Agriculture Resources

ISBN: 0970254458

**One book including airmail shipping to USA
zipcode (5-7 days), \$65 + \$10 = \$75**

**One book including airmail shipping to non-USA
destination (5-7 days), \$65 + \$45 = \$110**

Review excerpts

"This is an excellent publication for general reference and extension purposes throughout the humid tropics. It is indeed a 'royal' treat for those who like tropical trees, nature, ecosystems, people, and traditions. Craig Elevitch and colleagues deserve highest appreciation for their remarkable feat in bringing out this excellent book."—P. K. Ramachandran Nair, Distinguished Professor and Director, Center for Subtropical Agroforestry, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

"The optimistic act of planting trees is an antidote to many of the earth's ecological woes. When chosen wisely, trees can also be an economic 'bank account' for future generations and an anchor for traditional cultures. *Traditional Trees of Pacific Islands: Their Culture, Environment, and Use* is a major resource for that kind of wise planting. The information might seem dense in another format, but here it's kept lively by the smart layout

and abundant pictures. The pictures are remarkably instructive, taking you through every stage of the tree's life, including grafting and the occasional transplant-a-mature-tree scenario."—Clear Englebert, feng shui author and consultant, Kealahou, Hawai'i

"*Traditional Trees for Pacific Islands* is a wonderful reference for identifying, propagating, harvesting, and developing natural and useful vegetative communities for trees in the Pacific Islands. It is a great guide for the wide range of people, from those interested in home landscaping projects to those in the scientific community geared toward forest management activities. The highly relevant text is richly illustrated with hundreds of full-color photographs of outstanding quality."—EvanaMaile Burt-Toland, Conservation Specialist, Mauna Kea Soil & Water Conservation District/Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD)

For other inquiries or to purchase the book directly from us:

Permanent Agriculture Resources
P.O. Box 428
Holualoa, HI 96725 USA
Tel: 808-324-4427; Fax: 808-324-4129
Email: par@agroforestry.net

AWARDS/PRIZES/FUNDS

Conservation Innovation Grants

The New Hampshire State office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requests applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from any eligible entity for projects within the state of New Hampshire. Funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive grants process. Applications are requested from eligible government or non-government organizations or individuals within the State of New Hampshire for competitive consideration of grant awards for projects between one and three years in duration. This notice identifies the objectives for CIG projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and associated instructions needed to apply to CIG. There are two CIG components available in FY 2007: Natural Resource Concerns Component and the Technology Component. This notice announces the availability of up to \$190,000 of funds during fiscal year 2007 for the New Hampshire CIG program competition. Grants to eligible entities and individuals may not exceed a maximum of \$75,000 each. The State Conservationist reserves the right to not fund any or all proposals. These funds are in addition to up to \$20 million of funds available through application from the national CIG Program. For information about the national program, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>. Deadline **March 23, 2007**. Noreen McDonald, Grants & Agreements Specialist, Phone 603.868.7581.

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=12278>



New Partners Initiative - PEPFAR

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 03/22/2006. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click send me change notification emails. The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

Description of Modification

The deadline for the third review has been extended from February 15, 2007 to **March 30, 2007**. Any questions can be addressed to **Benjamin Duodu** at (202) 712-5345.

Document Type: Modification to Previous Grants Notice

Funding Opportunity Number: M-OAA-GH-HSR-06-937

Opportunity Category: Discretionary

Posted Date: Mar 22, 2006

Creation Date: Jan 25, 2007

Original Closing Date for Applications: May 14, 2007

Current Closing Date for Applications: May 14, 2007

Archive Date: Jun 13, 2007

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement

Category of Funding Activity: Health

Category Explanation:

Expected Number of Awards:

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$200,000,000

Award Ceiling:

Award Floor: \$250,000

CFDA Number: 98.001 -- USAID Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Eligible Applicants

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Agency Name

US Agency for International Development

Description

Annual Program Statement M-OAA-GH-HSR-06-937 New Partner Initiatives

Link to Full Announcement

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact: **Benjamin Duodu**

Phone 202-712-5345, npi@usaid.gov

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=8637>



Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007

We invite you to enter the Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007 and take the opportunity to win one of the most significant, privately funded awards of its kind.

Now in its fourth year, the US\$1 million Prize is awarded to any not-for-profit, civil society and non-governmental organization, based anywhere in the world, for contributions to economic, environmental and / or social sustainability. In addition, the remaining nine shortlisted organizations are awarded a US\$15,000 Alcan Grant to invest in certifiable training and capacity building.

The closing date is **March 31, 2007** (Midnight GMT).

For more details about entering the Alcan Prize for Sustainability, visit www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com. Once registered, you may download and print the guidelines for completing an entry. Details of previous year's winners and finalists can be viewed on the website.

Should you know other organizations that may be eligible for the Prize, please nominate them online to receive details by following the How to Enter links from the main menu.

The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) based in the UK is managing the program on behalf of Alcan Inc. An international panel of distinguished judges chaired by David Runnalls, President and CEO of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, will review entrants and select the winner.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Alcan Prize team at IBLF on +44 (0) 7901 510 701 or by email at manager@alcanprizeforsustainability.com.

Good luck with your entry.

Leesa Muirhead, Manager, Alcan Prize for Sustainability

MOBILE: +44 (0) 7901 510 701

SWITCH: +44 (0) 20 7467 3600

POST: 15-16 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP, U.K.

www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com



The Cartier Women's Initiative Award: fostering the spirit of enterprise

Application deadline April 15, 2007

Inventive, determined and bold, an entrepreneur needs to be all three. An entrepreneur is someone who takes risks, but whose success benefits all: a prospering business is one that creates jobs, stimulates innovation and fuels growth. Because of the risks involved, entrepreneurship has traditionally been a male dominated field. This waste of resources seems however to be declining as more and more women, worldwide, are drawn to the challenge of starting their own companies.

To nurture this encouraging trend and foster the passion for initiative, **Cartier** and the **Women's Forum for the Economy and Society** have joined forces to launch the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards with the support of **McKinsey & Company** and the **INSEAD**.

An international business plan competition, the awards will recognize, each year, five innovative projects led by women. In addition to the US\$ 20 000 prize money, winners will also receive coaching support for a full year and gain access to various resources needed to set up a successful venture. A unique opportunity to connect with entrepreneurs from around the world, this competition will also enable participants to benefit from quality media exposure.

Open to all industries. Your project must be led by a woman and must be in its initial phase.

The Cartier Women's Initiative Awards are open for applications until April 15th, 2007 and will be given for the first time at the third edition of the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society (October 11-13, 2007).

Register on www.cartierwomensinitiative



MDGs Awards

The International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) and the UN NGO IRENE propose the establishment of the "MDGs Awards" to pay tribute to civil society organizations and public institutions that have undertaken noteworthy initiatives for the achievement of one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2007 the MDGs Award will be granted to the organization which demonstrates the most outstanding impact on the second MDG: "Achieve universal primary education". During the Award Ceremony in Brasilia in October 2007, the recipient organization will be awarded a MDGs Trophy and donor recognition from the private sector.

Please find attached a brochure of the MDG Awards and the Form to be filled out and returned via fax, post or e-mail to ngonews@un.org no later than **April 30, 2007** (please note – brochure and form also available in French)



Application for the MDGs Awards

- The form for submission is available online. It can be filled in online or send by email, fax or post:
 - **Email :** ngonews@un.org
 - **Fax :** (212) 963 8652
 - **Post:** NGO Section/DESA -1 UN Plaza, Room DC1-1480 - New York, NY 10017
- The form and all necessary all information must be submit by April 30, 2007. Any submission received after this date will not be taken into consideration.
- Submissions can be made in all 6 languages recognized by the UN (English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese and Arabic), but an English translation has to be accompanied in case of a non English application.
- Please enclose a recommendation letter when sending your application.
- Applicants are encouraged to include the following supporting materials.
 - a) Articles appearing in newspapers, professional journals, newsletters or other publications.
 - b) Digital standard format videos less than 10 minutes in length.
 - c) Photographs and/or other graphic material.
 - d) Brochures or other promotional material
- All submissions received will be acknowledged and assigned a catalogue number by the UN NGO IRENE for documentation purposes.
- Applicants may contact UN NGO IRENE to get assistance to fill their submission form in compliance with the criteria and the regulations of the Award.

1. Name and acronym of the organization

2. Contact Information

- Permanent Headquarter Address:
- Telephone:
- Fax:
- Name and position of the contact person:
- E-mail address :
- Address of the Website :

3. When your organization has been granted consultative status with ECOSOC?

4. Summarize the aims, purposes and activities of your organization:
5. What are the roots of your project? (Initiative, motivation...)
6. For which MDGs does your organization take action?
7. Which means have been carried out to reach your goals? (human, financial, technical means)
8. Please explain the projects your organization has implemented to act toward the achievement of the second MDG “Achieve universal primary education”
9. Please detail the campaigns your organization carried to support the MDG “Achieve universal primary education”
10. a) In your opinion, what are the progresses and results accomplished by your organization to “achieve universal primary education”?
- b) What are the progresses planned by your organization in order to reach the MDG “Achieve universal primary education” by 2015?
11. Why should the *MDG Award* be presented to your organization?

I assert the information above is exact

Date and signature

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Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund CALL FOR PROPOSALS for **CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT FUNDS**

The European Commission has committed EUR 80 million to the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund ("GEEREF" or "the Fund"). Triodos Investment Management in conjunction with E Co, are appointed to structure and financially close the fund and build an investment pipeline.

Triodos and E CO are now looking to receive proposals from fund management companies, financial institutions, project developers or individuals that intend to develop a clean energy investment fund or intend to expand an existing fund into the clean energy sector. Developers of clean energy projects in one or more countries are also invited to propose their plans as a basis for a clean energy investment fund. Proposals are expected to meet the following indicative criteria:

- Financially sustainable business plan generating a fair return for investors
- Specified environmental and socio-economic impacts
- Focus on small and medium sized clean energy projects (< 30MW) and companies
- Requiring long term patient investment capital
- Locally grounded, professional fund management team, preferable with a track record in the clean energy sector, or at least the capacity to become qualified or to liaise with other parties for that purpose
- Realistic pipeline that gives evidence of the viability of the business plan.

GEEREF expects to make its first commitment by July 2007. Prior to the financial closing, the Fund may provide technical and financial support to potential fund managers to develop regional funds.

Please contact: Triodos Investment Management, Bas Rekvelt, bas.rekvelt@triodos.nl, www.triodos.nl or E Co (Europe), Paul van Aalst, paul.van-aalst@EandCo.net, www.EandCo.net

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US Agency for International Development (USAID) (Kenya USAID-Nairobi)
Teacher Education and Professional Development Program Modification 1
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=11663>



The Lemelson-MIT Awards for Invention and Innovation <http://web.mit.edu/invent/a-main.html>

The Lemelson-MIT Awards honor both established and rising inventors for their ingenuity, creativity and contribution to invention and innovation. The awards recognize the profound impact that inventors can have on economic and social well-being. The awards include the following:

- ⇒ [The \\$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize](#) honors outstanding mid-career inventors dedicated to improving our world through technological invention and innovation.
- ⇒ [The \\$100,000 Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability](#) recognizes and supports inventors working to safeguard the well-being of our communities and planet.
The Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability has replaced the **\$100,000 Lemelson-MIT Lifetime Achievement Award**, which was presented by the Lemelson-MIT Program from 1995-2006. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognized outstanding individuals whose pioneering spirit and inventiveness throughout their careers have improved our society and inspired others.
- ⇒ [The \\$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize](#) honors promising young inventors studying at MIT. The Lemelson-MIT Program additionally funds the [\\$30,000 Lemelson-Rensselaer Student Prize](#) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the [\\$30,000 Lemelson-Illinois Student Prize](#) at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Modeling the Lemelson-MIT Program's Student Prize competition, each prize is administered by its respective school and recognizes outstanding students who demonstrate remarkable inventiveness.
- ⇒ [Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams](#) are grants that support a non-competitive, team-based approach to foster inventiveness among high school students. This initiative evolved from the Program's High School Invention Apprenticeship, granted annually from 1998 through 2002.

Bestowed annually, the Lemelson-MIT Awards were first presented in 1995. They are part of a comprehensive program administered by the Lemelson-MIT Program and established by The Lemelson Foundation to raise the stature of inventors and to inspire invention among young people. Find out about previous recipients at our [Winners Circle](#).



APPLY FOR A ROLEX AWARD

SEE DETAILS IN PREVIOUS ISSUES OF HOT NEWS

Please note that if you live in Asia, the Pacific or North, Central and South America, the deadline is May 31, 2007.

If you live in Europe, the Middle East or Africa, the deadline is September 30, 2007.

[read about the winners of the last series](#)

And learn about Laureates for 2006 Rolex Awards announce on October 2006 by clicking

<http://www.rolexawards.com/laureates/laureates-2006/index.html>



Google Grants Program Provides In-Kind Advertising Services to Nonprofits

Deadline: **Open**

The Google Grants program supports organizations that share the company's philosophy of community service worldwide in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts.

Designed for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, Google Grants is a unique in-kind advertising program that harnesses the power of Google's flagship advertising product, Google AdWords, to nonprofits seeking to inform and engage their constituents online.

Google Grants has awarded AdWords advertising to hundreds of nonprofit groups whose missions range from animal welfare to literacy, from supporting homeless children to promoting HIV education.

Google Grant recipients use their award of free AdWords advertising on Google.com to raise awareness and increase traffic. Each organization awarded a Google Grant receives at least three months of in-kind advertising.

In the United States, applicant organizations must have current 501(c)(3) status as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service to be considered for a Google Grant. Outside the United States, Google is currently accepting applications from eligible charitable organizations based in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Google Grants recipients are selected every quarter. Visit the program's Web site for complete program information, application procedures, and an FAQ.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10003588/google>

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FORESTRY FUNDING NEWS ALERT # 10: June 2006, Welcome to the June issue of our forestry funding news alert. This electronic newsletter is compiled by the FAO Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) team. It is a compilation of news related to forestry funding for fund seekers worldwide. All back issues of the newsletter can be found on the CPF Sourcebook's discussion platform at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/community/main/listthreads?forum=1>.

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USAID (US Agency for International Development)

Promoting Transformation: Linking Natural Resources, Economic Growth, and Governance Grant, <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=10083>

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Echoing Green (a funding resource), <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>

Launched in 1987, Echoing Green's mission is to spark social change by identifying, investing and supporting the world's most exceptional emerging leaders and the organizations they launch. Through a two-year fellowship program, we help our network of visionaries develop new solutions to society's most difficult problems. These social entrepreneurs and their organizations work to close deeply-rooted social, economic and political inequities to ensure equal access and to help all individuals reach his/her potential. To date, Echoing Green has invested nearly \$25 million in seed and start up grants to over 400 social entrepreneurs and their innovative organizations.

FELLOWSHIPS

National Endowment for the Humanities Grants for Collaborative Research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Deadline: **February 15, 2007**

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS (<http://www.americancouncils.org/>) and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (<http://www.nceeer.org/>) are accepting applications for the 2007-08 National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Humanities Fellowship. Full and partial fellowships are available through American Councils and NCEEER with NEH grant support. Fellowships provide up to \$40,000 each for four to nine months of research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Proposals must include plans to work with at least one collaborator in the field. Applications with a strong regional focus and the potential to broaden and strengthen international academic linkages beyond the traditional centers such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Warsaw, and Prague are especially encouraged. This merit-based competition is open to all U.S. post-doctoral scholars in the humanities and most social sciences, including such disciplines as anthropology, modern and classical languages, history, linguistics, literature, jurisprudence, philosophy, political science, archaeology, comparative religion, sociology, and ethics. U.S. citizenship, permanent resident status, or residency in the U.S. for three years before date of application is required. For more information and an application form, visit the American Councils Web site. RFP Link: <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10005989/americancouncils>

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BP Conservation Programme: Conservation Leaders Scholarship

Call for Nominations -- Deadline March 12th 2007

The BP Conservation Programme is awarding two scholarships to promising young conservation leaders who show potential for individual leadership capacity to influence biodiversity conservation. The scholarships will give these young leaders an opportunity to gain advanced skills and training at a postgraduate level and the formal qualifications they need to progress their careers.

The learning experience will also expose young conservationists to current thinking and debate in conservation science. Upon completion of their program, scholars will possess the knowledge and skills to inform the development of effective policies and practices in conservation as a fundamental contribution to capacity building in their home country. Scholarship recipients will be awarded one years' membership in the Society for Conservation Biology and will become part of the BPCP alumni network with access to contacts, further development and funding opportunities.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1.) Candidates must be nationals of one of the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey or Venezuela.
- 2.) Candidates must be nominated by one of the conservation partner organisations (CI, WCS, Birdlife, FFI).
- 3.) Candidates must have successfully completed an appropriate undergraduate degree and be eligible for graduate study. Candidates already holding Master's qualifications are not eligible.
- 4.) Candidates should have basic skills in English or a willingness to learn.
- 5.) Candidates must be looking for - or have already secured - a place in an appropriate MSc program, at an accredited university preferably outside their home country.
- 6.) The course of study must contribute to an MSc course in a natural or social science discipline related to biodiversity conservation.

7.) Employees of BP, BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International and the Wildlife Conservation Society are not eligible.

Application Process: A maximum of \$45,000 can be requested for a single scholarship, and can be used to cover visas, travel, tuition, living expenses, books, insurance, expenses related to application fees, GRE, TOEFL tests and English language training . ***Each organisation within the BP Conservation Programme partnership may nominate a maximum of 3 individuals for a scholarship award.***

Each candidate must: Submit a letter of endorsement from the nominating organisation

- 1 Submit the basic application form (contact Robyn Dalzen for this form -- r.dalzen@conservation.org)
- 2 Submit any evidence of current provisional admission to a conservation related university master's degree program if available at this stage
- 3 Submit a one-page CV
- 4 Arrange for university transcripts to be forwarded
- 5 Arrange for two confidential reference letters, at least one academic, to be forwarded in support of their application

Judging Criteria: Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria presented in the application materials:

- Academic ability and merit as evidenced by their educational history (evidenced from transcripts, academic reference)
- Commitment to conservation in their home country shown by their achievements, employment and volunteer activities (evidenced from commitment to conservation section)
- Motivation and need for further formal training at MSc level (evidenced from motivation section, transcripts)
- Leadership potential (evidenced from support letters, commitment to conservation section)

Please contact Robyn Dalzen with questions, recommendations and to request an application form: r.dalzen@conservation.org; ext. 2683.

Robyn Dalzen
Manager, BP Conservation Programme
Conservation International
Center for Environmental Leadership in Business
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel: 703.341.2683

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Young soil scientists wanted

ICSU is celebrating its 75 years and organizes a conference: "Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientists", that will be held in April 2007 in Germany. This conference will bring together approximately two hundred young scientists from across the world, and from different disciplines, to discuss and debate some of the key challenges for science in the 21st century. Participants should ideally be under 35 years old (with an absolute age limit of 40 years). Participants should have a PhD or MSc or have completed at least 2 years of post-graduate research studies. For more information click [here](#)
Please contact the Secretary General, [Stephen Nortcliff](#), for further information.
s.nortcliff@reading.ac.uk

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COURSES

April 2-20, 2007

Participatory Mapping and PGIS for Community-Level Spatial Planning & Management

Short Course (3 weeks)

ITC, Enschede, The Netherlands

Course Organisers: Dr. Michael K. McCall; Drs. Jeroen Verplanke

Brief Description: Participatory spatial planning & management (PSP) in land & land resources (both rural and urban) has a dynamic of empowerment and good governance imperatives.

- issues in geo-information for participatory spatial planning & management.
- concepts of local & indigenous spatial knowledge.
- analysis of PSP & community-based management, including problem & conflict analysis, stakeholder interests, good governance, PGIS information management.
- tools & techniques in local-level spatial information acquisition, analysis & application. .

Following tools & techniques are used in this course:

- participatory spatial data acquisition, participatory mapping, PRA, PGIS.
- GPS, mobile GIS (PDA such as iPaq), ArcPad, field data recording and data preparation.
- visualization of spatial relationships, interactive mapping.
- participatory spatial planning & management processes, and policy instruments.
- Applications of participatory mapping & PGIS to e.g. conflict mapping, customary entitlements to land, NRM; community environmental mapping.

Pre-requisites:

Basic GIS skills (ArcView–ArcGIS) are expected, and useful to have some experience in local-level community surveys.

Costs of the Course

NB. This course unfortunately does not have its own Fellowships.

Participants need to find their own funds.

- Tuition fees for the course: €1000.00
- ITC will provide accommodation; including expected living cost this is estimated to a *minimum* of: € 750.00
- Additional costs regarding, insurances, registration fees, residence permit and visa are estimated to: € 250.00

Further Information:

The Schedule of the Course and further information are available from Jeroen Verplanke Verplanke@itc.nl, or Mike McCall mccall@itc.nl

Please check ITC website <http://www.itc.nl/education> for additional information about ITC and Enschede; or contact education@itc.nl

To register directly, download the registration form:
http://www.itc.nl/education/_data/ITCAppFormSC.pdf.

You are kindly requested to then submit this form by e-mail to: education@itc.nl with cc. to verplanke@itc.nl

For further registration instructions check ITC website:
<http://www.itc.nl/education/register/>

In order to process your registration in time we prefer you to submit before **March 1, 2007**.

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April 2-24, 2007

Regional training course on Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities

Rationale: Mountain watersheds serve many ecological and hydrological functions vital to existence. They provide critical habitat for many plant and animal species, transport paths for sediment, nutrients, minerals, and water to human communities for drinking, cleaning, recreation, hydroelectric power, and industry.

Experience in the Himalayan region demonstrates how the application of simple, low cost soil and water conservation measures and techniques can address the problem of biophysical vulnerability in the resource constrained environment of mountain watersheds and arrest land degradation. Building the capacity of field-level technicians in participatory implementation of low cost, simple soil and water conservation techniques and watershed management activities has thus become essential in better managing soil and water resources in mountain watersheds.

This training package is based on experiences from this mountain region and elsewhere and includes tried and tested measures and techniques specifically attuned to middle mountain conditions.

Course Objectives

The training course aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of participants on low cost soil and water conservation techniques and watershed management activities.

Specifically, the course aims to familiarise the participants with different low cost soil and water conservation techniques and watershed management activities, both theory and practice. In addition, the course aims to enable the participants to identify conditions of land degradation and appropriate soil and water conservation techniques and watershed management activities applicable to the participants' contexts; and to analyse and design conservation measures within their work or area contexts.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- understand different low cost soil and water conservation techniques and options and their importance
- carry out basic land degradation assessment and identify, design, and implement appropriate soil and water conservation measures to address them
- identify ways to improve the participants' current soil conservation practices

Content Areas

- Introduction to Integrated Watershed Management and Low Cost Soil Conservation
- Low Cost Soil Conservation Techniques
- Watershed Management Activities
- Strategies to Promote and Up-scale Low Cost Soil Conservation Techniques

Training Methodologies

The participatory training approach will be applied throughout the course. Classroom lectures will be complemented by field and practical exercises, a field visit and demonstration, and action planning

based on the participant's areas or field of work.

Who should attend the training

Field-level technicians and extension workers working with the government, or with international and local non-government organisations (INGOs and NGOs), in the areas of natural resource management, especially soil conservation and watershed management

Course Pre-requisites

- Participants must preferably come from a technical background (Agriculture, Forestry, Civil Engineering, others) related to soil conservation and watershed management (Minimum education attained: two years of College or an Intermediate or Certificate level course or its equivalent)
- Can understand and speak English, which is the medium of instruction of the course
- Minimum of 2-3 years working experience preferred. Experience in conducting engineering surveys is an advantage. Women participants are highly encouraged.

To be more effective, we target to have 15-20 participants only. Please apply as soon as possible!

Where: Training will be conducted in Godavari, Kathmandu, Nepal; **When:** 2-24 April 2007

Cost

The training fee is US\$1,800 per person. This cost includes tuition fee, food, lodging (shared double occupancy), and course materials. Single room accommodation may be provided for an additional fee of US\$10 per day. The cost excludes travel costs from place of origin, DSA (daily subsistence allowance), laundry and other personal expenses (we suggest a minimum pocket allowance of \$20 per day for incidental and personal expenses). Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organisations or from donor agencies.

Trainers/ Institute Profile

Experienced professionals from ICIMOD and partners engaged in soil and water conservation, and watershed and disaster management

Training is coordinated by the Natural Resource Management Programme of ICIMOD (www.icimod.org), which is an international, independent mountain learning and knowledge centre committed to improving the sustainable livelihoods of mountain peoples in the extended Himalayan region.

Remarks: This training course involves intensive field and practical exercises and participants may have to devote time apart from the mentioned sessions

For more information and to request for an application form please contact:

Keshar Man Sthapit - Training Coordinator

Please email: wsmtraining@icimod.org, **Deadline for application: 1 March 2007**

IIIIIIIIII

25-30 June 2007

GDF - SSWG Short Course on Ethnoecology & Community-based Conservation Course in Port Elizabeth, South Africa (partial scholarships available),

In the week leading up to the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) 2007 annual meeting, the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) and the SCB's Social Science Working Group (SSWG) will co-sponsor a course on 'Ethnoecology and Community-based Conservation' from 25 - 30 June 2007 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

With financial support from the Christensen Fund (TCF), we will award a limited number of bursaries to cover course fees, bibliography, software, accommodation and meals during the course. Please note the following requirements before applying for a bursary:

(1) a university degree in social or natural sciences;

(2) fluency in English

Preference will be given to candidates who are engaged in teaching and research on biocultural diversity. Members of indigenous groups are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates from TCF and GDF focal regions (outlined below) will be given priority.

The deadline for application is **15 March 2007**.

An online application will be available in mid-January. In the meantime, enquiries may be directed to Gary J. Martin (gary@globaldiversity.org.uk) or Rick Stepp (stepp@ufl.edu).

For a description of the activities of SCB's Social Science Working Group see: www.conbio.org/WorkingGroups/SSWG/. More information on the Global Diversity Foundation and its focal regions (Mesoamerica, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Southern Africa) is available on www.globaldiversity.org.uk. Consult www.christensenfund.org for an overview of the Christensen Fund, including its priority areas: Turkey, Iran and Central Asia; Northern Australia and Melanesia; Greater American Southwest and the African Rift Valley.

The course will precede the 21st SCB annual meeting, One World, One Conservation, One Partnership, held from 1 - 5 July 2007 at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South ! Africa.

The Local Organising Committee is now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations until 8 January 2007. More information is available at: www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/callpapo.htm .

We encourage potential applicants to submit an abstract for the SCB meeting, and to arrange independently funds for their travel to Port Elizabeth, conference registration and accommodation and meals during the meetings. We do not have funds for these expenses at this time.

July 30-August 3, 2007

Short Course on Research Methods in Ethnoecology

The Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), with funding from the Christensen Fund (TCF), will sponsor the participation of 3 developing country colleagues in the National Science Foundation supported Short Course on Research Methods in Ethnoecology from 30 July-3 August 2007. Information on the course is available on www.qualquant.net/training/scrm.htm#ethno. The travel grants will cover roundtrip travel to Beaufort, North Carolina, accommodation, meals, local transportation, course fees and a book and software allowance.

Colleagues who hold a Ph.D. in social or natural sciences and can demonstrate fluency in English may apply. Preference will be given to faculty members at colleges and universities who are engaged in teaching and research on biocultural diversity. Members of indigenous groups are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates from TCF and GDF focal regions (see below) will be given priority.

Interested candidates are requested to follow the instructions on www.qualquant.net/training/scrm.htm#app. The deadline for application is **15 February 2007**.

More information on the Global Diversity Foundation and its focal regions (Mesoamerica, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Southern Africa) is available on www.globaldiversity.org.uk. Consult www.christensenfund.org for an overview of the Christensen Fund, including its priority areas: Turkey, Iran and Central Asia; Northern Australia and Melanesia; Greater American Southwest and the African Rift Valley. Enquiries may be directed to Gary J. Martin (gary@globaldiversity.org.uk) or Rick Stepp (stepp@ufl.edu).

JOBS

Vacancies: ITC in the Netherlands currently has 2 Professor positions available in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geoinformation Management. Details are attached for you information and circulation to potentially qualified and interested candidates. http://www.itc.nl/about_itc/organisation/science_departments/pgm.asp

Contact: Dr. Richard Sliuzas (sliuzas@itc.nl)
Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management
International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
Hengelosestraat 99, PO Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-53-4874236/ 4874532; Fax: +31-53-4874575

PHOTO CONTEST

World Heritage Photo Contest: *Travelers' photos from their last trip could be the ticket to their next*

The United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation) is calling on travel lovers to enter the first World Heritage photo contest created by Friends of World Heritage (www.friendsofworldheritage.org), a grassroots initiative of the UN Foundation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Expedia, Inc. to promote World Heritage conservation and responsible tourism. Hundreds of photos of incredible World Heritage sites around the globe have already been submitted, but there's still time for travelers to enter. The deadline is less than five weeks away.

WHAT: World Heritage Photo Contest

PRIZES: grand prize: An all-inclusive trip for two, including airfare, to Mexico's spectacular Yucatán Peninsula. The winner will spend 8 days/7 nights exploring three World Heritage sites -- Uxmal, Chichen Itza, and Campeche City.

Second prize: Two free round-trip air tickets to Merida, Mexico from many U.S. destinations.

Third prize: One flight to Merida, Mexico from many U.S. destinations.

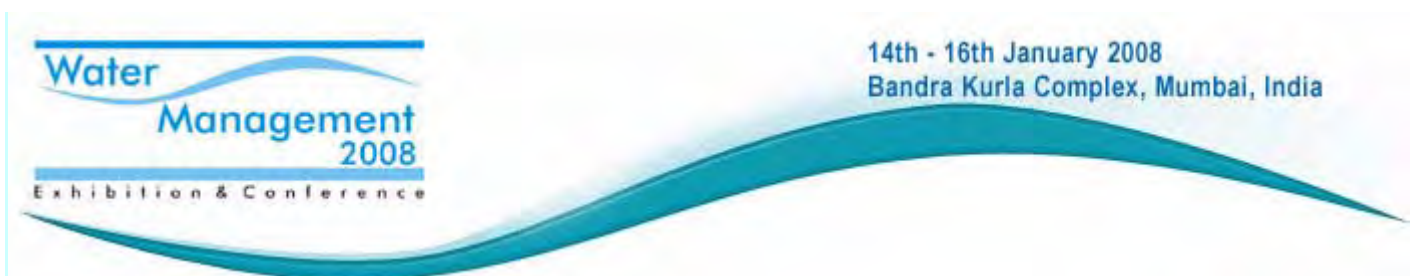
Prizes are sponsored by the Mexico Tourism Board and the Mayaland Resorts Group.

HOW: Visit www.FriendsofWorldHeritage.org to submit photos and to share unforgettable experiences. Only digital images will be accepted.

DEADLINE: Submissions will be accepted through **March 1, 2007**; winners will be announced by mid-April 2007.

CONTACT: Press inquiries should be directed to Amy DiElsi at 202-419-3230 or adielsi@unfoundation.org.

EXPOSITIONS



We at Services International are pleased to announce **Water Management- 2008 Exhibition and Conference** Scheduled to be held at Mumbai, India during 14th -16th January 2008.

In the current scenario, the coordination of water resources, upgrade of utility networks, water management reform and conservation have become important goals for the economic well-being and growth in developing and developed economies

It will also act as the platform for the industries in the field of water management to get a competitive edge on their competitors. With the event's focus on new Technologies, equipment and innovative ideas, many Companies and Governmental officials hope to find solutions to major water issues facing today. With that in mind, the primary effort at this exhibition and conference will be technologies whose methods and practices operate in efficient and environmentally-friendly ways.

As India's population continues to expand, the region currently has only a quarter of water resources it needs to support this growth. Rapid Industrialization and urbanization throughout world have necessitated limitations on water usage in order to control pollution. The resulting water shortages have placed significant limitations on economic growth within the region.

Water Management 2008 will also feature the latest products and technologies in several categories:

Water treatment, Water supply and services, Water conservation, Filtration equipment, Water pollution monitoring, Sewage and sludge treatment, Packaged drinking water, Water treatment chemicals, Rainwater harvesting, Wastewater management & recycling, Water management systems, Effluent treatment systems, Water purification, Pipes, fittings and valves, Instrumentation and process control, Boilers and cooling towers, Pumps and motor, Water reclamation, Water storage reservoirs, Desalination plants, Water management & distribution networks, Water analysis devices and testing equipment, Designing and Constructing Of Tunnel And Dam, Irrigation Network, Water and Sewage Refinery, Water Resources Expanding and Surface Water and Sewage Gathering, Water and Sewage Pipes and Joints, Water preparation for drinking purposes, industrial enterprises and power engineering utilities, Water quality control equipment and techniques, Materials and machinery for building, repair and operation of water industry, Hydroelectric Power Generation, Project Developers, Project Finance Companies, Plant Builders, Engineering Companies, Consultants & Research & Technical Institutes, Trade Publications, Macro Water Management, Water shed Management.

The Conference

The Water Management 2008 Conference is an event to which anyone & everyone associated with the Water Management Industry will look forward to. The Conference will have a series of business and technical sessions with useful as well as interesting lectures and topical discussions on the state of the industry. The Conference offers a Platform to meet and interact Various delegates from India and Abroad.

Product Showcase Theatre

Product Showcase Theatre offers the exhibitors to demo their Products, give presentation and interact with clients personally. It will help the exhibitors to generate high quality leads through new and existing customers, increase brand awareness and source requests for new proposals.

For further details, contact

B-9, A – Block, LSC,
Ring Road, Naraina Vihar,
New Delhi-110028, India.
Tel: +91-11-25770411,
Fax: +91-11-25778876
Email: info@servintonline.com
water@servintonline.com

106, Nirma Plaza, Makwana Road,
Behind SM, Dyechem Road,
Mumbai-400059, India.
Ph: + 91-22-28596084/6
Fax: + 91-22-28596085
E-Mail: servicesmumbai@servintonline.com

www.watermanagementexpo.com



Contact agramiddleeast@iirme.com



[United Nations Development Programme](http://www.un.org/development/dp)

WELCOME to the Virtual Knowledge Fair on Water

The Fair is now open! Please proceed to www.waterfair.org, where you will find access to the various exhibits (videos, experience write-ups, pictures and materials), background information on countries and water-related topics, a Who's-Who about water-practitioners in the regions, photo gallery, a quiz and much more!



ROYAL FLORA RATCHAPHRUEK 2006



International Horticultural Exposition for His Majesty the King of Thailand on a total area of 75 ha at the Royal Agricultural Research Center, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1 Nov 2006 – 31 Jan 2007. Information in <http://www.royalfloraexpo.com/> (3,781,624 people had visited during the 91-day event, incl. ~300,000 foreigners. Last Sunday, January 28, 2007, saw the highest number of visitors: 67,633 people.) Pictures below are from the closing day, January 31, 2007.



FRIENDS NEED YOUR HELP

Ed. – Members are asked to kindly consider if s/he can help the following two requests.

1. Mangrove Soil Conservation protecting River Bank Erosion - a CCEC initiative Bangladesh

Dear Dr. Samran,

Happy New Year

The CCEC is a local environmental NGO based at Khulna, Bangladesh working towards environmental sustainability of the coastal ecosystems Bangladesh particularly at the southwest coastal Sundarban region with local people participation. Environmental Education Training (EET) among the Primary School teachers of Khulna, Bagerhat Satkhira districts and Biodiversity Conservation Awareness among Sundarban stakeholders are the two major thrust areas of CCEC. However, CCEC is more active on mangrove conservation campaign after the Tsunami devastation on 26 December 2004 at the Indian Ocean causes thousands of deaths in Indonesia, Srilanka, Thailand and other countries. *Recent leaflet and poster with messages on mangroves protection and conservation needs will be sent to anyone upon request.*

You will be glad to hear that the CCEC has formed a 51 member Mangrove Protection Society (MPS) and observed the International Mangrove Action Day, the 26th July with the participation of BDWB towards conserve the mangrove thickets along the river sides of southeast coastal belt of Bangladesh especially at polder 30 in Batiaghata Upazilla under Khulna District.

CCEC plans to extend the activity in polder 32 of Dacope upazilla adjacent to Sundarban, the UNESCO declared World Heritage site. We want your cooperation in raising funds for the conservation movement and allow natural regeneration, restore mangrove species at the outside polder in order to sustenance of the coastal ecosystems besides long term planning for making Green Coastal Belt with mangrove thickets.

May I therefore request you to support CCEC initiative by raising funds to help us join conserve the mangrove thickets, the corporeal symbol of security and the defender of the southwest coastal Sundarban region?

Your cooperation and suggestions can reduce the vulnerability and save millions of Bangladesh coastal communities from sea level rise and global climate change.

Mowdudur Rahman

Director, Centre for Coastal Environment Conservation (CCEC), Tagdir Mohal House No. 93 Road No. 2 Sonadanga R/A, Khulna-9000, Bangladesh. Phone: +880-(0)41-810982; ccec_bd@khulna.bangla.net, mowdudurrahman@hotmail.com

2. Feedback Request on “Action Research for Watershed Management” in Nepal

Training Course Development

Dear Colleagues,

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is an international, independent mountain learning and knowledge centre committed to improving the sustainable livelihoods of mountain people in the extended Himalayan region. ICIMOD serves eight regional

countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan area: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan as well as the global mountain community. The Centre has identified four topics on watershed management for designing new international courses:

- Low cost soil and water conservation techniques and watershed management activities - the first course, which will be held from 2-24 April 2007
- **Action research for watershed management** (the subject of this letter)
- Participatory integrated watershed management
- Application of geo-informatics in watershed management

ICIMOD is in the process of designing the course on **Action Research for Watershed Management**. The course will be aimed primarily at mid and upper level development practitioners working in INGOs, NGOs, and government departments who are or will be responsible for developing and managing programmes and projects related to watershed management, or are interested in applied research related to the theory and practice of watershed management. The course is based on the premise that watershed management planning and implementation can be made more effective by using action research to extend the knowledge base related to the local situation, which enables planning to be tailored to the specific needs of a particular watershed, and by involving stakeholders in the activities from the very beginning. However, many of those charged with designing, supervising and implementing watershed management plans have had little opportunity to learn about or work with action research tools in the watershed management setting. The course is designed to fill this gap.

The course is based on the extensive experience gained during implementation of the People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP) over 13 years in five watersheds in four countries of the Himalayan region, together with knowledge and experiences gained by other ICIMOD programmes and partners. It is intended to provide participants with an understanding of the valuable role that action research can play in watershed management by improving the knowledge base and supporting and promoting participation of stakeholders. It will equip participants with a working knowledge of different action research tools, both participatory and otherwise, for diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and programme refinement. It may also cover participatory approaches to communication and dissemination of the knowledge gained through research.

In order to ensure that the course will help to address the real needs of institutions like yours, we are first soliciting information and feedback from practitioners and researchers working in the field of watershed management. We would very much appreciate it, if you could answer the following questions to help us both to assess the need and to design a relevant training package. If you would prefer simply to write us a brief note on the idea, that would also be very welcome. Please return the questionnaire or note to

The Watershed Management Training Team
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Khumaltar, Lalitpur, GPO Box 3226
Kathmandu, Nepal, or by e-mail to <wsmtraining@icimod.org>, or fax to 977-1-5003299

We would be grateful if you could send us the information by February 10, 2007 (OR soon after that).

Thank you very much for your help,

The ICIMOD Watershed Management Training Team

Questionnaire on 'Action Research for Watershed Management' course

Name: ----- Organisation: ----- Date: -----

1. There are many definitions of action research. We would be interested in knowing how you define it. Could you please summarise your definition briefly.
2. Are you yourself involved in watershed management work? If so, in what way?
3. Are you involved in action research?

4. How do you (or your organisation) plan watershed management work and who is involved in the planning process?
5. What type of stakeholders are involved in the watershed management work which you or your organisation are doing? How are they involved in problem definition, project/programme activities and monitoring and evaluation?
6. Can you identify any strengths and weaknesses in the watershed management planning processes that you are involved in? What recommendations could you make to improve it?
7. Are there any skills that you have acquired in the course of your work in watershed management that you would have liked to have had training in?
8. Do you think that there are still some gaps in your skill set that you would like to acquire in a training course? If so what?
9. Overall, do you think that it would be useful to have a course in action research for watershed management? Why?
10. If you think a course would be useful, which topics and action research tools do you think should be included?

We thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire and look forward to hearing from you soon.

The ICIMOD Watershed Management Training Team
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Khumaltar, Lalitpur, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal
Fax: +977 1 5003299; wsmtraining@icimod.org

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Conference organizers may ask for a 'Conference Package' from WASWC (<http://waswc.ait.ac.th/package.html>), where among several benefits all the participants may obtain free Guest membership in WASWC for one year.
This is our service to society.

MEETINGS 2007

January 31-February 3, 2007

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FIRE EFFECTS ON SOIL PROPERTIES

Mediterranean Environmental research Group, Universitat de Barcelona,

Background and invitation

The aims of the meeting are to explore issues concerning effects of fire on soil properties. It is well known that fire and temperature produce changes on soil physical, chemical, organic and biological characteristics.

The intensity and severity of forests fires has increased in the last years, and this is a widespread worldwide phenomenon. It is important to know the effect of high intensity fires and prescribed fire as a management tool on soils. It is hoped that the exchange of information will not only contribute to a better understanding of the effects of fires on soils but also will suggest solutions for soil amendment and management in terms of soil quality and forest regeneration.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together scientists who study the fire effects on soil properties and soil recovery after fires. New research methodologies, topics and conclusions about fire impacts on soils are very welcome.

The meeting will include an excursion to a study site where prescribed fire is used as a management tool (Les Gavarres Mountains, Girona).

Topics

- Fire effects on hydrology and soil physical properties
- Fire effects on organic matter content, soil chemical properties and soil recovery after fires
- New methodologies to study fire effects on soil
- Fire intensity and fire severity measurements

Contact: Prof. Xavier Úbeda., University of Barcelona, xubeda@ub.edu, www.ub.edu/gram

February, 5-8, 2008

According to the preliminary notice of working group on digital a mapping of ground of the International union of soil science in Sydney (Australia) organizes the World seminar on a question of a remote digital estimation of ground and mapping. The purpose of a seminar is information interchange under the decision of problems of an agriculture with use of space researches of ground and the mapping the Information is resulted on a site: the Secretary of the Symposium www.digitalsoilMapping.org
r.viscarra-rossel@usyd.edu.au

February 6 - 8, 2007

4th USDA Greenhouse Gas Conference, "Positioning Agriculture and Forestry to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change". Baltimore Marriott Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

The registration fee is \$385. See www.acsmeetings.org/carbon for all information on the technical program, registration and housing. Please note that the deadline for housing was January 19 in order to secure the special conference rate. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for presentation of scientific, technical, and policy information related to the impacts of climate change on agriculture and forestry, and the potential role of management practices in related ecosystems and product use in mitigating climate change. The conference will feature a combination of plenary sessions, technical breakout sessions, and poster sessions organized to maximize interactions, discussion, and dialogue. This year's conference will feature a half-day session on the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Report 4.3: The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity. The session will provide an opportunity for public comment on the production of the report. This session will take place on the morning of Thursday February 8. See <http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap4-3/default.php> for more details.

February 7-10, 2007

3rd International Groundwater Conference (IGC-2007) on Water, Environment and Agriculture: Present Problems and Future Challenges, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, India

Contact: K.Palanisami at palanisamik@vsnl.net, directorcards@tnau.ac.in, ceemayil@gmail.com.

Deadline for abstract submission: **July 31, 2006**, but you can try, and there won't be any problem if you want only to attend.

February 12-16, 2007

EC07 IECA's Environmental Connection

Conference Event The conference and expo will be at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Our host hotel is the Atlantis Hotel. Show dates will be Tuesday 2/14, 5:00-7:30 PM, Wednesday, 2/14 and Thursday, 2/15.

Most conference activities will take place in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center:

4590 S. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89504, USA
775-827-7620

IECA Host Hotel:
Atlantis Casino Resort

3800 S. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89502, USA

IECA Room Rate: \$112.00

Preliminary Schedule:

Feb. 12, Monday - Full day training course, 8:30-5:00

Feb. 13, Tuesday - Full day training course, 8:30-5:00, Expo open, 5:00-7:30

Feb. 14, Wednesday - General Session, Technical Sessions, Expo Open

Feb. 15, Thursday - Technical Sessions, Expo Open

For additional information, contact:

Kate Nowak, Director of Events and Sales

Phone: 970-879-3010. ext. 15

Fax: 970-879-8563

Email: kate@ieca.org, www.ieca.org

February 20-22, 2007

Alberta Soil Science Workshop, Calgary, Alberta, Canada <http://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/>

Saskatchewan Soils & Crops Workshop, Mar 1-2, Saskatoon

<http://www.extension.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/noncredit/AFH/index.htm>

Upcoming events page <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app55/events?navstyle=2>

February 22-23, 2007

International Conference on the Modeling of Urban Water Systems

The annual International Conference on the Modeling of Urban Water Systems will be held **February 22-23** in Toronto, Canada. The conference addresses all aspects of urban water systems, including planning, design, construction, operation, monitoring, models, safety, and security; how to manage urban water systems including water supply, drainage, pollution control, domestic, municipal, and industrial waters and stormwater from surface water catchments or ground water; and real-time control along with education, outreach, and practical applications. <http://www.computationalhydraulics.com/Training/Conferences/conferencetoronto.html>

March 2, 2007

Global Conference on “Organic agriculture” – Rejuvenated Health and Environment!

I am happy to inform you that, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) is organizing a Global conference on Organic Agriculture on 2nd March’07 in Mumbai.

The enormous benefits in terms of health, environment and commercial potentials of Organic is yet to be realized in India. Our aim at FICCI in organizing the conference - “**Organic Agriculture**”–

Rejuvenated Health and Environment!! is to bring together technological experts, policy makers, regulatory officials, industry leaders, growers/farmers, research institutions, equipment suppliers, organic fertilizer manufacturers, suppliers, transporters, cold storage companies, traders, entrepreneurs, promotional and marketing agencies and financial institutions, NGOs to tap the high potential of organic production, improve the health quality by enhancing the food quality consumed, develop proper technology/ strategies for steady supply of organic production for better health and environment, efficient supply chain for organic produce, financial support for entrepreneurs/ farmers.

It would be our great pleasure to have your presence in the conference. The details of the same are enclosed with this letter.

If you are interested for any kind of advertisements/ sponsorships pl. contact the address below.

Dr. Debashree Chakraborty, Team leader, FICCI-WRC Agro-Food sector, Krishnamai, 33-B, Sir Pochkhanwala Road, Worli, Mumbai – 400 030, India. Phone: +91-(0)22-2496-8000; Fax: +91-(0)22-2496 6631/32; debashree@ficci.com

March 2-3, 2007

FINANCING OF FOREST CONSERVATION: Payments for Environmental Services in the Tropics, International Society of Tropical Foresters, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

What mechanisms are currently available for forest conservation in the tropics? Conservation has always been approached by a number of sectors including biology, political science, economics, and social science. But these perspectives and their associated agencies have historically worked in separate spheres, with little collaboration. Today it is essential that a holistic approach be taken and that the different fields are incorporated together into conservation schemes, and economists comprise an important part of this holistic view.

It is imperative to include economics in conservation planning in order to demonstrate the potential benefits of sustainable forest management. Payment for environmental services is one of the tools environmental economists use to support forest conservation and has great potential for the conservation of tropical forests. This term encompasses a wide scope of activities including carbon credits, bio-prospecting, watershed protection, soil conservation, tax credits and ecotourism.

The Yale Chapter of the International Society for Tropical Foresters expect that this conference will serve as a forum to discuss the various types of payment for environmental services, the issues associated with each type, and the successes and failures to date. The discussion will be driven by questions such as: Can payment for environmental services mechanisms lead to conservation? Can such mechanisms be as economically viable as other uses? How can these methods be better integrated into conservation and management plans? What are the potential negative consequences from the standpoints of conservation, local livelihoods, and economic optimization? How can active trading markets for ecosystem services be developed? Are payments for avoided deforestation and reduced carbon emissions feasible? Will tax credit programs be viable in the long term?

We encourage abstracts based on primary research, or personal or institutional experience. Selected participants will present full papers at the conference. Abstracts should be a maximum of 500 words, and all correspondence will be addressed to the principal author.

Please send abstracts by December 15, 2006 , electronically or by mail:

Yale ISTF Conference
c/o Tropical Resource Institute
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
210 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
Web site: <http://www.yale.edu/istf/>
Email: istf@yale.edu

March 3-4, 2007

2007 Schuylkill Watershed Congress

The 2007 Schuylkill Watershed Congress will be held on **March 3-4, 2007** at the Montgomery County Community College West Campus in Pottstown, PA. The Schuylkill Watershed Congress features a diverse program covering a broad range of watershed topics. The Congress is organized for citizens seeking new information on watershed protection. <http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Detail.aspx?id=730>

March 6, 2007

International Symposium - Tech for Food, The International Exhibition of Agriculture, Paris, France

Description: "Support to land and natural resources management, to the prevention of natural hazards, to training, information and trade: new technologies offer a wide range of opportunities for agricultural development and food security, providing we manage to control their assets and their inadequacies. Therein lies the ambition of Tech For Food: to analyze the initiatives carried out worldwide, to save up knowledge, to explore possibilities, to highlight the pitfalls and obstacles in order to devise ways of overcoming them." (quote from the flyer) The symposium will include presentations and debates on PGIS/P3DM and (conventional) remote sensing. www.techforfood.com

The Symposium is free on registration but the places are limited. The registration will close on **15 February**, so please register now.

March 15, 2007

PA Green Building Conference

The Green Building Alliance is sponsoring the Green\$ense 2007: Smart Way to Build Profits conference on **March 15, 2007** in Pittsburgh. Keynote speaker Susan Eastridge, developer for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's riverfront project, will describe how the biggest downtown housing initiative in city history and its commitment to green building is a smart way to build profits. Breakout sessions will be geared to those new to green building and seasoned professionals. Afternoon tours of Pittsburgh-area green buildings will show green development in action. [http://www.gbapgh.org/Green\\$ense2007.asp](http://www.gbapgh.org/Green$ense2007.asp)

March 19-21, 2007

First International Soil Moisture Sensing Technology Conference; Current and future research directions in soil moisture sensing, Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

This conference will focus on current and future research directions in soil moisture in-situ sensing technology with special emphasis on sensor reliability and measurement scale dependency.

Details in <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/faresa/Conference/>. Abstracts deadline: **January 15, 2007**

NEW DEADLINE: **February 18, 2007**

Participants can come either early or stay late to enjoy the Paradise in MARCH with a cost of room as little as \$69. Space is limited; book your rooms now.

We would appreciate if you could spread the word around about this conference. Also please feel free to contact any of the organizing committee members if you have any question or suggestion or you want to help.

Ali Fares, Associate Professor of Hydrology

Natural Resources & Environmental Management Dept.

University of Hawai'i - Manoa

Ph: 808 956-6361(d) -7530(Sec) Fax:-6539, afares@hawaii.edu, WWW.CTAHR.Hawaii.Edu/Faresa/

"A Nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself", President F.D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)

March 21-23, 2007

Humic Science & Technology Conference X, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA, March 21-23, 2007. Contact Geoffrey Davies and Elham Ghabbour, www.hagroup.neu.edu.

April 5-6, 2007

PA Stormwater Conference

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is planning a 2007 Stormwater Conference on **April 5-6** at the Penn Stater, State College, PA. The conference, rescheduled from February, will build upon DEP's Stormwater BMP Manual Trainings being held throughout Pennsylvania by providing attendees with tools and strategies for implementing the manual's progressive stormwater management concepts into site design and land use planning. <http://www.cbf.org/Confluence2007>

April 15-20, 2007

EGU Vienna 2007, European Geosciences Union's General Assembly 2007, Vienna,

▲ Session on, SOIL EROSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND,

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/>,

Conveners: Artemi Cerdà, Department of Geography, Univ. of Valencia. Spain, artemio.cerda@uv.es, <http://www.uv.es/~acerda/>

John Boardman, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford.

UK, john.boardman@eci.ox.ac.uk, www.eci.ox.ac.uk/staff/jb.htm

Yves le Bissonnais, Laboratoire d'étude des Interactions entre Sols, Agrosystèmes et Hydrosystèmes (LISAH). Montpellier, France, yves.le-bissonnais@ensam.inra.fr, and

Dennis Flanagan, USDA-ARS. National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory West Lafayette, IN, USA, flanagan@purdue.edu

Agriculture lands are worldwide affected by non-sustainable soil and water losses. Intense ploughing, excessive use of herbicides, heavy machinery, climate change, soil organic matter exhaustion and salinization induce the degradation of agriculture land, and result in high erosion rates. Agricultural soils are the most fundamental resource we have due to that (i) adequate food supply, (ii) water and soil resources, (ii) carbon sequestration, (iv) natural vegetation and fauna depend on productive land. Soil erosion by wind and water are threatening the agricultural soils.

The special session on Soil Erosion on Agriculture Land (SEAL) will discuss topics on soil degradation, past and present erosion processes, experimental and laboratory studies, processes and factors, field measurement and quantification, modelling and mapping erosion risk assessment, prediction and soil conservation policies of agricultural land. Papers on soil erosion research on agricultural land are welcome. Pls contact any convener.

▲ Session on ANTS IN THE SOIL SYSTEM: A HYDROLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL APPROACH

Convener: Anita Risch, Head of the Research Group Animal Ecology, Unit Community Ecology, Swiss Federal Research Institute, Department Landscape, Vegetation Dynamics, Zürcherstrasse 111, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland, anita.risch@wsl.ch

Co-conveners: Leena Finér, Finnish Forest, Research Institute, Joensuu, Finland, leena.finer@metla.fi

Martin Jurgensen, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Tech, USA, mfjurg@mtu.edu

Artemi Cerdà, Department of Geography, University of Valencia. Spain, artemio.cerda@uv.es,

Ants are important components of most soil invertebrate communities. Besides their large contribution to biodiversity, they are considered ecosystem engineers that alter the flow of water, energy and nutrients through terrestrial ecosystems. However, despite the importance of these insects for terrestrial ecosystems, relatively little is known on how they influence soil hydrological, chemical and biological processes. In this session, we will review the status of soil/ant relationships and present case-studies on the impact of both mineral and organic mound-building ants on soil processes. We invite contributions on any of these soil-ant topics. If enough interest is shown, we would like to have selected papers published as a special issue in a soil, ecology, or an entomological journal. Pls contact any convener.

April 15-20, 2007

Analysis and Characterization of Black Carbon in the Environment

(Co-listed in Biogeosciences, Atmospheric Sciences, Hydrological Sciences, Ocean Science & Soil Science Systems), EGU General Assembly in Vienna. Call for papers will be open October 2006 until January 15, 2007, deadline for support applications: December 8, 2006.

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/>

Conveners: Michael W. I. Schmidt, mschmidt@geo.unizh.ch and Orjan Gustafsson,

orjan.gustafsson@itm.su.se. (Co-sponsored by Biogeosciences, Atmospheric, Hydrological and Ocean Science, and Soil Science Systems)' which can be found under the Biogeosciences Programme

Black carbon (BC) has received increasing attention due to its importance in a wide range of biogeochemical processes. For example, BC storage in ocean sediments represents a long-term sink in the global carbon cycle, and BC aerosols in the atmosphere affect Earth's radiative heat balance. BC can be a useful tracer for Earth's fire history; it is a significant fraction of the carbon buried in soils and sediments; and it is an important carrier of organic pollutants. EGU meetings are very cross-disciplinary and thus attractive for scientists from diverse backgrounds, including those studying BC. One focus of the BC-meeting is to bring together the broad scientific community studying black carbon in the environment to discuss the latest research. This is the third meeting of this kind after Goldschmidt 1999 and EGU 2005.

A second focus of the meeting is to discuss methodological aspects. Variations in BC chemistry, along a combustion continuum, create serious methodological problems, as every BC measurement method detects a unique window of the BC spectrum. For example, methods which rely on optical microscopes to detect charcoal particles fail to detect sub-micron soot particles, while chemical or thermal methods which rely on the refractory nature of BC fail to detect the partially charred material which can be easily degraded. Effective atmospheric methods, which measure the absorptivity of a sample, cannot be used when BC occurs within an absorptive matrix, like soils or sediments. To address these methodological problems a ring trial was held (2004-6) on 12 BC-containing samples and materials potentially creating artifacts analyzed by 17 labs worldwide from soil, atmospheric, marine and water sciences (<http://www.geo.unizh.ch/phys/bc>). Results, implications and potential spin-off projects stemming from this ring trial will be presented and discussed during the meeting.

April 15-20, 2007

Scales and scaling in surface and subsurface hydrology, Vienna, Austria

Dear Colleague,

May I bring to your attention the session NP3.08 - Scales and scaling in surface and subsurface hydrology (EGU General Assembly 2007), in Vienna, Austria, 15-20 April 2007.

A short-cut link to this session is:

http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/sessions/information.php?p_id=248&s_id=4244

Please note that the deadline for receipt of abstracts is **15 January 2007**.

João de Lima

Meeting/Conference: EGU General Assembly 2007

Session Title: Scales and scaling in surface and subsurface hydrology

Session: NP3.08

Conveners: João de Lima; plima@dec.uc.pt; Allen Hunt; allen.hunt@wright.edu; Witold Krajewski; witold-krajewski@uiowa.edu

Event Description: The issue of scales and nonlinear physical, chemical and biological processes is of fundamental importance in hydrology. The questions of how such processes are organized in space and time across a range of scales, how different processes interact at different scales, and how observations at one scale are related to those at another have profound implications for our ability to predict hydrologic cycle components. Answering these questions, in view of the undergoing environmental changes at all scales, requires concerted theoretical, modeling, and experimental efforts. Such efforts are undertaken by research groups around the world. This session is devoted to reporting research results on all aspects of scales and scaling in both groundwater and surface hydrology,

including hydrometeorology and ecohydrology. Scaling research topics on hydrologic processes on scales ranging from laboratory to hillslope to small (e.g. urban) basins to regions and continents to entire Earth are all appropriate. Contributions of both scientific and engineering aspects of scaling research and applications are welcome. It is Convenors' intention to approach this complex issue in a broad way in order to encompass different scales both in time and space including interactions between nonlinear hydrologic processes at different scales. Posters focusing on a specific scale, either for surface or groundwater processes and their modeling and observations, are also welcome.

Prof. Dr. João Pedroso de Lima
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+351-239-797-123 (Department of Civil Engineering fax)

April 29-May 2, 2007

Join Us at the Conference!

April 29 - May 2, 2007

**Terrigal, New South Wales,
Australia**



Join the International Agrichar Initiative for a conference on Agrichar Science, Production and Utilization, being held in coastal New South Wales, Australia. The International Agrichar Initiative, a program of Renew the Earth, is a new consortium of research and development interests devoted to the sustainability of the world's soils, and to sustainable bioenergy production.

What is the International Agrichar Initiative?

The International Agrichar Initiative is an informal, newly-formed coalition of research, commercial and policy-oriented people and organizations devoted to the sustainability of the world's soils, and to sustainable bio-energy production. Agrichar production and utilization can renew the world's soils through the addition of organic carbon, which can help solve the pressing problem of global climate change. The Agrichar production process also converts agricultural waste into valuable bio-fuels.

History of the Agrichar Initiative

During the 18th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) in July 2006 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a group of scientists, business interests, policy experts and others met to discuss the research priorities and challenges of this important area. The result is the International Agrichar Initiative, a movement to pursue a more organized research, development and commercialization effort to further the promise of Agrichar. For information on the July 2006 meeting in Philadelphia and some current Agrichar-related projects and activities, [click here](#).

What is the 'Agrichar process'?

Agricultural feedstocks such as animal manure, rice hulls, peanut shells, corn stover or forest waste are pyrolyzed at low temperatures to produce a char product ("Agrichar" or "biochar") and separate bio-energy streams, in the form of oils and/or gases. The biochar captures about 50% of the carbon in the feedstock, and can be used as a soil amendment to improve soil fertility, stability, and productivity, and to store carbon in the soils, as a means of mitigating global warming. The use of Agrichar in soils mimics the Terra Preta ("dark earth") soils of the Amazon Basin, which have sequestered high quantities of carbon for thousands of years, and have dramatically improved

soil fertility and sustainability without chemical inputs. The bio-energy produced, which accounts for the other 50% of feedstock carbon, can be used to fuel a variety of energy needs.

For additional information on the 2007 Conference of the International Agrichar Initiative, contact one of the following:

- **Contact in the U.S.:** Debbie Reed, International Agrichar Initiative, dcdebbiereed@yahoo.com Tel: 571-431-6626
- **Contact in Australia:** Adriana Downie, BEST Australia, adriana@biomass.com.au, Tel: +61 2 43404911

Submit an Abstract! The deadline for Abstracts for Oral and Poster Presentations is Wednesday, January 31, 2007. Click below for information on submitting an abstract.

[Instructions for submitting an abstract](#)

May 2007(?)

COMLAND Meeting in Tanzania

Tanzania, May—2007 (Postponed). Organized by Fidelis Kaihura; contact Paul F. Hudson, pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu.

May 3-4, 5-8, 2007

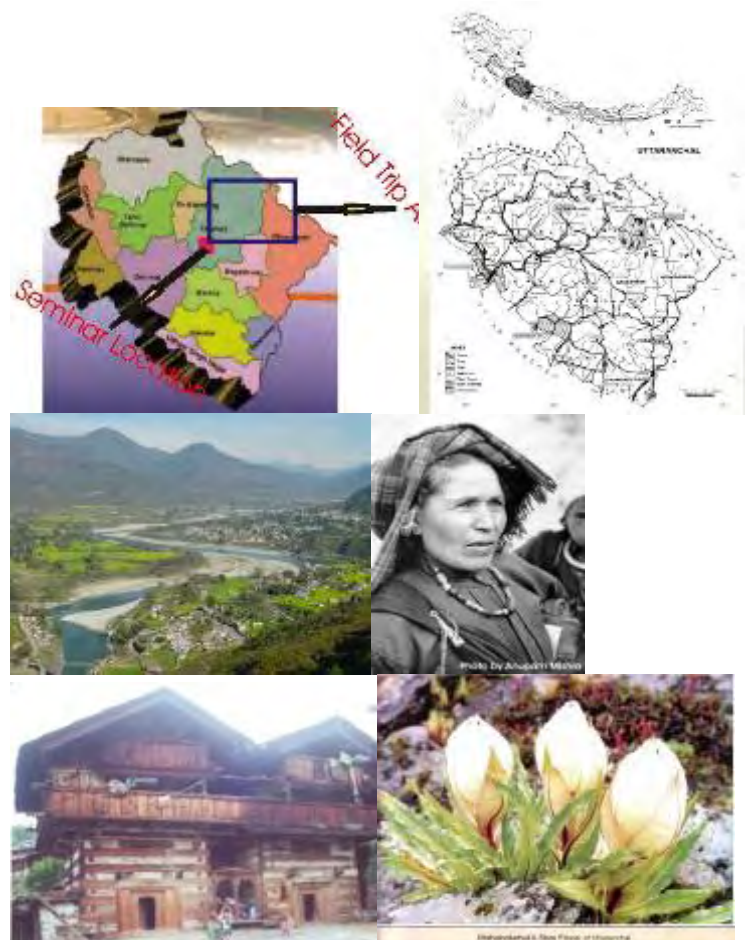
International Geographical Union Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity Seminar on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Srinagar, Uttaranchal, India

International Geographical Union
Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity

**Seminar
On
Biogeography and Biodiversity**

Seminar : May 3 & 4, 2007
Field Trip: May 5 to 8, 2007

Organized and Hosted by:
Department of Geography HNB Garhwal University Campus,
Srinagar (Garhwal) 246174, Uttaranchal, INDIA
and
Daliyon ka Dagriya Research and Development Institute
(The Friends of Tree)
P.O. Box 44, Srinagar (Garhwal) 246174, Uttaranchal, INDIA



About the Seminar:

The IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity organizes fora for presentation and discussion (i) within the IGU structures (Regional Meetings, General Assemblies), (ii) by group meetings

with national geographical bodies, and (iii) to promote biogeographical research and scholarship by geographers within other ICSU organizations, the International Association for Vegetation Science and the International Biogeography Association. Joint meetings with national biogeography groups take place regularly with help of commission's full members. One of the prime objectives of the commission's work is to promote biogeographical teaching, research and scholarship and to contribute to the development of biogeography as an important sub-discipline. Commission meetings address various aspects of spatial, ecological and historical biogeography, and emphasize the societal relevance of biogeography.

In India, biogeography is a thriving sub-discipline. Recently, numerous studies on patterns of biodiversity, implications of global climate change, Yantra' was established on a slab here and Goddess killed the demon at a nearby place Kaliyasaur. Long ago hundreds of tantric adepts especially those belonging to the tradition of Sri Vidya did their practices here. Tantrik practices including human sacrifice prevailed until 8th Century when Adi Shankaracharya displaced this slab and hurled it into the Alaknanda river. This slab remains the most significant shrine in this area lying in the riverbed on the town outskirts. It is regarded as a living Sri Yantra, the most complex of all yantras. Here tantrics propitiated the Divine Mother in the form of Sri Vidya.

The old Srinagar city was destroyed later in the Gohna Lake dam-burst which destroyed all the old relics of the town. Today this town is an important cultural and educational centre in Uttranchal. Baba Gorakhnath Cave, Shankar Math, Jain Mandir, Gurudwara, Kamleshwar Temple, Devalgarh, Khirsu Hill Station and Chauras, Dhari Devi are worth visiting in and around Srinagar (Garhwal). The seminar themes are:

- ⇒ Status of biogeography and biodiversity in developing and developed countries
- ⇒ Biodiversity hot-spots in the Himalaya
- ⇒ Medicinal plants and their potential for livelihood enhancement in the Himalaya
- ⇒ Land use and land cover change impacts on biogeography and biodiversity
- ⇒ Impacts of climate change and natural hazards on biodiversity
- ⇒ Biodiversity conservation, indigenous knowledge and community participation in the Himalaya
- ⇒ Political ecology of resource use conflicts in the Himalaya
- ⇒ Culture and civilization for environmental conservation and human development

Location: Srinagar (Garhwal) is situated in Garhwal Himalaya, approximately 110 km NE of Rishikesh, at the bank of Alaknanda River. During the summer months, temperatures range between 16° and 38° C. In May (pre-monsoon season), weather is usually pleasant. Srinagar was once the capital of Garhwal Kings. Home to H N Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar was the capital of Garhwal before the arrival of British rule. Srinagar received its name from Sri Yantra.

Invitation: Community people, practitioners, technicians, academicians, NGOs, research and other institutions are invited to attend this seminar. The seminar will be a forum for national and international experts on the above subjects. The programme includes talks and discussions followed by deliberations for recommendations. Moreover, poster sessions will be organized during the seminar.

Registration fee for foreigners: Seminar only: US\$150; Field trip (with accommodation & all meals: US\$500.

Contact: Dr R.B. Singh, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, Delhi 110007, India. +91-9412079068, +91-9412922575; Fax: +91-1346252970; rbsgeo@yahoo.com, rbsgeo@hotmail.com. Other contacts: sunesh_geography@yahoo.com, mkparmar04@rediffmail.com, negivs@yahoo.co.in, iguseminar07@yahoo.com, mspgeog@gmail.com, daliyon2002@yahoo.com

May 14-25, 2007

*El texto en español se encuentra después del texto en inglés * Le texte en français suit le texte en espagnol*

Sixth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Special theme: Territories, Lands and Natural Resources

Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Special theme: territories, lands and natural resources.
4. Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals:
 - (a) Economic and social development;
 - (b) Environment;
 - (c) Health;
 - (d) Education;
 - (e) Culture;
 - (f) Human rights;
 - (g) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.
5. Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.
6. Half-day discussion on Asia.
7. Half-day discussion on urban indigenous peoples and migration.
8. Ongoing priorities and themes, and follow-up: Data collection and disaggregation (2004).
9. Future work of the Permanent Forum including emerging issues.
10. Draft agenda for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.
11. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixth session.

Online Pre-Registration for the Sixth Session of UNPFII

Non-Government Organizations who have ECOSOC status ONLY

Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) and Academics who DO NOT HAVE ECOSOC STATUS and who HAVE ATTENDED UNPFII SESSIONS IN THE PAST

All Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) who have NOT ATTENDED THE UNPFII IN THE PAST and are registering for the 6th Session of the UNPFII for the FIRST TIME

All Academics who have NOT ATTENDED THE UNPFII IN THE PAST and are registering for the 6th Session of the UNPFII for the FIRST TIME

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_sixth.html

El sexto período de sesiones

El sexto período de sesiones del Foro Permanente para las Cuestiones Indígenas se realizará del **14 al 25 de Mayo en la sede de la ONU, en Nueva York.**

El tema especial es "Territorios, tierras y recursos naturales".

Programa provisional

1. Elección de la Mesa.
2. Aprobación del programa y organización de los trabajos.
3. Tema especial: territorios, tierras y recursos naturales.
4. Aplicación de recomendaciones sobre los seis ámbitos del mandato del Foro Permanente y sobre los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio:
 - a) Desarrollo económico y social;
 - b) Medio ambiente;
 - c) Salud;
 - d) Educación;
 - e) Cultura;
 - f) Derechos humanos;
 - g) Segundo Decenio Internacional de los Pueblos Indígenas del Mundo.

Documentación

Nota de la Secretaría y otros documentos presentados por el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, los gobiernos y las organizaciones de pueblos indígenas

5. Derechos humanos: diálogo con el Relator Especial sobre la situación de los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales de los pueblos indígenas.
6. Debate de medio día de duración sobre Asia.
7. Debate de medio día de duración sobre los pueblos indígenas urbanos y la migración.
8. Prioridades y temas actuales y seguimiento: Reunión y desglose de datos (2004).

Documentación

Nota de la Secretaría y otros documentos presentados por el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, los gobiernos y las organizaciones de pueblos indígenas

9. Futura labor del Foro Permanente, incluidas nuevas cuestiones.

Documentación

Nota de la Secretaría y otros documentos presentados por el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, los gobiernos y las organizaciones de pueblos indígenas

10. Proyecto de programa del séptimo período de sesiones del Foro Permanente.
11. Aprobación del informe del Foro Permanente sobre su sexto período de sesiones.

Pre-acreditación

SOLO para ONGs que cuentan con el estatus consultivo ante el ECOSOC

Las Organizaciones de los Pueblos Indígenas (OPI) e Instituciones Académicas que NO POSEEN ESTATUS CONSULTIVO ANTE EL ECOSOC y que HAYAN PARTICIPADO ANTES EN LAS SESIONES DEL FORO PERMANENTE

Todas las Organizaciones de los Pueblos Indígenas (OPI) que NO HAYAN PARTICIPADO ANTES EN LAS SESIONES DEL FORO PERMANENTE y desean preregistrar para el Sexto Periodo de Sesiones del Foro Permanente por PRIMERA VEZ

Todas las Instituciones Académicas que NO HAYAN PARTICIPADO ANTES EN LAS SESIONES DEL FORO PERMANENTE y desean preregistrar para el Sexto Periodo de Sesiones del Foro Permanente por PRIMERA VEZ

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/es/session_sixth.html

La sixième session de l'Instance permanente des Nations unies sur les questions autochtones

Le thème spécial: Territoires, Terres et Ressources naturelles

Du 14 au 25 Mai, 2007

En décembre 2006, le Conseil économique et social a décidé que la sixième session de l'Instance aura lieu du 14 au 25 mai 2007 à New York. L'ordre du jour provisoire ci-dessous se trouve aussi dans le rapport de la cinquième session.

L'ordre du jour provisoire et la documentation de la sixième session de l'Instance permanente sur les questions autochtones :

1. Élection du Bureau. 2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation des travaux.
3. Thème spécial : territoires, terres et ressources naturelles.
4. Mise en œuvre des recommandations concernant les six domaines d'activité de l'Instance permanente et les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement :
 - a) Développement économique et social;
 - b) Environnement;
 - c) Santé;
 - d) Éducation;
 - e) Culture;
 - f) Droits de l'homme;
 - g) Deuxième Décennie internationale des peuples autochtones.

Préinscription directe sur la ligne pour la Sixième session

Les organisations non gouvernementales ayant le statut consultatif de l'ECOSOC

Les organisations autochtones et les académiques n'ayant pas le statut consultatif de l'ECOSOC mais ayant participé aux sessions précédentes de l'Instance

Toutes organisations autochtones n'ayant jamais participé à aucune des sessions précédentes de l'Instance mais demandent l'inscription pour la Sixième session de l'Instance pour la première fois. Tout académique qui n'ayant jamais participé à aucune des sessions précédentes de l'Instance mais demandent l'inscription pour la Sixième session de l'Instance pour la première fois.

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/fr/session_sixth.html

May 22-25, 2007

1st International Biodiversity Congress: Working Together for Livelihood Security, Food Security and Ecological Security for Life on Earth, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: Ram Bhandari, hirinepal@mail.com.np, ibc2007@yahoo.com

May 22-27, 2007



The world is experiencing rapid urbanization, industrialization and globalization. The pace, depth, and magnitude of these changes, have exerted severe ecological stresses on humankind living conditions and life support ecosystems across all scales - from local to regional, and global scales. Water shortages, desertification, soil degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, elevated sediment and nutrient fluxes to the coastal seas and other environmental problems are increasingly becoming the common side effects of those human activities. Sustainability can only be assured with an ecological understanding of the complex interactions between environmental, economic, political, and social/cultural factors and with careful planning and management grounded in ecological principles. Ecological complexity and sustainability are becoming a core concept and instrument for improving our common future.



This Eco Summit will focus on integrative aspects of all ecological science and its application under the general theme of "Ecological Complexity and Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities for 21st-Century's Ecology". The aim of this Eco Summit is to encourage a greater integration of both the natural and social sciences with the policy and decision-making community to develop a better understanding of the complex nature of ecological systems. This understanding will provide the basis for sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

We expect this meeting to attract the broadest representations of ecological organizations, ecologists and practitioners on ecological sustainability issues from all over the world. We intend to show the unification and determination of our ecological community as a whole to maximize our commitment to use ecological knowledge and understanding to meet the challenges raised from the Earth Summit (1992), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), and the United Nations 2005 Millennium Review Summit.



Our scientific program will feature: plenary sessions, symposia, contributed oral and poster sessions, and special evening sessions. A variety of scientific field trips will also be planned.

We will have 14 world known plenary speakers and more than 10 Elsevier ecology journals plan to publish special issues from this conference. The language of the conference is English.

Visit the Eco Summit website at www.ecosummit2007.elsevier.com to learn more about the conference, find out about the key deadlines on submitting symposium and session proposals as well as abstracts for oral and poster presentations and sign up for Eco Summit Alerts. Abstract deadline: **January 15, 2007.**

May 24-26, 2007

International Conference on Zinc Crops 2007: Improving Crop Production and Human Health, Istanbul, Turkey.

Co-organized by the International Zinc Association (IZA) and International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), in cooperation with the Sabanci University and HarvestPlus (the Challenge Program on Food Fortification of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research). Contact: Prof. Ismail Cakmak, Sabanci University (Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences), 349 56 Tuzla, Turkey. Phone: 90-216-4839524, Fax: 90-216-4839550, cakmak@sabanciuniv.edu. Regular updates on **Zinc Crops 2007** will be posted on: www.zncrops2007.info.

June 11-15, 2007

Second Conference: Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development. www.sharingindigenouswisdom.org

Abstract/Proposal Deadline: **12/1/2006**

Venue: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Green Bay, WI, U.S.A.

The second conference is being hosted by College of Menominee Nation's Sustainable Development Institute to foster dialogue on traditional indigenous knowledge being utilized and incorporated as models and methods of sustainable practices. Traditional or Indigenous Knowledge refers to the wisdom, embodied in indigenous communities or groups, being utilized to preserve and protect resources vital to the continuity of indigenous communities or groups. This year the conference will focus on Natural Environment foundational element of the Menominee model of sustainable development.

In collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and the International Union of Forest Research Organization's Task Force on traditional forest knowledge, papers or presentations are invited for the following topics, consistent with the focus on Natural Environment:

- History of the relationship of formal forest science and traditional knowledge in forest management
- Application of traditional knowledge in forest ecosystem assessments and management
- Indigenous community priorities for forest research and collaborative forest management
- Case studies on joint initiatives and utilization of traditional and formal scientific knowledge in forest management activities
- Development of good practices for including both traditional knowledge and formal science in forestry education, research and forest management activities

If you wish to present a paper, give a poster presentation, or organize a workshop session, send your proposal, abstract or description, maximum 500 words single spaced, no later than December 1, 2006 to: Dale Kakkak, Sustainable Development Institute, College of Menominee Nation, P.O. Box 1179, Keshena, WI 54135, U.S.A. Or send by e-mail to dkakkak@menominee.edu

Acceptance letters will be mailed no later than January 31, 2007. Priority will be given to papers or presentations done jointly between indigenous community members or practitioners and researchers. For more information about the call for papers visit our website: www.sharingindigenouwisdom.org

** Deadline for submissions of abstracts or proposals - December 1, 2006

** Notification of acceptance - January 31, 2007

** Final Papers/Presentations Due - April 30, 2007

Registration fee: US\$300; Student rate: US\$150; early registration through April 1, 2007. After that time, the registration fee will be US\$375. Conference registration includes scheduled meals/breaks and materials. Individuals are responsible for their own travel and lodging reservations and expenses.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay 2040, Airport Drive Green Bay, WI 54313, U.S.A.
Phone: +1-(920) 494-7300; Fax: (920) 494-9599; www.radisson.com/greenbaywi

For more information contact: Dale Kakkak, dkakkak@menominee.edu and/ or Nathan Fregien, nfregien@menominee.edu. www.SustainableDevelopmentInstitute.org

June 11-15, 2007

The 10th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis will be held in Budapest, Hungary,. For further information, please visit: <http://www.spcouncil.com/symposium.htm>. Contact Yash Kalra at YKalra@NRCan.gc.ca

June 13-17, 2007

5th International Water History Association Conference, "Past and Futures of Water", Tampere, Finland

The International Water History Association (IWhA) will hold its fifth biennial conference in Tampere, Finland, in June 2007. The conference program addresses diverse topics related to water history and futures, and will provide an excellent opportunity for scholars and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and different parts of the world to meet and discuss the many fascinating aspects of water history. Major themes are: Water and the city; Water, health and sanitation; Water, food and economy; Water history research methodologies; and Water history and its relevance. Other relevant session topics are welcome. The first Call for Sessions and papers by 15 Oct is now out. For more information please visit: [5th IWhA Conference Web site](#), or download: [First Call for Sessions and Papers](#). You may also contact: iwha2007@tavicon.fi.

June 25-30, 2007



5th International Congress of ESSC of the EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

Changing Soils in a Changing World: the Soils of Tomorrow

June, 25 -30 2007 Palermo, Italy

Third Announcement

BACKGROUND

Soil is the thin layer of the Earth that fulfils fundamental functions in terms of life in general and particularly in terms of need and well being of human societies. More and more demands are being imposed upon the soil by different human activities. These activities are growing and competing with each other, without taking account of the diversity of soils, of their function and of their potentials. As a consequence soils are degraded in different ways depending on their vulnerability.

The second half of the twentieth century was particularly disastrous: erosion, urbanisation, landslide and flooding, local and diffuse contamination, salinization, entisolization, were the main problems linked to an unbalanced ratio Man/Soil. In both the western and the eastern countries of Europe, the headlong rush into agricultural, industrial and urban development wreaked destruction upon soils and their functions. Little has been done in reality to mitigate soil degradation and to improve the condition of soil already heavily degraded. This is largely due to ignorance, in all spheres of society, of what the soil really is and of why it is necessary to preserve its functions. Such ignorance has its roots in the absence of any soil awareness.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the 5th ESSC International Congress is to promote exchange and discussion about the problems that affect the soils due to the pressure of Man on Soils and Landscape that year after year is becoming more and more evident and to stimulate the soil awareness in the civil society. The Congress is open for soil scientists, educators, policymakers. It will consist of invited lectures, scientific sessions with oral and poster presentations and scientific and cultural excursions.

DEADLINES

| | |
|---|--|
| January, 31 2007 | Deadline for abstract submission |
| February, 28 2007 | Deadline for registration at reduced fee |
| March 31 2007 | Notice of acceptance of abstracts |
| April, 30 2007 | Last announcement and final program |
| <p>For registration and abstract submission, please refer to website: www.esscpalermocongress.it</p> <p>The Organizing Committee will take into account the possibility of publishing the congress proceeding in a volume printed by CATENA VERLAG. All participants are kindly requested to submit their papers/presentation, in compliance with the instructions indicate on web site.</p> | |

TOPICS AND INVITED SPEAKERS

| | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Lectio Magistralis | Ahmet MERMUT | Saskatchewan | Canada |
| Topic 1: Soils and Society | Victor TARGULIAN | Moscow | Russia |
| Topic 2: Soil Erosion | Eric ROOSE | Montpellier | France |
| Topic 3: Soil Organic Matter | Nicola SENESI | Bari | Italy |
| Topic 4: Soil Degradation and Desertification | Marcello PAGLIAI | Florence | Italy |
| Topic 5: Soil Pollution and Contamination | Steve McGRATH | Rothamsted | United Kingdom |
| Topic 6: Soil Conservation and Soil Quality | Lars BERGSTRÖM, | Uppsala | Sweden |
| Topic 7: Policies for Environmental Conservation in a Global Society | Winfried BLUM | Wien | Austria |
| Topic 8: New Approaches and Technologies for Soil Assessment | Paolo SEQUI | Rome | Italy |

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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|---|
| <p>Carmelo Dazzi, Vito Ferro, Vincenzo Bagarello, Salvatore Monteleone, Ignazio Poma, Edoardo Costantini, Lucio Gristina, Giuseppe Lo Papa</p> <p>Università di Palermo Viale delle Scienze, 90128 Palermo, Italy Tel: +39 0916650247; fax: +39 0916650229</p> |
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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

25th June, Monday

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Morning: | Arrival of participants and registration |
| 16:00–18:00 | ESSC Council Meeting |
| 18:00–19:00 | Opening ceremony |
| 19:00–20:00 | Lectio Magistralis |
| 20:00 | Welcome party |

26th June, Tuesday (Topic 1 & 2)

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 08:30 – 13:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 – 09:45 | Opening lecture |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Coffee-break |
| 10:00 – 12:30 | Thematic session (Topic 1) |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Opening lecture |
| 15:15 – 17:45 | Thematic session (Topic 2) |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Coffee-break |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | Poster sessions (Topic 1 & 2) |

27th June, Wednesday (Topic 3 & 4)

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:45 | Opening lecture |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Coffee-break |
| 10:00 – 12:30 | Thematic session (Topic 3) |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Opening lecture |
| 15:15 – 17:45 | Thematic session (Topic 4) |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Coffee-break |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | Poster sessions (Topic 3 & 4) |
| 19:00 – 20:00 | ESSC General Assembly |

28th June, Thursday (Topic 5 & 6)

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:45 | Opening lecture |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Coffee-break |
| 10:00 – 12:30 | Thematic session (Topic 5) |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Opening lecture |
| 15:15 – 17:45 | Thematic session (Topic 6) |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Coffee-break |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | Poster sessions (Topic 5 & 6) |
| 21:00 | Congress dinner |

29th June, Friday (Topic 7 & 8)

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:45 | Opening lecture (invited speaker) |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Coffee-break |
| 10:00 – 12:30 | Thematic session (Topic 7) |

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Opening lecture (invited speaker) |
| 15:15 – 17:45 | Thematic session (Topic 8) |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Coffee-break |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | Poster sessions (Topic 7 & 8) |
| 19:00 – 19:30 | Conclusions of the Congress |

30th June, Saturday

07:30 – 19:45 One day scientific and cultural excursion
(2 choices)

1st choice scientific and cultural excursion to Sparacia farm and Temple
valley of Agrigento;

2nd choice scientific and cultural excursion to Belice area and Selinunte
archaeological area;

SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCURSION

1st option

SPARACIA FARM AND TEMPLE VALLEY IN AGRIGENTO

Cultural and pedo-agronomical aspects of the Mediterranean environment. Vertic soils of the Mediterranean environment. Experimental installations for measuring soil water erosion at microplot, plot and basin scale in a hilly Sicilian area.

The trip goes on to Agrigento with the visit of the TEMPLES VALLEY, where there is one of the best preserved Greek archaeological zones in the world. An English speaking guide will show the Concordia, Venus, Zeus and Hercules temples. At the end of the visit return to Palermo

2nd option

BELICE AREA AND SELINUNTE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Cultural and pedo-agronomical aspects of the Mediterranean environment. Problems of land management due to land managers wrong decisions. Environmental problems due to soil consumption. The trip goes on with the visit of the important ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF SELINUNTE. It consists of various temples, set in a semi-deserted zone, since the old town is not inhabited nowadays. There are the remains of the old city, destroyed by an earthquake in the antiquity. At the end of the visit return to Palermo

WEBSITE: www.esscpalermocongress.it

July 2-5, 2007

European Federation of IT in Agriculture 2007 Conference, EFITA/WCCA 2007,

„Environmental and rural sustainability through ICT“, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK, www.efitaglasgow.org

CALL FOR PAPERS: Sustainability is a word that is used in many contexts, and increasingly so when rural and agricultural issues are under discussion. It is a concept that suggests that the continuity of economic, social, and institutional aspects of our society, as well as the non-human environment, is far from assured, and that careful thought and management is needed to sustain them.

The EFITA/WCCA 2007 conference will examine the role and use of information and communication technologies in three key areas of rural and agricultural sustainability:

*** ICT SUPPORTING ON-FARM BUSINESS ***

What does rural industry want/need from an ICT system to help it maintain itself, meet targets, meet legislative requirements and secure competitive edge?

Theme co-ordinator: Prof **Gerhard Schiefer**, University of Bonn

Papers under this topic heading include, but are not limited to:

- Farm management systems
- Decision support tools
- Aquatic Resource Management
- Dairy and Animal Production Systems
- e-AgBusiness and Production Chain Management
- Field Data Acquisition and Recording
- Food Safety Control/Tracking-Tracing
- GIS and Precision Agriculture
- Grid Applications
- Information Systems and Databases
- Instrumentation and Control
- Portal / Internet Services
- Wireless and Sensor Networks
- e-collaboration/e-communities

*** ICT SUPPORTING RURAL SUSTAINABILITY ***

Can ICT support rural sustainability? What is the evidence that it can help?

What have we learned from recent implementations and what new technologies are on the way that may take us further?

Theme co-ordinator: **Dr Sarah Skerratt**, Scottish Agricultural College

Papers under this topic heading include, but are not limited to:

- Broadband applications for rural communities
- SMEs and digital communication
- The emergence of the rural e-citizen
- Education/Training and Distance Learning/Professional Accreditation
- Rural youth and ICTs
- Internet supported communities
- Rural living labs
- ICTs role in capacity-building and social capital development in rural communities?
- Cultural evaluation of ICTs in rural development
- Transferability of ³solutions² across territories and countries

*** ICT SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ***

Can ICT support the achievement and maintenance of environmental sustainability in the rural and agricultural sectors? How can ICT be used to support the development of environmental policies and how can it help farmers and agronomists and other end users to deliver them?

Theme co-ordinator: **Andy Offer**, ADAS

Papers under this topic heading include, but are not limited to:

- Predicting the effect of policy changes
- Answering policy maker's questions
- Spatial analysis, GIS and datasets
- Design and evaluation of mitigation measures
- Modelling ecological consequences of land management practice
- Mitigating and adapting to multiple stressors
- Environmental monitoring systems

- Using ICT to deliver the policy objectives
- Increasing uptake/understanding of legislation
- Tracking uptake of schemes and policies
- e-Government
- Environmental knowledge transfer using ICT
- DSS for farmers and consultants

You are invited to submit an extended abstract for one of these themes by Nov. 1, 2006. Instructions for authors, and other information about the conference, can be found on our website www.efitaglasgow.org.

July 2-6, 2007



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|---------------------------------|
| Invitation from Chair |
| Committees & Congress Organiser |
| Event Format |
| Location & Venue |
| Programme |
| Theme & Sessions |
| Papers/Authors/Proceedings |
| Technical Tours |
| Exhibition & Floorplan |
| Social Functions |
| Registration |
| Accommodation |
| Social Tours |
| Day Tours |
| Airport Transfers |
| General Information |
| Partners & Sponsors |

Invitation From Chair



On behalf of the WEEC 2007 Committee and the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa, I invite you to join us in Durban, South Africa, for an exciting and innovative congress.

This is the first time that the World Environmental Education Congress comes to Africa, and it comes at a time when there are calls for revisiting our teaching and learning beyond the classroom. As researchers, practitioners and policy makers we need to ensure that we contribute to the values and goals of sustainability as found in the UN Decade of Education for

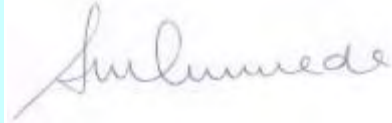
Sustainable Development, the UN Development Millennium Goals; Education for All and many other international directives.

In this world of dynamic social, economic and environmental influences, the challenge that faces all practitioners in all spheres of development and governance is not only what to teach but also how to effect learning. We trust that the Congress theme **LEARNING IN A CHANGING WORLD**, opens the opportunity for critical reflection on the role of education - practice and theory - in effecting these international goals for a better future for all! The World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat aims to launch the World Environmental Education Association during the Congress.

An exciting 2007 Congress programme includes not only the daily keynote papers, research-based papers, poster presentations, workshops and round tables, social marketing of programmes in a market place (exhibitions and soap boxes), but also a number of exciting cultural events and scientific tours. The Congress also opens opportunity for optional pre and post tours for delegates and accompanying persons to explore the rich natural and cultural heritage of Southern Africa.

We are determined to create rich opportunities for **LEARNING** from each other, and to enable **CULTURAL EXCHANGE** to strengthen education for sustainability, theory, practice and new ways of living together.

I invite you to Shosholozza all the way to Msawawa (Southern Africa) to experience it for yourself.



Ms Mumsie Gumede
Chairperson WEEC 2007

<http://www.weec2007.com/index.php>

Contact: nina@confco.co.za / carol@confco.co.za

July 2-13, 2007

The IAHS Workshop on Impact of Environmental Change on Sediment Sources and Sediment Delivery, Perugia, Italy

There is increasing concern for the potential impact of environmental change, including both climate change and land use change, on sediment fluxes in catchments and river basins. Increased sediment loads and concentrations can result in significant environmental problems associated with sedimentation in river channels, reservoirs, canals and related hydraulic structures, increased water treatment costs and degradation of water quality and aquatic habitats. Such impacts relate to both the physical presence of the sediment and its biogeochemical impact. Any attempt to develop an improved understanding of the potential impact of climate and land use change on sediment fluxes must consider their interaction with both sediment sources and sediment delivery mechanisms. Sediment source exerts a key influence on the sensitivity of mobilization and delivery processes to environmental change and on the biogeochemical properties of sediment (e.g. nutrient and contaminant content). Similarly, small changes in catchment hydrology could generate important changes in sediment delivery dynamics, which increase slope-channel connectivity and greatly increase the proportion of the sediment mobilized from the catchment surface that reaches the channel network. The workshop will review the existing understanding of sediment sources and sediment delivery in catchments and river basins and their likely sensitivity to the impacts of environmental change.

Deadline for receiving abstracts is January 31, 2007. All abstracts should be submitted electronically through the General Assembly Website <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/>.

Convenor: Des Walling, University of Exeter, School of Geography and Archaeology, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ, UK. Tel: +44 1392 263345 ; Fax: +44 1392 263342,
d.e.walling@exeter.ac.uk

Contact: Dirk de Boer, ICCE Secretary, Centre for Hydrology, Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan, 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5A5 Canada. Phone: +1 306 966 5671; Fax: +1 306 966 5680; dirk.deboer@usask.ca

July 12-15, 2007

3rd International Conference on Social and Organizational Informatics and Cybernetics: SOIC 2007
Orlando, Florida, USA

As a response to the many requests we have received, the Organizing Committee of The 3rd International Conference on Social and Organizational Informatics and Cybernetics: SOIC 2007 has decided to extend the deadline for papers/abstracts submissions, as well as for Invited Sessions proposals.

Deadlines: Abstract/paper draft submissions and Invited Session Proposals: February 22, 2007

Authors Notification: March 29, 2007; Camera ready, full papers: April 19, 2007

The registration fee of effective invited sessions organizers will be waived and they will receive at the registration desk, for free, a package of 4 DVDs and one CD containing the 6-hour tutorial "Fundamentals and History of Cybernetics: Development of the Theory of Complex Adaptive Systems". The market price of this package is US \$ 295. Twelve more benefits for invited session organizers are listed at SOIC 2007 web page.

For submissions or Invited Sessions Proposals, please go to the web site: <http://www.cyber-inf.org/soic2007>

Authors of the best 10%-20% of the papers presented at the conference will be invited to adapt their papers for their publication in the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics.

SOIC 2007 Secretariat, Torre Profesional La California, Av. Francisco de Miranda, Caracas, Venezuela
soic2007@cyber-inf.org

July 16-19, 2007

I invite you to participate in the **international Symposium on Organic Matter Dynamics in Agro-Ecosystem** which will be organized on July 16-19 2007 in Poitiers, France. Acquiring knowledge about soil organic matter is essential for sustainable use and conservation of resources, for which climate change and increasing demands for bio-energy become crucial global challenges. As you will see, the symposium programme will feature a variety of panel discussions and keynote addresses touching on a range of issues concerning soil organic matter research in this system.

Detailed information regarding the symposium (sessions, invited speakers preliminary schedules) and other practical information can be found on the symposium website:
http://www.inra.fr/Symposium_OMD_2007

I kindly invite you to register and submit your extended abstract right now.

See you in Poitiers in July 2007.

Abad Chabbi abad.chabbi@lusignan.inra.fr

Dr. Abad Chabbi

Coordonnateur Nationale du l'Observatoire de Recherche en Environnement- Prairies Cycle
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Tel. +33 (0) 5 49 55 61 78, +33 (0) 5 49 55 60 24 (secrétariat)

Mobil: +33 (0) 6 82 80 02 85

Fax +33 (0) 5 49 55 60 66

Email: Abad.Chabbi@lusignan.inra.fr, <http://pcbb.ore.fr/>

July 21-25, 2007

International Conference of SWCS for 2007

Don't miss next year's conference, already in the works, at the Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Florida. See details in http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_annual_conference/
Contact: Suzi Case, Administrative Assistant, suzi.case@swcs.org, phone: 515-289-2331, www.swcs.org

July 22 to 26, 2007

Conference on Coastal Zone 2007, Portland, Oregon, www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/

July 30-August 4, 2007

I am organizing a session: HS01- Climate Change Dynamics and Hydrology: Vulnerability and Adaptation, together with Prof. Charles Vorosmarty (Univ. of New Hampshire, USA) during **Asia-Oceania Geoscience Society 2007 4th Annual Conference** at Bangkok, Please do participate and submit paper.

Deadline is **February 15, 2007**. Please see enclosed file for full details. As AOGS is a newly established society, they do not have fund to support participants. They have registration fee waiver programme. Please also circulate among your known colleagues.

R.B. Singh, Department of Geography, Delhi school of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007, India. Phone: Office: 91-11-27666783; Residence: 91-11-27553850, Fax: 91-11-27667336
rbsgeo@hotmail.com, rbsgeo1@yahoo.com

August 28-31, 2007

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Annual International Conference 2007: 'Sustainability and Quality of Life', 28th to 31st August 2007, London, UK. Paper session sponsored by the Political Geography Research Group.

Convenors: Daniel Hammett (University of Edinburgh), Libby Porter (University of Sheffield)

Abstract: The International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, seeking the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights, ended in 2004.

Yet, overt and covert abuses of these rights continue. Indigenous peoples often find themselves marginalised in the political and social structures of states, dispossessed of land and access to resources. Globalisation and the spread of transnational corporations bring capital and industry into conflict with Indigenous groups. In many states, such as Botswana, Namibia, Australia and Brazil, conflicts persist over access to land, mineral wealth, natural resource management, as well as broader rights questions. Yet Indigenous people continue to struggle for their rights, and those stories of struggle (and the gains won) are equally crucial to our understanding of contemporary expressions and conflicts concerning Indigenous rights. Identity, politics, space and place are vital to the assertion, and denial, of Indigenous rights.

We invite papers concerning such themes, from all continents, to engage in a dialogue about the contemporary Indigenous rights issues.

Papers are particularly welcome on the following themes:

- Indigenous peoples and land-rights,
- Resource access and conflict - mineral extraction, access to water, land management
- Political rights and social justice,
- The exploitation of knowledge and natural resources.
- Policy and governance in the Indigenous domain

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to D.Hammett@ed.ac.uk and E.J.Porter@sheffield.ac.uk by 31st January 2007.

September 1-5, 2007

Global Forum on Soils, Society & Global Change

The Icelandic Soil Conservation Service is organizing a Global Forum to highlight the crucial role of soil conservation and land restoration in addressing key environmental and socio-economic challenges for a sustainable future. Most particularly, it marks the celebration by Iceland of a century of organized soil conservation and land restoration operation in 2007 - one of the longest standing in the world. The Forum is organized in partnership with several universities and international agencies, including the United Nations University (UNU) and Ohio State University (OSU), and Icelandic bodies. It is to be hosted by the Icelandic Government under the patronage of the President of Iceland, His Excellency Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.

Land degradation, manifesting in the form of soil erosion and desertification is a global problem of major proportions. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment ranks land degradation as among the world's greatest environmental challenges, affecting climate and biological diversity, reducing environmental security, destabilizing societies, worsening food security, and increasing poverty. The Forum highlights innovative thinking to collectively tackle the inter-related facets of these problems through sustainable land management.

The Forum will emphasize the synergistic role of sustainable soil management in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, it will also explore interlinkages in successful implementation of the UN conventions focusing on climate change, combating desertification and biological diversity.

The Forum will bring together a group of key stakeholders from around the world, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines. The aim is to use the meeting as a venue for cross-fertilization of ideas in order to fashion a new global consensus on the above-mentioned crucial linkages and develop a common strategy as well as action plans to help achieve sustainable land management during the 21st century.

The main emphasis of the Forum will be on discussions and dialogue; this will be supported through selected seminar presentations. Field excursions will demonstrate the century-long Icelandic expertise and experience, which potentially has a great value to other nations facing similar challenges. The Forum will conclude with a special centennial commemoration event hosted by the President of Iceland.

For more information please contact the forum organizers at globalforum@land.is.

September 10-14, 2007

The Fourth International Conference on Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation: Mechanics, Prediction, and Assessment, International Convention Center, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Organized by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, China

The first three International Conferences on Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation were held in 1997 at San Francisco, in 2000 at Taipei, and in 2003 at Davos. Chengdu, China was selected as the venue of the Fourth International Conference on the same themes. China has suffered heavily from debris-flow hazards in about 1,000 counties and cities. Among the most serious recent debris-flow disasters is one that killed 57 people and was triggered by a torrential storm in Yunnan Province in July 2004. In China, efforts have been increasingly made to describe and understand debris-flow processes, thus enabling development of methodologies for debris-flow hazards prediction and assessment. For example, the pre-conference field trip will examine engineering structures that have been installed to counter debris-flow hazards behind one of the World Natural Heritage sites in Jiuzhaigou Valley. The post-conference field trip will visit the Dongchuan Debris Flow Observation and Research Station (DDFORS) in Jiangjiagou Valley (Yunnan Province), which was established by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), to enhance the understanding of debris-flow mechanics and foster the development of cost-effective countermeasures. The DDFORS has observed, measured, and monitored debris flows for more than 40 years. On the post-conference field trip, visitors

will gain an insight into every stage of the debris-flow process. The likelihood to witness a debris flow during the post-conference field trip is high, for more than 10 debris flows occur annually in Jiangjiagou Valley during the rainy season.

Pre- and Post-Conference excursions will be organized.

Full information, including online contact and registration, is available in <http://4thdfhm.imde.ac.cn>.

Or contact: Dr. Peng Cui, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. Box 417, Chengdu, Sichuan 610041, China. Phone: +86-28-85214421; Fax: +86-28-85222258, dfhm@imde.ac.cn

September 10-17, 2007

International Workshop on **Environmental Changes and Sustainable Development in Arid and Semi-arid Regions**, Alashan Left Banner - Long Xin Hotel - Inner Mongolia, China

Co-organizers and Co-sponsors:

- COMLAND (Commission on land degradation and desertification, International Geographical Union)
- IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists, Working group on interactions between aeolian, fluvial and lacustrine processes)
- IGCP 500
- INQUA (Project number: INQUA 0503)
- GSC (Geographical Society of China)
- National Natural Sciences Foundation of China
- PAGES

Local Organizer: Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing

Language of the workshop: English

Introduction: The workshop will start on September 10 (registration and a reception in the evening). Paper sessions (normal oral presentation for 15 to 20 minutes, keynote 30 to 40 minutes and posters) are planned for the following three full days including a half day field trip to see rural places around the conference venue. Participants will see irrigation fields facing land degradation, the life of rural people, rehabilitated vegetation against desertification and a field with small sand dunes. The paper sessions will include oral and poster presentations, and there will be evening lectures.

An optional pre-conference field trip (maximum participants 35): Highlights of the trip will be the reactivation of the stable dunes and rehabilitation measurements (mainly by vegetation) north of Beijing. Meeting point in Beijing and we shall travel northwards to Hunshandake Sandy Land by bus for three days, starting in the morning of September 7 and returning via the hilly landscape around the Great Wall to Beijing in the afternoon of September 9. This is also the area where considerable effort has been made to reduce soil erosion and deflation as well as to reduce the threat of dust storms in northern China. Xiaoping Yang, having done a little research here, will look forward to leading this trip.

An optional post-conference field trip (maximum participants 30): Highlights of the trip will be the megadunes and lakes in the Badain Jaran Desert. The field trip will start on September 14 by bus from Left Banner and then by jeep in the sandy areas. Participants will see high sand dunes (often ca 300 m, maximum 460 m in this sand sea) and permanent lakes in the inter-dune basins. Palaeo-shorelines are distributed around the lakes, illustrating late Quaternary climatic changes. The forms of the dunes are quite diversified and were probably created due to a) different formations related to climatic changes and b) basement rocks. In the last two years the sand sea has been visited by an increased number of tourists. Therefore, the jeep drivers are well experienced to drive in the dune areas (it is really exciting and quite safe). We shall stay two nights in tents in the field and stay in a nice hotel in the Right Banner (Ekenhuduge) when returning from the dune fields. We shall travel back to the Left Banner on

September 17 (ca 500 km, good road). Along the road between left and right banners we shall visit places where a lot of effort has been practised to plant grasses and trees in the arid environment. Xiaoping Yang, having worked in this area since 1988, will look forward to leading this trip.

Alternative trips: It is possible to participate in normally comfortable (and sometimes less expensive) sightseeing tours offered by various domestic and overseas tourist agencies. Tourist agencies organize trips ranging one day to more than two weeks around China, also from Yinchuan. The conference city is relatively close to Xi'an, one of the most famous places for tourists, largely because of the terracotta soldiers buried ca 2000 years ago.

THEMES

- Case studies and theories relating to land degradation and sustainable development in arid and semi-arid as well as sub-humid regions of various continents;
- Comparisons of regional-scale reconstruction of Late Quaternary changes in the deserts of various climate zones (monsoon regions, subtropics and westerlies);
- Natural and human impacts on the landscape in various climate zones;
- Interactions amongst aeolian, fluvial and lacustrine processes in desert margins.

Registration fee: US\$600; see more details in <http://www.iggcas.ac.cn/iw07/index.htm>

Deadlines: Early bird payment (US\$500) up to April 1, 2007

Final payment for regular registration: August 10, 2007

Receipt of abstracts: June 1, 2007

Receipt of full papers for consideration in the special issues of the international journals (see conference publications below): at the workshop.

Contact persons: - **Xiaoping YANG**, Steering Committee member, COMLAND and local organiser of the Workshop (E-mail: xpyang@263.net.cn; xpyang@mail.igcas.ac.cn). Phone: +86 (0)10 62008389. Fax: +86 (0)10 62032495. Postal address: Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. P.O. Box 9825, Beijing 100029, P.R. China)

- **Guðrún Gísladóttir**, Chair, COMLAND (ggisla@hi.is). Department of Geology and Geography, University of Iceland, Askja, Sturlugata 7, IS 101 Reykjavík, Iceland)

- **Paul F. Hudson**, Secretary, COMLAND (pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu). Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1098, USA)

- **Arthur Conacher**, Steering Committee member, COMLAND (Arthur.Conacher@uwa.edu.au). School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia)

Conference publications: A special theme issue on land degradation and desertification in *Geographical Research* (Journal of the Institute of Australian Geographers, www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/ages) and a special theme issue on geomorphology and palaeoclimatic changes in *Quaternary Research* (<http://ees.elsevier.com/yqres/>) will be the official venues to publish papers from the workshop. Both oral and poster presenters are welcome to submit their papers to these special issues and the deadline for submission will be September 10, 2007. The guidelines for writing the papers for each journal can be found in the abovementioned websites. Of course, all papers will be subject to the normal reviewing process.

September 17-19, 2007

IV International Symposium on Gully Erosion, Pamplona, Spain

The Department of Projects and Rural Engineering of the Public University of Navarre (Spain) is pleased to invite you to participate in the IV International Symposium on Gully Erosion, to be held at Pamplona (Spain). This symposium aims to review current understanding and information, and to report progress in the following topics on gully erosion:

Importance: e.g. on/off-site gullying impact on soil properties, landforms, and landscape at different times and space scales.

Characterization: e.g. experimental investigation on different kinds of gullies, monitoring techniques of gully erosion, historical reconstruction of processes.

Controlling factors: e.g. effect of anthropogenic activities on gullying, interaction between gully erosion and other land degradation processes, role of vegetation.

Control measures: e.g. prevention of gullying, gully restoration methods.

Processes and modelling: last but not least, we shall greatly appreciate receiving contributions on this important topic: e.g. gully headcut mechanics, channel network evolution, gully erosion thresholds, and so on.

For more details, please visit the webpage of the symposium: <http://www.unavarra.es/erosion/index.htm>, which will be periodically updated. Kindly tell your colleagues about this symposium.

Dr. Javier Casali

Dr. Rafael Giménez

Program Committee Chairs Members

Contact: Symposium Gully erosion2007symposium.gullyerosion2007@unavarra.es

September 23-26, 2007

3rd International Conference on Mechanisms of Organic Matter Stabilisation and Destabilisation in Soils and Sediments, Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

As with the two previous conferences, the main goal is to bring together scientists from a range of backgrounds to share ideas and present recent research results. We welcome participation by researchers working in organic geochemistry, soil science, ecology and other disciplines related to the conference themes.

With this conference, the themes have been expanded to include natural organic matter (NOM) in aquatic systems and processes that link stabilisation and destabilisation mechanisms in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The aims of the conference are to facilitate the exchange of ideas pertaining to NOM stability in soils and sediments, and encourage the development of integrative and multi-disciplinary collaborative projects.

Themes include: Formation, characterisation and fate of NOM including Black Carbon

Movement of NOM within and between terrestrial/aquatic ecosystems

Application of isotopic techniques in NOM studies

Stabilisation/ destabilisation mechanisms for NOM

Biological significance of NOM pools at various time scales

Modelling NOM dynamics.

Contact information: Jan Skjemstad, www.clw.csiro.au/conferences/organic/

September 25-28, 2007



Contact: Prof. Stanimir Kostadinov, kost@eunet.vu, kost@yubc.net

October 17-19, 2007

Bottlenecks, Solutions, and Priorities in the Context of Functions of Forest Resources, Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul University, Istanbul, TURKEY

An international symposium will be held by Istanbul University, Faculty of Forestry in Istanbul between October 17-19, 2007 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Forestry Education in Turkey with support of Rectorate of Istanbul University, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and International Union of Forest Research Organizations. The symposium aims to provide an international scientific atmosphere with participation of experts from universities, research institutes, public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations in areas relating to the functions of forest resources.

Forest resources have a lot of functions such as protecting biological diversity, climate regulation, water production, soil and water conservation, providing natural food, supporting urban life, rural development, creating recreational opportunities, developing game and wildlife, protecting visual and cultural values, strengthening social stability, supporting society's health, producing wood and non-wood forest products, creating employment and income, providing possibilities for export etc., which have effects on the ecological environmental, social-cultural and economical-financial fields.

Subjects of the presentations for the symposium should be thought in the context of the above-mentioned functions of forest resources. It is recommended that authors explain causes of bottlenecks and failures taking place during providing of these functions of forest resources; deal with analyses and solutions toward overcoming them from point of view of one or multidimensional perspective, that is, biological, ecological, economical, organizational, political etc. sides rather than contenting with only inventorial aspects.

Symposium Sessions: Bottlenecks in the context of functions of forest resources and analyses relating to them; biological, ecological, economical, organizational, political etc. solutions concerning these bottlenecks (<http://www.orman.istanbul.edu.tr/fored150>, <http://orman.istanbul.edu.tr/fored150>, <http://194.27.134.4/fored150>).

Presentation: Oral and poster; Deadlines: Abstract (800-1,000 words): December 20, 2006

Full Paper: June 1, 2007; Accommodation and Registration details: Will be announced later.

October 18-23, 2007

4th International Conference on Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining and Military Areas (SUITMA4), Nanjing, China, www.issas.ac.cn/suitma4.htm/

Dear colleagues,

The 4th International Conference on Soils in Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining and Military Areas (SUITMA) is scheduled to be held at October, 2007 in Nanjing. The conference will discuss soil changes, problems, remediation, utilization, planning, in relation to urban ecological, environmental and biological health issues. The previous events were in Essen (Germany), Nancy (France) and Cairo (Egypt), respectively. We appreciate your continuous interest in SUITMA and welcome scientists, planners, policymakers, to join the forthcoming event.

The world is becoming more and more urbanized, and by which serious problems related to land resource use and ecosystem protection are emerged. Like the rest many parts of the world, China is also experiencing rapid urbanization and industrialization. We are honored to organize such a meeting in Nanjing, a beautiful, friendly ancient city, and believe that SUITMA4 in Nanjing may generate new knowledge and enrich our future collaboration possibilities. Therefore, on behalf of the organizing committee, I sincerely invite you to take part in the important event. See all details on the website.

Modern human activities have ever-increasing impacts on soil resources while soils of urban, industrial, traffic, mining and military sites are the very cases showing these impacts. How these soils are formed and how they will affect our ecosystem are big concerns of soil scientists worldwide.

Globally, more and more attention is being paid to soils under urbanization and industrialization, with regard to their changes and interactions with urban ecosystem. SUITMA WG (Working Group), IUSS, has taken a leading role in coordinating international efforts to advancing our understanding about the special soil system, by providing a forum for international scientific community of the related fields, since its setup in 1998. The establishment of SUITMA also symbolizes the increasing importance of urban soil study within modern soil science in general.

With its previous highly successful academic events in Essen, Nancy and Cairo, SUITMA has clearly defined its scopes and is exploring its new horizons. The scientific committee of SUITMA4 sets the following major areas as its themes and opens to more topics and interests.

A) Methodologies

1. Soil survey, description, terminology standardization and sampling in urban areas
2. Laboratory methods for urban soils
3. Soil classification and mapping in urban areas

B) Impacts of urbanization on soil resources

4. Land use change under urbanization
5. Pedogenesis and quality changes of urban soils
6. Physical aspects of urban soil changes
7. Chemical aspects of urban soil changes
8. Biological aspects of urban soil changes
9. Historical aspects of urban soil formation and characterization

C) Urban soils in relation to urban ecosystem

10. Ecological impact of urbanization in regional and global scales
11. Urban soils and greenery plants
12. Urban soils in relation to water environment
13. Biogeochemical cycling of life-dependent materials in urban ecosystem
14. Pollution status and control of urban soils

15. Remediation of contaminated SUITMA
16. Ecological assessment of urban soil quality
17. Ecology-based urban land use planning

D) Socio-economic aspects of soil management in urban areas

18. Urban soil management and legislation

E) Other related topics

Registration for Conference

Regular participants: **250USD/200 EUR** (before August 31st, 2007)

Students/Young participants (age below 30): 125 USD/100EUR (with valid certificate)

Accompany person: **100 USD/80EUR**.

Registration fee covers conference abstract book, reception party, lunches during conference, tea/coffee, closing banquet. Registration payment after August 31st, 2007 will incur **100USD/80EUR** surcharge.

Accommodation: Hanting Hotel (room charge for participants: **\$25** and **\$27**), 10-min walk from the venue

Scientific contact: Prof. Dr. Gan-Lin Zhang, Chair, SUITMA4

Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences

71 Beijing Donglu, Nanjing 210008, China

Tel.: +86-25-86881279; Fax: +86-25-86881000/ 86881279; glzhang@issas.ac.cn

Administration contact: Dr. Yu-Guo Zhao (same address, will provide 2nd Announcement upon request)

Tel.: +86-25-86881299; Fax: +86-25-86881000; suitma4@issas.ac.cn

November 6-10, 2007

International Conference on Integrated Watershed Management for “Bharat Nirman”, New Delhi, India

Bharat Nirman (Building up India) has to be based upon a firm foundation. The most firm foundation for the purpose would be the scientific Care, Conservation, Development and Management of the Land — the Mother of the Natural Resources. The productive base of Land is the Soil. World Soil Charter, issued by the FAO in 1981 emphasized the importance of Soil in these words: “Recognizing the paramount importance of land resources for the survival and welfare of people, economic independence of the country and also rapidly increasing needs for more food production, it is imperative to give high priority to promoting optimum land use, maintaining and improving soil productivity and conserving soil resources”.

Increasing globalization, liberalization and privatization regimes have not benefited all sections of society in the developing countries. Poverty is still associated with agriculture and rural living. The concerns of the small and marginal farmers, the landless and weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society have to be addressed.

Population is rising and per capita availability of land and other natural resources is shrinking. How to produce the diverse needs of humanity today, how to add value to the produce land to benefit the small and marginal farmers, and how to accomplish all these without adversely importing the environment and the productive base of the soil and other natural resources, is today's challenge.

This challenge can be met by converging all the programmes of conservation and ecology, sustainable production, processing of the bio-produce and marketing, infrastructure and a policy umbrella within the natural boundaries of a watershed.

Many countries of the world have gathered valuable knowledge and experience in watershed management. All will benefit from an exchange of this pool of knowledge, which should facilitate formulating sound policies and programmes for the new millennium.

To delegate and discuss the various aspects related to the issues mentioned, the Soil Conservation Society of India is holding the International Conference on Integrated Watershed Management for Bharat Nirman, from November 6 to 10, 2007 at New Delhi, India with the following objectives:

Objectives

- Conservation and Management of Land, Water and Forest Resources for the People; and sustainable production.
- Promotion of Horticulture to the separates Freedom from Hidden Hunger (of Nutrition).
- Care of the Livestock and the Common Property Resources - Mainstay of the Rural Landless and “Antodaya” - the Poorest of the Poor.
- Biomass Processing and Marketing for Rural Employment and Livelihoods.
- Achieving India’s “Bharat Nirman” Programme.
- Achieving United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- Evolving Integrated Watershed Management Systems for Ecology, Economics, Employment and Equity.

Major Themes

1. Land Resource Management
2. Water Resource Management
3. Plant Resource Management
4. Animal Resource Management
5. Human Resource Management
 - Gender, Equity and Rural Institutions.
6. Integrated Watershed Management for Biomass Processing,
 - Agri-business, Rural Employment and Livelihoods.
7. Rural Investments through Public-Private Partnership.
8. Science and Technology
 - Research, Extension and Capacity Building.

Venue: NASC Complex, New Delhi

Duration: (i) The Conference: November, 6-9, 2007

(ii) Field Visits for Delegates: November 10-11, 2007

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstract: 31-11-2006

Receipt of full-length paper: 31-05-2007 with electronic copy

Registration Fee

Foreign Delegates: US\$500 (With late fee: US\$600)

- Students/Research Scholars: US\$250 (With late fee: US\$300)
- Accompanying members: US\$100

Indian Delegates: Rs. 4,000.00 (With late fee Rs. 5,000)

* Students/Research Scholars: Rs. 2,000 (With late fee Rs. 2,500)

Accompanying member: Rs. 1,000 (Indian)

- * Students/Research Scholars have to provide a certificate from their Head of the Institution/Department for availing of this special rate.

Call for Abstracts: Abstracts of unpublished research related to one of the Symposium Themes are invited for presentation as the poster papers. Abstracts are to be submitted as an electronic copy in MS WORD, preferably accompanied by a set of hard copy (complete in all respects) on A4 size paper, typed single space and should not exceed one page (about 300 words) with 25 mm margins all around. The title should be followed by the names of author/authors (with the name of the person presenting underlined) and their affiliation. Please include the e-mail address of the corresponding author for expediting communication.

Steering Committee:

Chairman: Prof. M.S. Swaminathan; Convenor: Dr. Suraj Bhan

Organizing Committee: Chairman: Shri Mohan Kanda; Convenor: Shri B. Rath

Contact: Dr Suraj Bhan, President, Soil Conservation Society of India, soilcsi@yahoo.com.in,

bhan_suraj@yahoo.com, www.soilcsi.org

MEETINGS 2008 ++

International Conference on Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication (ICON-FARM)

February 4-8, 2008 (Monday to Friday)

Worldwide, conservation farming systems play a major role in sustainable agricultural production. Even after realizing the full potential of irrigation, a major part of the farming areas of most countries will remain rainfed. Land holdings of the poor, small and marginal farmers are mostly dependent upon rainfall. Common property resources like grazing land, tree lots and village tanks--- which are the mainstay of the livelihood of the rural landless people---are again entirely dependent upon the rainfall of the area. Rainfed areas have, therefore, assumed great importance for adequate and equitable food and livelihood security of the increasing population of the developing countries.

Research in conservation of resources has shown that properly designed systems of conservation farming are more productive and protective of resources in the long run than mono-cropping, to meet the requirements of the people and their animals for water, food, fodder and fuelwood in a sustainable manner.

The strategy of watershed management is now well-validated for synergic convergence of all rural area programmes for creating the maximum impact on employment and poverty eradication. It is in this context that the Soil Conservation Society of India decided to hold this **International Conference on February 4 to 8, 2008, at New Delhi**, on the theme: *Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication*.

The major thrust of the Conference would be on key issues of the scientific care, conservation, development and management of the *land resource — the mother of the Natural Resources* — and ensuring employment and livelihood security of the poor in all the countries. The productive base and foundation of the land resources is the soil. World Soil Charter, issued by the FAO in 1981 emphasized the importance of soil in these words:

Recognizing the paramount importance of land resources for the survival and welfare of people, economic independence of the country and also rapidly increasing needs for more food production, it is imperative to give high priority to promoting optimum land use, maintaining and improving soil productivity and conserving soil resources.

Increasing, globalization, liberalization and privatization regimes have not benefited all sections of society in the developing, countries, equally. Poverty continues to be associated with agriculture, especially rainfed agriculture, and rural living. The concerns of the small and marginal farmers, the landless and weaker sections of the society need to be addressed in proper perspective.

Population is rising and per capita base of land and other natural resources is progressively shrinking. How to produce the diverse needs of humanity today, how to add value to the produce from the land to benefit the small and marginal farmers--- whose holdings are becoming smaller and smaller from year to year--- and how to accomplish all these without damaging, the environment and the productive base of the soil and other natural resources, are today's challenge and opportunity.

This challenge can be met by converging all the programmes of conservation and ecology,

sustainable production, processing and marketing of the bio-produce, infrastructure and a favourable policy umbrella within the natural boundaries of a watershed. *Call it bioindustrial watershed.*

Many countries of the world have gathered valuable knowledge and experience in watershed management. All will benefit from an exchange of this pool of knowledge and experience, which should facilitate formulating sound policies and programmes for the 21st century and the new millennium.

Theme of the Conference

Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication

Sub-Themes:

1. (a). Soil resources mapping for land use optimization, Soil Health, Agro-ecological Zoning and Conservation Planning.

(b). Advances in techniques of RS, GIS, GPS and Decision Support Systems for use in Resource Mapping, Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
2. In-situ Moisture Conservation, Rainfall Management, Rainwater Harvesting, Water Resource Development & Water Management, Renovation and Restoration of derelict Tanks; and Aqua –culture.
3. Conservation Farming Systems, Organic Farming and Other Field Practices for Enhancing Agricultural Growth Rate, Conservation Capacity, Productivity and Profitability of Rainfed Agriculture and other Land Uses.
4. Fodder & Grassland Development, Animal Husbandry and Village Common Property Resources Management—the Mainstay of the Small and Marginal Farmers.
5. Alternate Land Uses in Rainfed Areas—Conservation Horticulture, Forestry, Agro-forestry and Biofuel Plantations.
6. Reclamation and Development of Wastelands, including Arid Lands, Control of Desertification, Shifting Cultivation, Ravines, saline, alkaline and waterlogged lands, and bare or sparsely vegetated Forestland.
7. Value Addition, Employment, Incomes and Profitability in Rainfed Areas through Processing, Storage and Direct Marketing (eliminating middlemen) and Integrated Watershed Management Models, including *Bioindustrial Watersheds*.
8. Supporting Services : Research & Development; Capacity Building; Extension; Organisation; Legislation; Evaluation; Non-Conventional Energy Sources for Rural Areas ; Credit & Subsidies Regime for Farmers; Infrastructure; Population & Natural Resources ; WTO and Farmers; Policy Umbrella and Other issues of *Ecology, Economics, Employment and Equity* in the Rainfed Areas of the developing countries.

International Conference on

Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication (ICON-FARM)

February 4-8, 2008 (Monday to Friday)

At NASC Complex, New Delhi (INDIA)

Organized by

Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi

Important Dates

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------|
| Submission of Abstract | : | 30-04-2007 |
| Acceptance of Papers | : | 31-05-2007 |
| Receipt of full-length paper | : | 30-09-2007 |

REGISTRATION FEE (*to be submitted by October 31, 2007*)

FOREIGN DELEGATES

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Delegates | :US\$ 400 |
| (Late Submission) | :US\$ 450 |
| *Students/Research Scholars | :US\$ 200 |
| (Late Submission) | :US\$ 225 |

For each accompanying member: US\$ 100

INDIAN DELEGATES

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Members of SCSi | : Rs. 3000.00 |
| (Late Submission) | : Rs. 3500.00 |
| Non Members | : Rs. 3500.00 |
| (Late Submission) | : Rs. 4000.00 |

**For Students/Research Scholars: Rs. 1500.00*
(Late Submission) : Rs. 1750.00

For each accompanying member: Rs. 1000.00
(Indian)

For further Information, please contact:

Dr. Suraj Bhan, President / Shri B. Rath, Secretary General
SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF INDIA
G-3, National Societies Block, Room No. 89, 90, 97, Ground Floor,
National Agriculture Science Centre Complex (NASC),
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg (Pusa), New Delhi – 12;
Telefax: 91-11-25848244, (M): 9868808980
soilcsi@yahoo.co.in; bhan_suraj2001@yahoo.com

Registration Form

International Conference on Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication (ICON-Farm)

February 4-08, 2008 (Monday to Friday) NASC Complex, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110 012, India

Surname _____
(Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms)

Given Name _____ Organisation/Institution _____

Address : _____

City _____ Postal Pin Code : _____

Telephones : (Office) _____ (Residence) _____ (Mobile) _____

Fax : _____ E-mail address : _____

I shall participate in the Conference : Yes / No

I intend to contribute a paper titled _____

under the Session/Sub-Theme: _____

Preferred Presentation : Oral/Poster (Please check)

I enclose a Demand Draft No. _____ Dated _____ for Rs./US\$

_____ in favour of "ICON-FARM", Payable at New Delhi, India,

towards Registration fee. Date _____ Signature _____

Note: Delegates will themselves arrange to meet their cost of participation in the Conference

February 2008

IV World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, India. Contact: Raj Gupta, r.gupta@cgiar.org

May 18-23, 2008.

15th International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) Conference, Soil and Water Conservation, Climate Change and Environmental Sensitivity

Budapest, Hungary. May 18-23, 2008.

Contact: Professor Ádám Kertész, ISCO President, Head of Department, Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Geographical Research Institute, Budapest 1112, Budaorsi ut 45, Hungary. Phone: +36-1-309-2686; Fax: +36-1-309-2686, kertesza@helka.iif.hu More info about ISCO at www.isco.org.

July 14-18, 2008

Second International Conference on Ground Bio- and Eco-engineering: The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability, Beijing, China.

<http://liama.ia.ac.cn/wiki/doku.php?id=projects:envmodeling:iceco2>

Contact: Alexia Stokes

LIAMA-CASIA

Zhonguancun Dong Lu 95, Haidian District

PO Box 2728, Beijing 100080, P.R. China

Tel: +86-10-82614528; Fax: +86-10-62647458

stokes@liama.ia.ac.cn, <http://liama.ia.ac.cn>

August 25-29, 2008

Eurosoil 2008: Soil - Society - Environment

Vienna, Austria, Venue: Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, AUSTRIA

Organizers: The national soil science societies of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland, supported by the Vienna Medical Academy

Excursions: Pre- and post-congress excursions in Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and in Switzerland (together with Austria)

Further information can be obtained from the website of the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS) www.ecsss.net. The first complete set of information including the scientific programme, technical excursions and the registration form will be put into the website and/or sent to interested participants in December 2006. Contact: Winfried Blum, herma.exner@boku.ac.at

September 18-22, 2008

Dr. Pandi Zdruli, Project Manager, MEDCOASTLAND Thematic Network sent to us info for the 5th International Conference on Land Degradation to take place at Valenzano, Bari, Italy, at <http://www.iamb.it/5ICLD/>. Contact Dr Zdruli at CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Via Ceglie 9, 70010 Valenzano (BA), ITALY. Tel: 39 080 4606 253, Fax: 39 080 4606 274, pandi@iamb.it, <http://medcoastland.iamb.it>.

Late 2008

6th International Hani-Akha Culture Conference, Luchun County, Yunnan Province, China, near the border area with Northern Vietnam and Lao P.D.R. Mr Bai Bibo welcomes you to the conference organized in his hometown. Trust our members will be interested in presenting academic papers regarding Alkha-Hani Land and Water Conservation in the Mekong River Basin. Contact Bai Bibo, baibibo@hotmail.com

August 1-6, 2010

The **19th World Congress of Soil Science** will be held in Brisbane, Australia, 1-6 August 2010. Contact Neil McKenzie at neil.mckenzie@csiro.au. The **20th Congress** will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2014.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The new address of **Science Publishers Inc.**, our publishing partner, is at:

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The publication will be available in 2007.

ANNEX: Science Panel Calls Global Warming ‘Unequivocal’ (from The New York Times, February 3, 2007)

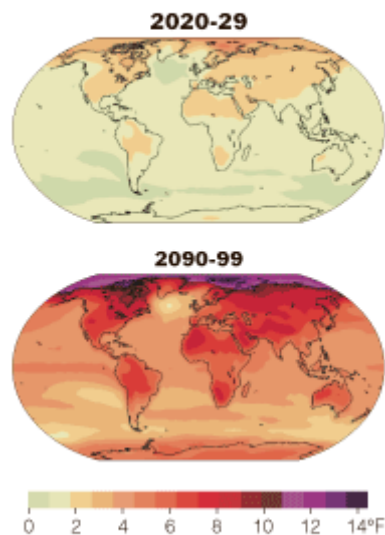


Dan Crosbie/Canadian Ice Service

Polar bears on chunks of glacial ice in the Bering Sea in 2004. Much higher temperatures are forecast for the Arctic, climate scientists say.

A Hotter Future

Projected surface temperature changes for the 21st century, based on a midrange scenario for greenhouse gas emissions.



Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change The New York Times

PARIS, Feb. 2 — In a grim and powerful assessment of the future of the planet, the leading international network of climate scientists has concluded for the first time that [global warming](#) is “unequivocal” and that human activity is the main driver, “very likely” causing most of the rise in temperatures since 1950.

They said the world was in for centuries of climbing temperatures, rising seas and shifting weather patterns — unavoidable results of the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

But their report, released here on Friday by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said warming and its harmful consequences could be substantially blunted by prompt action.

While the report provided scant new evidence of a climate apocalypse now, and while it expressly avoided recommending courses of action, officials from the [United Nations](#) agencies that created the panel in 1988 said it spoke of the urgent need to limit looming and momentous risks.

“In our daily lives we all respond urgently to dangers that are much less likely than climate change to affect the future of our children,” said Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, which administers the panel along with the World Meteorological Organization.

“Feb. 2 will be remembered as the date when uncertainty was removed as to whether humans had anything to do with climate change on this planet,” he went on. “The evidence is on the table.”

The report is the panel’s fourth assessment since 1990 on the causes and consequences of climate change, but it is the first in which the group asserts with near certainty — more than 90 percent confidence — that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities have been the main causes of warming in the past half century.

In its last report, in 2001, the panel, consisting of hundreds of scientists and reviewers, said the confidence level for its projections was “likely,” or 66 to 90 percent. That level has now been raised to “very likely,” better than 90 percent. Both reports are online at www.ipcc.ch.

The Bush administration, which until recently avoided directly accepting that humans were warming the planet in potentially harmful ways, embraced the findings, which had been approved by representatives from the United States and 112 other countries on Thursday night.

Administration officials asserted Friday that the United States had played a leading role in studying and combating climate change, in part by an investment of an average of almost \$5 billion a year for the past six years in research and tax incentives for new technologies.

At the same time, Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman rejected the idea of unilateral limits on emissions. “We are a small contributor to the overall, when you look at the rest of the world, so it’s really got to be a global solution,” he said.

The United States, with about 5 percent of the world’s population, contributes about a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, more than any other country.

Democratic lawmakers quickly fired off a round of news releases using the report to bolster a fresh flock of proposed bills aimed at cutting emissions of greenhouse gases. Senator James M. Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who has called the idea of dangerous human-driven warming a hoax, issued a news release headed “Corruption of Science” that rejected the report as “a political document.”

The new report says the global climate is likely to warm 3.5 to 8 degrees Fahrenheit if carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere reach twice the levels of 1750, before the Industrial Revolution.

Many energy and environment experts see such a doubling, or worse, as a foregone conclusion after 2050 unless there is a prompt and sustained shift away from the 20th-century pattern of unfettered burning of coal and oil, the main sources of carbon dioxide, and an aggressive expansion of nonpolluting sources of energy.

And the report says there is a more than a 1-in-10 chance of much greater warming, a risk that many experts say is far too high to ignore.

Even a level of warming that falls in the middle of the group’s range of projections would be likely to cause significant stress to ecosystems, according to many climate experts and biologists. And it would alter longstanding climate patterns that shape water supplies and agricultural production.

Moreover, the warming has set in motion a rise in global sea levels, the report says. It forecasts a rise of 7 to 23 inches by 2100 and concludes that seas will continue to rise for at least 1,000 years to come. By comparison, seas rose about 6 to 9 inches in the 20th century.

John P. Holdren, an energy and climate expert at [Harvard](#), said the report “powerfully underscores the need for a massive effort to slow the pace of global climatic disruption before intolerable consequences become inevitable.”

“Since 2001, there has been a torrent of new scientific evidence on the magnitude, human origins and growing impacts of the climatic changes that are under way,” said Mr. Holdren, who is the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. “In overwhelming proportions, this evidence has been in the direction of showing faster change, more danger and greater confidence about the dominant role of fossil-fuel burning and tropical deforestation in causing the changes that are being observed.”

The conclusions came after a three-year review of hundreds of studies of past climate shifts; observations of retreating ice, warming and rising seas, and other changes around the planet; and a greatly expanded suite of supercomputer simulations used to test how the earth will respond to a growing blanket of gases that hold heat in the atmosphere.

The section released Friday was a 20-page summary for policymakers, which was approved early in the morning by teams of officials from more than 100 countries after three days and nights of wrangling over wording with the lead authors, all of whom are scientists.

It described far-flung ramifications for both humans and nature.

“It is very likely that hot extremes, heat waves and heavy precipitation events will continue to become more frequent,” said the summary.

Generally, the scientists said, more precipitation will fall at higher latitudes, which are also likely to see lengthened growing seasons. Semi-arid subtropical regions, already chronically plagued by drought, could have a further 20 percent drop in rainfall under the panel’s midrange outlook for increases in the greenhouse gases.

The summary added a new chemical consequence of the buildup of carbon dioxide to the list of mainly climatic and biological effects foreseen in its previous reports: a drop in the pH of seawater as oceans absorb billions of tons of carbon dioxide, which forms carbonic acid when partly dissolved. The ocean would stay alkaline, but marine biologists have said that a change in the direction of acidity could imperil some kinds of corals and plankton.

The report essentially caps a half-century-long effort to discern whether humans, through the buildup of carbon dioxide and other gases released mainly by burning fuels and forests, could influence the earth’s climate system in potentially momentous ways.

The group operates under the aegis of the United Nations and was chartered in 1988 — a year of record heat, burning forests and the first big headlines about global warming — to provide regular reviews of climate science to governments to inform policy choices.

Government officials are involved in shaping the summary of each report, but the scientist-authors, who are unpaid, have the final say over the thousands of pages in four underlying technical reports that will be completed and published later this year.

Big questions remain about the speed and extent of some impending changes, both because of uncertainty about future population and pollution trends and the complex interrelationships of the greenhouse emissions, clouds, dusty kinds of pollution, the oceans and earth’s veneer of life, which both emits and soaks up carbon dioxide and other such gases.

But a broad array of scientists, including authors of the report and independent experts, said the latest analysis was the most sobering view yet of a century of transition — after thousands of years of relatively stable climate conditions — to a new norm of continual change.

Should greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere at even a moderate pace, average temperatures by the end of the century could match those last seen 125,000 years ago, in the previous warm spell between ice ages, the report said.

At that time, the panel said, sea levels were 12 to 20 feet higher than they are now. Much of that extra water is now trapped in the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica, which are eroding in some places.

The panel said there was no solid scientific understanding of how rapidly the vast stores of ice in polar regions will melt, so their estimates on new sea levels were based mainly on how much the warmed oceans will expand, and not on contributions from the melting of ice now on land.

Other scientists have recently reported evidence that the glaciers and ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic could flow seaward far more quickly than estimated in the past, and they have proposed that the risks to coastal areas could be much more imminent. But the climate change panel is forbidden by its charter to enter into speculation, and so could not include such possible instabilities in its assessment.

Michel Jarraud, the secretary general of the United Nations World Meteorological Organization, said the lack of clarity should offer no one comfort. “The speed with which melting ice sheets are raising sea levels is uncertain, but the report makes clear that sea levels will rise inexorably over the coming centuries,” he said. “It is a question of when and how much, and not if.”

The warming and other climate changes will be highly variable around the world, with the Arctic in particular seeing much higher temperatures, said Susan Solomon, the co-leader of the team writing the summary and the section of the panel’s report on basic science. She is an atmospheric scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The kinds of vulnerabilities are very much dependent on where you are, Dr. Solomon said in a telephone interview. “If you’re living in parts of the tropics and they’re getting drier and you’re a farmer, there are some very acute issues associated with even small changes in rainfall — changes we’re already seeing are significant,” she said. “If you are an Inuit and you’re seeing your sea ice retreating already, that’s affecting your life style and culture.”

The 20-page summary is a sketch of the findings that are most germane to the public and world leaders.

The full report, thousands of pages of technical background, will be released in four sections through the year — the first on basic science, then sections on impacts and options for limiting emissions and limiting inevitable harms, and finally a synthesis of all of the findings near year’s end.

In a news conference in Paris, Dr. Solomon declined to provide her own views on how society should respond to the momentous changes projected in the study.

“I honestly believe that it would be a much better service for me to keep my personal opinions separate than what I can actually offer the world as a scientist,” she said. “My stepson, who is 29, has an utterly different view of risks than I do. People are going to have to make their own judgments.”

Some authors of the report said that no one could honestly point to any remaining uncertainties as justification for further delay.

“Policy makers paid us to do good science, and now we have very high scientific confidence in this work — this is real, this is real, this is real,” said Richard B. Alley, one of the lead authors and a professor at [Pennsylvania State University](#). “So now act, the ball’s back in your court.”

Elisabeth Rosenthal reported from Paris, and Andrew C. Revkin from New York. Felicity Barringer contributed reporting from Washington.