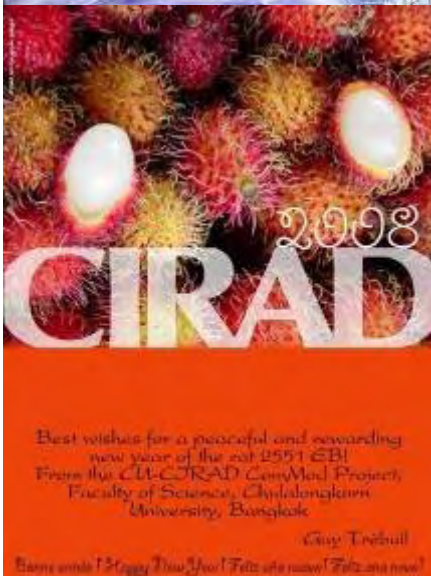


# WASWC HOT NEWS 2008 (01) JANUARY 1, 2008 (LV)

Compiled and sent out monthly 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](mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com) & [tom.goddard@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tom.goddard@gov.ab.ca) (This document is not properly edited.)

This is the Light Version, sent to members by e-mail. FULL VERSION is posted on the website.

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008 TO ALL WASWC MEMBERS

We want to share with our members few of the Christmas and New Year cards we have received this year. **From up to down and left to right:** The New Year card His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand (he is 80 years old now and has been on the throne longer than 61 years) sent out on New Year eve; card from Prof Trahel Vardanian of Armenia making us think if we will see such beautiful winter scenes in the future due to global warming; card from Ted Sheng, our senior and respectable member, and his wife Chuan, from Colorado, U.S.A.; card from Elena Abraham, Mendoza, Argentina; Guy Trebuil of CIRAD (a French agency) sent rambutans to us with his card; Pham Quang Ha sent a photo of his pretty and smart colleagues from Vietnam; Gao Yang sent her best wishes from Beijing, China. We hope all our members are happy during this holiday season!

## PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



Dear WASWC members, colleagues and friends,

World Association for Soil and Water Conservation has had an active and successful year. We had helped in organizational and professional manner in several significant international conferences that were held in 2007. WASWC has expanded membership to cover around 120 countries, with more than 5,000 soil and water conservationists of all membership categories communicating with the association at present. Activities that WASWC has done in 2007 apart from normal works were as follows (All other activities are shown on our website <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>):

- Granting awards to various persons as described in the last issue of HOT NEWS: **Distinguished SWC Extensionist Award** (Police Second Lieutenant Vichai Suriyuth), **Distinguished Researcher Award** (Reinhardt Howeler, Watana Watananonta and Tran Ngoc Ngoan), **Norman Hudson Memorial Award** (Hans Hurni); and **Honorary Membership Award** (John Burton).

- Publishing the book **Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Projects** in September 2007. This book has been edited by Jan de Graaff, John Cameron, Samran Sombatpanit, Christian Pieri and Jim Woodhill, and published by Science Publishers [www.scipup.net](http://www.scipup.net).

- Publishing the Special Publications No. 3 on **No-Till Farming Systems**, edited by Tom Goddard, Michael Zoebisch, Yantai Gan, Wyn Ellis, Alex Watson and Samran Sombatpanit at close to the end of the year.

- Two WASWC students' fora were established 2 years ago at the Faculty of Forestry of Belgrade University and at the Skopje University in Macedonia. Students' Forum of WASWC from Belgrade was very active and is involved in WOCAT Program in Serbia. Results of their work, connected to WOCAT, were presented at 12<sup>th</sup> WOCAT Workshop in Philippines. It was very well accepted and there appears a possibility to organize a similar forum in Kathmandu in Nepal as well as in Orissa in India. The basic aim of these fora is to encourage young members who will become future experts in SWC and ambassadors of the WASWC ethos.

There were several important international conferences in 2007 that were either assisted or cooperated by WASWC such as: "5th International Congress of the European Society for Soil Conservation" held in **Palermo, Italy** from June 25-30; then "International Forum: Soils, Society and Global Change" held in **Selfoss, Iceland** from August 31 to September 4; "Erosion Control as a Factor of Sustainable River Basin Management" held in **Belgrade, Serbia** from September 25-28; International Conference on Slopeland Didsaster Mitigation in **Taichung, Chinese Taipei** from October 19-November 1; "WOCAT Workshop and Steering Meeting" held at **Bohol Island, The Philippines** from November 12-18; The International Symposium on Direct Seeding Mulched-based Cropping Systems (DMC) in **Madagascar** and several others. WASWC was represented by the president of WASWC as well as other councilors and officers, i.e. Ian Hannam, Martin Haigh and Samran Sombatpanit. Summary reports from these meetings will be presented in issues of WASWC Newsletter.

The main meeting event of 2008 will be the 15<sup>th</sup> ISCO Conference, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary from May 19-23, 2008. We therefore expect to hold a WASWC Forum at the same venue, which we will announce later. It is a great pleasure to announce the WASWC meeting at Tara Mountain in Serbia to be held in May 2009.

Regarding law issues in SWC Ian Hannam and myself initiated idea of establishing this network/project in Balkans. Conceptual paper of the project is prepared by Ian Hannam. In the present tenure of WASWC Council, we, with help from VPs, will work on strengthening WASWC products, disseminating idea of new WASWC units (students' fora), helping organizations in various international meetings regarding soil, water and environment protection, establishing law issues in SWC, etc.

**In order to cope with the many activities of the association the number of WASWC councilors has increased from 9 to 23. Related with this issue, the titles of Vice President and National Representative have been merged to be one: the Vice President. Since all WASWC officers who had functioned in the previous council have ceased their duty from today onward, our Past President and Membership Coordinator, Samran Sombatpanit, will work on the issue of reappointment very soon.**

At this auspicious time of the year, I would like to wish all of you Happy New Year for 2008, with good health and progress in your work, and hope that our joint activities would allow us to reach WASWC mission targets soon.

### Miodrag

Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, D.Sc. President of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation  
Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade University, Kneza Visislava 1, 11090 Belgrade, Serbia  
Phone: +381 11 3553 122, Fax: +381 11 2545 485, [mizlatic@yubc.net](mailto:mizlatic@yubc.net)

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### HOT BOOK

## Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Projects

Editors:

*Jan de Graaff*: Erosion and Soil & Water Conservation Group, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

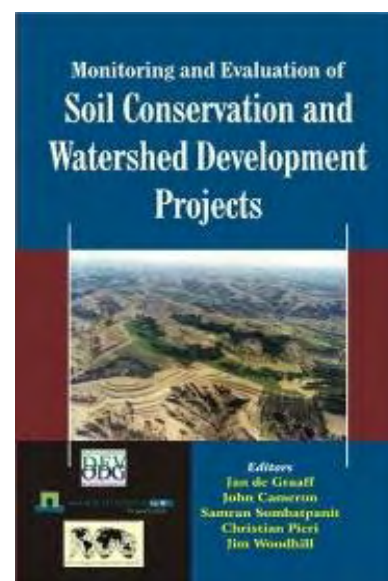
*John Cameron*: University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

*Samran Sombatpanit*: World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, Bangkok, Thailand

*Christian Pieri*: Formerly of WB, France

*Jim Woodhill*: International Agriculture Centre, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands

ISBN 978-1-57808-349-7; October 2007; 500 pages, hc; US \$ 69.50 / £ 38.90 / € 56.60



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WASWC members can buy at 40% discount

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### ABOUT THE BOOK •—————•

This book provides diverse information and critical know-how to implement appropriate methodology and cost-efficient monitoring and evaluation systems better suited to assess the impacts of soil conservation and watershed multi-sectoral development activities. It draws on a worldwide experience of specialists and a large array of ground-truthing projects and programmes. This book will meet its objective if it contributes to convince financing institutions and project managers that integrated watershed management activities have the potential to generate highly desirable impacts for the society at large, which have to be accurately measured by adequate M&E systems.

### CONTENTS •—————•

## Principles of M&E in SCWD Projects

- Principles and Practices of Monitoring and Evaluation for Watershed and Conservation Projects: *Ted C. Sheng*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Watershed Development Projects in India: *D.C. Das et al.*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Projects: An Approach to Sustainable Development: *Janya Sang-arun et al.*
- Impact Monitoring of Soil and Water Conservation: Taking a Wider Look: *Karl Herweg*
- M&E as Learning: Rethinking the Dominant Paradigm: *Jim Woodhill*

Contd .

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## M&E in Practice

- Monitoring and Evaluation for Efficient Sustainable Development Projects: *Edgar Hernandez*
- Using a Watershed Focus for Monitoring and Evaluation of SWC in Nicaragua: *Robert Walle and Sarah W. Workman*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Watershed Projects in India – Field Application and Data Analysis: *K.K. Gupta and D.C. Das*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Projects in Sri Lanka: *A.N. Jayakody et al.*
- Regional Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil and Water Conservation – A Case Study on Loess Plateau, China: *Rui Li et al.*
- Impact Monitoring as the Key for Testing the Long-term Watershed Development Project Hypothesis and its Success – as Demonstrated in the Changar Project in India: *Rajan Kotru*
- Linking Monitoring to Evaluation in a Soil and Water Conservation Project in Southern Mali: *Ferko Bodnar et al.*

## Physical Parameters in M&E

- An Alternative Way to Assess Water Erosion of Cultivated Land: *Robert Evans*
- Monitoring Erosion Using Microtopographic Features: *Eelko Bergsma and Abbas Farshad*
- The Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed—50 Years of Watershed Monitoring and Research: *Mary H. Nichols*
- Geomatics: An Effective Technology for Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Projects: *Abdelaziz Merzouk et al.*
- Use of Environmental Radionuclides to Monitor Soil Erosion and Sedimentation in the Field, Landscape and Catchment Level before, during and after Implementation of SWC Measures: *Felipe Zapata*
- Integrated Conservation Planning in a small Catchment on the Chinese Loess Plateau: *Rudi Hessel et al.*

## Social, Economic and Institutional Aspects

- Monitoring and Evaluation of a Village's Progress-driven Attitude: *Aad Kessler and Hideo Ago*
- Environmental Assessment of Conservation Initiatives within the Darby Creek Watershed in Ohio, USA: *Ted L. Napier*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Watershed Initiatives: Lessons from Landcare in Australia: *Allan Curtis*
- Social Cost-Benefit Analysis as an Evaluation Tool with Case Studies of Small-scale Irrigation and Micro-hydroelectric Generation (Microhydel) Projects in North West Pakistan: *John Cameron*
- Institutionalization of Monitoring and Evaluation in Natural Resource Management: Experiences and Issues: *Jan Willem Nibbering*
- Farmer Participation in Research and Extension: The Key to Achieving Adoption of more Sustainable Cassava Production Practices on Sloping Land in Asia and their Impact on Farmers' Income: *Reinhardt H. Howeler et al.*
- WOCAT: A Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of Soil and Water Conservation Initiatives: *William Critchley and Hanspeter Liniger*

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# AWARDS/PRIZES/FUNDS

## ▲ Call for nominations: United States 2008 National Wetlands Awards

The 2008 National Wetlands Awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence in wetland conservation. The Awards are co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Highway Administration. The 2008 Awards will be given in six categories: Education and Outreach; Science Research; Conservation and Restoration; Landowner Stewardship; State, Tribal, and Local Program Development; and Wetland Community Leader. The awards are non-monetary, but offer a chance for awardees to meet other conservation leaders, and receive recognition at a national scale. The deadline for submission is **15 January 2008**.

For more information and to submit a nomination see: [www.nationalwetlandsawards.org](http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org) or contact: [wetlandsawards@eli.org](mailto:wetlandsawards@eli.org).

▲ The [Society for Conservation Biology](#) invites you to submit your nomination for the **YWCB Award**, which recognizes professional African women engaged in environmental conservation.

Nominees should demonstrate:

1. Evidence of leadership, creativity, self-motivation and enthusiasm;
2. Evidence of service (educational, managerial, research etc.) to conservation; and
3. The ability to work with others across gender, social class and ethnicity.

Self nominations are welcome. The deadline for submission is **31 January 2008**. For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit the following website: [www.conbio.org/sections/africa/ywcb](http://www.conbio.org/sections/africa/ywcb).

## ▲ Call for nominations: The Society for Conservation Biology Awards for Young African Women Conservation Biologists

This award aims to recognize the contributions of early- to mid-career African women in conservation. The nominee should demonstrate evidence of leadership, creativity, self-motivation and enthusiasm, service (educational, managerial, research etc.) to conservation, and ability to work with others across gender, social class and ethnicity. Self nominations are welcome.

The deadline for submission is **31 January 2008**.

For more information and to submit a nomination see: [www.conbio.org/sections/africa/ywcb/](http://www.conbio.org/sections/africa/ywcb/).

## ▲ International Energy Fund - California

The California Energy Commission requests proposals for the International Energy Fund, for projects that assist California firms in performing project development activities leading to exports of technology and services for power generation and energy-related projects in foreign nations. Project development activities may include, but are not limited to: Foreign buyer orientation visits, formation of consortia, data collection, environmental and/or economic policy analyses, and recommendations regarding existing energy development. \$250K expected to be available, individual awards NTE \$25K. Responses due **2/13/08**. For more info, contact Brenda Sturdivant at [bsturdiv@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:bsturdiv@energy.state.ca.us) or go to: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/export.html>.

▲ The [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) is accepting proposals to the **Coral Reef Conservation Fund (CRCF)** for **projects that build public-private partnerships to reduce and prevent degradation of coral reefs**. CRCF supports partnerships that provide solutions to specific problems, mitigate or otherwise address specific threats to reef habitats, and/or help prevent coral reef degradation to reefs and associated reef habitats (e.g., sea grass beds and mangroves).

Priority projects will be focused on coral reef areas in U.S. and insular (territory, commonwealth) jurisdictions, the Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau), Wider Caribbean (including Mesoamerica), and the Coral Triangle region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and the Solomon Islands).

Most awards will be between \$30,000 and \$100,000 and should describe projects or progress that can be achieved in a twelve-to-eighteen-month time period. A limited number of multi-year grants will be awarded under a new funding opportunity in 2008 to exemplary projects that demonstrate a clear need and/or added value for the

extended period. The expected funding range will be \$75,000 to \$300,000 each. **All projects should include matching funding from project partners at a minimum ratio of 1:1.**

Applications will be accepted from U.S. or international non-profit organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and government agencies (except U.S. federal agencies). U.S. federal agencies are encouraged to work collaboratively with non-federal project partners. The deadline for pre-proposal applications is **February 20, 2008**.

For additional information, please read the **Request for Proposals**:

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=7952>

The **Online Application Form** can be accessed at

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=7936>

For additional information visit the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Web Site** at

[http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse\\_All\\_Programs&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=32&ContentID=7907](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse_All_Programs&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=32&ContentID=7907)

### ▲ **Young Eco-Hero**

Action For Nature invites applications for the International Young Eco-Hero Awards, to recognize the individual accomplishments of young people, ages 8 to 16, for their outstanding accomplishments in environmental advocacy, environmental health, research, or protection of the natural world. Up to \$500 available for each Eco-Heroes. Responses due **2/28/08**. For more info, go to: <http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero/ecoheroawards.html>.

▲ The **United Nations Foundation** is now accepting proposals for small grants to support UNESCO World Heritage site conservation and sustainable tourism projects. Please refer to the attached documents for applicant eligibility, application procedures and requirements, and the timeline for grant review and award. Qualified community-based initiatives around the Sian Ka'an World Heritage site or the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage site are encouraged to apply. If you have further questions, please contact Lulu Zhou at [LZhou@unfoundation.org](mailto:LZhou@unfoundation.org)

▲ The **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** offers a **Research Fellowship Program (RFP)** that provides promising young individual conservationists with an opportunity to conduct advanced and applied biodiversity conservation research to develop key research and associated skills (planning, problem-solving, communication) necessary for conservation practitioners. The RFP is a small grants program designed to build capacity for the next generation of conservationists through supporting individual field research projects that have a clear application to the conservation of threatened wildlife and wildlife habitat. WCS seeks projects that are based on sound and innovative conservation science and that encourage practices in conservation that can contribute to sustainable development.

### **Application Details**

**Location:** The RFP supports marine or terrestrial field research in Africa, Asia, and Latin America regardless of the nationality of the applicant. In addition, the RFP accepts applications from Native Americans (US) and First Nation Peoples (Canada) who intend to conduct work on native lands on issues of direct relevance to wildlife. While all applications to work in Asian, African, and Latin American countries are considered, CLP funding is restricted to nationals from the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey and Venezuela. The RFP does not support research in North America (except as mentioned above), Australia, New Zealand, Europe or their territories, or Japan.

**Grantees:** The RFP will not limit any eligible individual from applying, however, most WCS grantees are:

- Professional conservationists from the country of research, and/or
- Post-graduates pursuing a higher degree

**Grants:** Grants are for up to \$25,000. The average grant is \$10,500.

**Timeline:** The RFP supports projects for only one year, so preference is given to discrete, short-term projects. Projects extending beyond one year must highlight achievable goals at the end of the year for which the funding is requested. Proposals are submitted in a standard format for two annual cycles with deadlines on **March 15** and **September 15**. Final decisions and awards are usually announced at the end of June (for the March 15 deadline) and December (for the September 15 deadline) with funding becoming available in July and January.

**Review and Evaluation:** Proposals are evaluated on a competitive basis by outside technical reviewers and WCS staff. Projects are evaluated on three major criteria:

- Applicant's potential as a conservation professional: the capacity building value of the proposed project.
- Relevance to wildlife conservation: a clear application of the research results to an important conservation question
- Scientific merit and value: in particular a clearly expressed research question with appropriate methodology and analysis.

For more detailed information about the application process please click on the following link: [Application Guidelines & Procedures](#) and [download](#) the printer-friendly RFP Factsheet.

#### ▲ USAID – US Agency for International Development

Guidelines and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2008 International Food Relief Partnership Modification 1 <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=40111>

#### ▲ Call for Applicants: Fulbright Scholar Awards in Agriculture

Applications continue to be accepted for Fulbright Scholar awards for lecturing, research or combined lecturing/research awards in agriculture during the 2008-2009 academic year. Faculty in agriculture may apply not only for awards specifically in their field, but also for one of the many "All Discipline" awards open to any field.

Visit [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org) for descriptions of available awards and new eligibility requirements. Awards are closing daily, so please consult the relevant program officer before applying.

▲ The **Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP)** invites you to apply for the **2008 Conservation Leadership Programme Awards**. CLP awards aim to contribute to long-term conservation in priority areas by encouraging and engaging potential leaders in biodiversity conservation. The program provides individuals with practical skills and experience to work in the conservation field.

**Applications will be accepted from the following countries:** **Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey and Venezuela.**

**Awards are offered in the following categories:**

- Future Conservationist Awards:** approx. 20 awards of up to \$12,500 each.
- Conservation Follow-up Awards:** approx. 5 awards of up to \$25,000 each. (Available only to previous CLP/BPCP award winners from any country.)
- Conservation Leadership Awards:** 2 awards of \$50,000 each. (Available only to previous CLP/BPCP award winners from any country.)

**For details, eligibility criteria, guidelines and an application form, please visit the [Conservation Leadership Programme website](#).** For additional questions or advice, please send an email to [clp@birdlife.org](mailto:clp@birdlife.org).

#### ▲ US\$1 MILLION ALCAN PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABILITY 2007 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

Montreal, Canada – September 26, 2007 – Alcan and International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) today announced the shortlist of candidates for the US\$1 million Alcan Prize for Sustainability for 2007. Ten organizations were selected from a field of over 155 entries from 53 countries around the world. The shortlist will now be evaluated by the international Adjudication Panel of distinguished sustainability experts.

"On behalf of Alcan, I would like to congratulate each of the 2007 shortlisted organizations. This is one of the most geographically diverse shortlists since the creation of the Alcan Prize for Sustainability in 2004," said Dick Evans,

President and CEO of Alcan Inc. "The diversity in this year's group of finalists also extends to the outstanding work these organizations are doing around the world. They are a fine representation of what the Alcan Prize for Sustainability is all about," he added.

Alcan created the Alcan Prize for Sustainability to recognize outstanding contributions to the goal of economic, environmental, and social sustainability by not-for-profit, non-governmental, and civil society organizations around the world. To ensure credibility and objectivity, Alcan engaged International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) to manage the Alcan Prize for Sustainability.

In selecting the 2007 shortlist, IBLF coordinated Assessment Panels in India, Canada, Russia, United Kingdom and South Africa. This process engaged more than 100 sustainability experts to act as assessors representing business, academia, government, and the NGO community. The Adjudication Panel, Chaired by David Runnalls, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development, fully endorsed the 10 shortlisted organizations and the assessment process. Alcan does not have a voice in the assessment or selection of Alcan Prize for Sustainability candidates.

"It is inspiring to see the extent of innovation and quality of creativity that these NGOs bring to their operations, practicing and promoting sustainable development in urban as well as remote and impoverished areas of the world. The Alcan Prize commends them for their positive social, environmental and economic impacts," said Adrian Hodges, IBLF Managing Director.

"On behalf of the Alcan Prize for Sustainability Adjudication Panel, I extend my congratulations to the 2007 shortlisted organizations. This shortlist is symbolic of the critical role that NGOs play in promoting sustainable practices across the globe," said David Runnalls, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and Chairman of the Adjudication Panel.

The Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007 shortlist is:

- Centro de Servicios Educativos en Salud y Medio Ambiente (CESESMA), Nicaragua
- FARM-Africa, UK
- Institute of Integrated Rural Development, Bangladesh
- Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat, India
- Los Ninos, USA
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, India
- Ningxia Center for Environment and Poverty Alleviation, China
- Rural Development Institute, USA
- The Natural Step Foundation, Sweden
- Utthan Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, India

Over the coming months, the Adjudication Panel will conduct an in-depth review of the shortlist and select the winner of the 2007 Alcan Prize for Sustainability. This is the first year where all shortlisted organizations will receive Alcan Training Grants. These US\$15,000 Grants will provide the opportunity for a senior representative of each organization to select from a menu of training including the chance to earn a post-graduate certificate in Cross Sector Partnerships from the University of Cambridge. The 2007 Alcan Prize for Sustainability winner will be announced when the final adjudication process is complete.

Alcan Inc. (NYSE, TSX: AL) is a leading global materials company, delivering high quality products and services worldwide. With world-class technology and operations in bauxite mining, alumina processing, primary metal smelting, power generation, aluminum fabrication, engineered solutions as well as flexible and specialty packaging today's Alcan is well positioned to meet and exceed its customers' needs. Alcan is represented by 68,000 employees, including its joint-ventures, in 61 countries and regions, and posted revenues of US\$23.6 billion in 2006. The Company has featured on the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes consecutively since 2002. For more information, please visit: [www.alcan.com](http://www.alcan.com).

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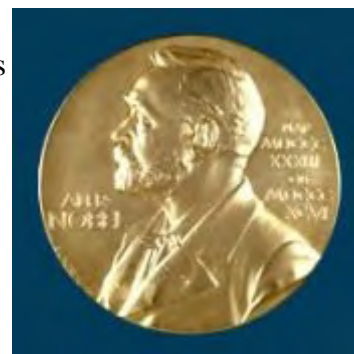
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Tel.: +1-514-848-8368  
investor.relations@alcan.com

### ▲ [IPCC awarded Nobel Peace Prize](#)

The United Nations [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) on Friday October 12, 2007. They share the Prize with former Vice President Al Gore for their work on climate change.

We extend our congratulations to Earth Portal International Advisory Board members [Rajendra K. Pachauri](#) and [Mohan Munasinghe](#), who serve as IPCC Chairman and Vice Chair, respectively, for this accomplishment.

For more coverage, please see our [EarthNews](#) article. [Share This](#)



## FELLOWSHIPS

▲ The Kinship Foundation issued a call for applications for its [2008 Kinship Conservation Fellows program](#). Kinship is designed to equip select career conservationists with effective tools for solving environmental problems through market-based principles. A month at Kinship is a rare opportunity for conservation professionals to explore new ideas and renew their inspiration for their work while learning from and collaborating with a truly exceptional group of Fellows and faculty.

The 2008 program will take place from June 25-July 25 in Bellingham, Washington. Eighteen Fellows will be selected to participate.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2008**. [Applications](#) should be submitted online.

▲ A 2008 [brochure and fact sheet](#) is available for download from the Kinship website. To learn more about the program, please visit [www.kinshipfellows.org](http://www.kinshipfellows.org).

The [Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center](#) at the [University of Missouri-St. Louis](#), in collaboration with the [Christensen Fund](#), invites applications from suitably qualified, highly motivated graduates for fully funded masters and Ph.D. fellowships in plant conservation.

The purpose of [The Christensen Fund Fellowship Program](#) in Plant Conservation is to educate botanists who will become decision-makers in their home countries. The two to five year fellowships (depending on degree program) are designed to attract and support individuals from tropical countries who will return to their country or region following graduation and make a significant difference in the development and application of plant conservation programs.

**Applicants** for Christensen Fund Fellowships **must have a bachelor's degree** in biology and be able to demonstrate strong leadership and scientific potential in applied plant conservation. These fellowships are open to **students from tropical countries in Central and South America, sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, Malesia and Pacific Island countries.**

The fellowships will provide recruitment and repatriation airfares, stipend, tuition fee waiver and the opportunity to apply for competitive research funds. Christensen Fund Fellows will be enrolled in the Ph.D. or M.S. graduate degree programs and will be involved in special courses, workshops, or internships designed to increase the Fellow's capacity to make an impact in applied conservation once they return to their countries.

For information on the application process, please refer to the following website: <http://icte.umsl.edu/application.html>. For additional questions, please contact the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at [osbornepl@umsl.edu](mailto:osbornepl@umsl.edu).

## COURSES – TRAINING COURSES



**September 17-30; October 2007-March 2008**

▲ **Permaculture Courses: Southern France, September 17-30, and San Luis Obispo County, California, USA, October 2007-March 2008 (1<sup>st</sup> weekend of each month)**

This permaculture course, run by Earthflow Design Works, provides holistic tools for critical decision-making and problem-solving in land and farm management. The design course is a 12-day, information-packed training program. It is presented in 3 parts as a 2-week course or as a monthly weekend series.

For more information see [http://www.earthflow.com/upcoming\\_courses.php#](http://www.earthflow.com/upcoming_courses.php#).

*"What Permaculturalists are doing is the most important activity that any group is doing on the planet" - Dr. David Suzuki*

▲ **Commercial Urban Agriculture Training Course, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, January – May 2008**

This intensive course, titled "Growing Power, Growing Farmers" is designed for individuals who want to learn how to succeed and profit in the profession of farming in the city. Growing Power's Commercial Sustainable Urban Agriculture program will assist participants to manage their own farming business, covering topics such as financing opportunities, aquaculture, bee-keeping, livestock care, small farm equipment, and marketing and creating a business plan. The course is a series of five weekend seminars during January through May 2008 and will take place at Growing Power's training facilities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The facilities include seven large greenhouses, a kitchen, training gardens, an aquaculture system, an anaerobic digester, and a food distribution facility.

Workshop dates are as follows: 11-13 January; 15-17 February; 14-16 March; 18-20 April; and 9-11 May.

For more information see: [www.growingpower.org/urban\\_agriculture.htm](http://www.growingpower.org/urban_agriculture.htm) or contact Jay Salinas at [jay@growingpower.org](mailto:jay@growingpower.org)

▲ The importance of watershed management in recent years has been increasing. However, the success of watershed management related activities depends mainly on the type of approaches and technologies that are implemented. In the mountainous regions, broad based integrated approaches and low-cost, culturally-acceptable and demand-based technologies have more acceptance by the local people, especially the poor, than those which are supply-driven, less-affordable and exotic.

Low cost techniques (new and traditional) therefore play a very important role for the mountain regions which are vulnerable to physical disasters and where peoples are poor and marginalized. A Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Programme will produce impact only if the activity is implemented in a package.

The challenge in the mountains, e.g. the Himalaya, is that field-level professionals responsible for implementing watershed management projects and programmes lack proper knowledge and skill on low cost soil and water conservation techniques. They are also not conceptually clear on what integrated watershed management means and what activities are required to achieve it. ICIMOD, together with some key partners, has initiated a training programme for bridging this gap. The Centre is going to conduct a 3-week training on "Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities" in 31 March – 22 April 2008.

This training aims to improve the knowledge and skill of field technicians working in the field of soil conservation and watershed management. The course has been synthesized from the vast practical experiences from the mountain regions. This training focuses on capacity building and contains many field and practical exercises. The training will be participatory and based on the principles of experiential learning

I would appreciate if you could nominate and support some participants to this training, and also share the announcement with your colleagues and network members.

We really look forward for your support in sending participants.

Keshar Man Sthapit, Training Coordinator

## JOB

▲ We are pleased to announce that the Tropical Agriculture Association's **Directory of Members available for employment** is now functioning again, after a complete re-design. The full search capabilities are now operating. A few minor changes are still being effected.

The [www.taadirectory.org.uk](http://www.taadirectory.org.uk) contains a brief CV for each TAA member who has registered as being available for assignments. Potential employers are advised to make direct contact with individual members for more comprehensive information.

We invite potential users of consultants to look at the site: we hope that you will find the expertise that you require. We also invite users to consider joining the TAA as Corporate or Individual members. Please let us have your feedback through the website, we hope that you find it useful.

Keith Virgo, TAA Directory Editor

## NEW INFORMATION SOURCES

**(This is a new column; every item is new every time)**

*Many or most of these sources can be had for free. WASWC members are encouraged to read through the following list and make your requests or purchases, whatever the case would be; this will help accelerate more exchanges of information among all players in natural resources management.*

## BOOKS

▲ **The Community Planning Handbook: How People Can Shape Their Cities, Towns and Villages in Any Part of the World** (sold on Amazon)

Comment from a reader: This book is the A-Z of community lead local planning. It includes 200 pages of concise and clearly explained principles, methods, example scenarios, forms, check lists, a glossary, contacts and other incredibly useful how-to resources. This manual is very useful for urban planning consultants, progressive municipal authorities and communities leaders that want to ensure the voice of the people who will be affected by local construction are part of the decision making process. Nick Wates writes from a perspective of real world experience with lots of practical tips for situations that vary from ideal community owned projects to last minute public consultation in a traditional city planning process. Taking a more P-mapping-related approach here is a list of downloadable documents <http://www.iapad.org/books.htm>

▲ **Book: Nature Friendly Garden – Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife and People**

This book by Marlene A. Condon, published by Stackhole Press, outlines how to plan a temperate-climate garden in ways that attract wildlife and support native species diversity, while controlling invasive species and managing pests. The author includes an index of plants that attract wildlife, as well as tips on water management and advice on feeding and sheltering wildlife.

To order the book online, see: [www.amazon.com/Nature-Friendly-Garden-Creating-Backyard-Wildlife/dp/0811732614](http://www.amazon.com/Nature-Friendly-Garden-Creating-Backyard-Wildlife/dp/0811732614).

▲ **Philosophical Transaction of the Royal Society Journal: special double issue on Sustainable Agriculture**

The journal *Philosophical Transaction of the Royal Society* has published a double issue on sustainable agriculture, organized and edited by Chris Pollock, Jules Pretty, Ian Crute, Chris Leaver and Howard Dalton. As the journal intro summarizes, sustainable agriculture outcomes can be positive for food productivity, reduced pesticide use, and carbon balances. Significant challenges, however, remain to develop national and international policies to support the wider emergence of more sustainable forms of agricultural production across both industrialized and developing countries. Articles cover a wide range of issues including biodiversity conservation, integrated pest management, on-farm nutrient management, plant and animal breeding, water pollution and water management for agriculture, and drivers of change in global agriculture.

Sara Scherr from Ecoagriculture Partners and Jeffrey A. McNeely from the World Conservation Union co-authored the article in issue I of the journal titled "Biodiversity Conservation and Agricultural Sustainability: Towards a New Paradigm of 'Ecoagriculture' Landscapes." In the article, the authors' assess the potentials and limitations of conserving biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, the feasibility of making such approaches financially viable, and the organizational, governance and policy frameworks needed to enable ecoagriculture planning and implementation at a globally significant scale.

The issue is available online with a subscription, and articles can be ordered individually for purchase at: <http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/index.cfm?page=1425>.

To see the article on Ecoagriculture Landscapes in draft form on the Ecoagriculture Partners Website visit: <http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/documents/reports/RoyalSocietyPaper-DRAFT-7-06.pdf>.

#### ▲ **New IUSS Bulletin now on-line**

A new IUSS bulletin is online – see [www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org) In this Bulletin you will find articles from Certini and Scalenge (You are earth), Lowe and Nathan (Soils on the web: Te Ara) and by Lin on hydopedology. The five questions to a soil scientist are answered by Peter Finke, Diana Wall, Barbara Wick and Bob MacMillan.

Furthermore, the favourite soil science books of Peter Leinweber, the obituary of Geoff Humphreys and several reports of soil science meetings, a list of upcoming meetings and, as always, Hans van Baren reviews many soil science books.

#### ▲ **Global Environmental Outlook 4**

The Global Environmental Outlook 4 is now published; earlier outlooks were published in 1997 (GEO1), 2000 (GEO2) and in 2002 (GEO3). The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) project is the implementation of UNEP's mandate to keep the global environment under review. Initiated at the request of the UNEP Governing Council in 1995, GEO is both a process and a series of reports, analyzing environmental change, causes, impacts, and policy responses. It provides information for decision-making, supports early warning and builds capacity at the global and sub-global levels. GEO is also a communication process that aims at raising awareness on environmental issues and providing options for action.

Full report can be downloaded (free) here: [www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/](http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/)

The GEO Data Portal is the authoritative source for data sets used by UNEP and its partners in the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report. Its online database holds more than 450 different variables, as national, subregional, regional and global statistics or as geospatial data sets, covering themes like Freshwater, Population, Forests, Emissions, Climate, Disasters, Health and GDP. See <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>

#### ▲ **NEW FOR 2008 - Ecohydrology**

An international journal publishing original scientific and review papers that aim to improve understanding of processes at the interface between ecology and hydrology and associated applications related to environmental management. Don't miss out! Be the first to read the exciting new content and sign up for RSS

Feeds to receive FREE Table of Content Alerts and EarlyView Articles straight to your desktop as soon as they publish online. Visit the journal homepage to set up your alerts or alternatively to submit a paper to this international publication. [www.interscience.wiley.com/eco](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/eco)

#### ▲ **El futuro de la ciencia del suelo**

The IUSS book "The Future of Soil Science" has been translated in Spanish by Dr. Miguel Angel Segura Castruita, Professor of Soil Science at the Instituto Tecnológico de Torreón in México. The book contains the views from 55 soil scientists in 28 countries and is a palette of opinions and views reflecting great diversity but also several commonalities. The English and Spanish version can be freely downloaded from the IUSS website – see [www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org)

*Following books are available at Akhil Books Pvt. Ltd.*

▲ **Emerging Trends in Soil Management**, M.L. Soni (Ed. by), S.K. Mathur (Ed. by), B.B.S. Kapoor (Ed. by),

▲ **Experiments in Soil Biology and Biochemistry**, P.K. Chhonkar, Others,

- ▲ **Soil Testing and Analysis: Plant, Water and Pesticide Residues**, Ramesh, N.S. Azad Thakur, Brajendra, Patiram,
- ▲ **Assessing Soil Contamination: A Reference Manual**, FAO
- ▲ **Micronutrients for Soil and Plant Health**, L.L. Somani
- ▲ **Farming Systems Development and Soil Conservation**, Malcolm Douglas, David Norman,
- ▲ **Soil Management: Compost Production and Use in Tropical and Subtropical Environments**, Howard Dalzell,
- ▲ **Management of Soil Quality for Sustainable Agriculture**, B. Mishra (Ed. by), S.K. Singh (Ed. by), Ramesh Chandra (Ed. by)
- ▲ **Green Manuring for Soil Productivity Improvement**, Bijay Singh, Yadvinder Singh, O.P. Meelu
- ▲ **Soil Fertility Management for Sustainable Agriculture**, P.C. Bandyopadhyay (Ed. by)

**Available at Akhil Books Pvt. Ltd.**  
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[Website: www.akhilbooks.com](http://www.akhilbooks.com)  
[E-mail: info@akhilbooks.com](mailto:info@akhilbooks.com)

## REPORTS

### ▲ **New IPCC and UNDP reports**

Here is a good read or two. The IPCC has just published a synthesis report. This Synthesis Report is based on the assessment carried out by the three Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It provides an integrated view of climate change as the final part of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) – click [here](#) for the website to download the synthesis report.

### ▲ **Human Development Report 2007-2008**

UNDP published its Human Development Report 2007-2008, with the title “Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world.” The conclusion: Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity at the start of the 21st Century. Failure to meet that challenge raises the spectre of unprecedented reversals in human development. For the full report (and more nuance) click [here](#).

### ▲ **Fractal Structures and Processes in Soil and Water Systems**

In the natural environment, there is a great need to quantitatively describe complex physico-chemical systems and processes. By their very nature, environmental systems are thus perfect candidates for a quantitative description using fractal dimensions. Indeed, fractal geometry has been successfully employed to describe aggregate structures, flow through porous media; distributions of organisms, and adsorption and reaction kinetics in soil/water systems. The Session will be devoted to providing novel insights into the significance and usefulness of fractal geometry to soil/water systems, with focus on the physico- analytical- and bio-chemistry of structures, properties and processes in these systems, with comparison to more classical approaches. Contact: Nicola Senesi [senesi@agr.uniba.it](mailto:senesi@agr.uniba.it)

### ▲ **Issue Papers in People, Food and Biodiversity Series**

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), has recently published five new issue papers within their “People, Food, and Biodiversity” series. The papers deal with issues pertaining to the conservation of agrobiodiversity. Titles in the series are as follows:

- Agrobiodiversity – an option for cushioning the consequences of HIV/AIDS

- Partnerships for Agrobiodiversity – the example of potato diversity in the Andes
- Promoting the diversity of useful plants and animals through marketing
- Value chains and their sustainability for conserving biodiversity
- Promoting the diversity of useful plant and animal breeds through marketing – the example of Argan trees in Morocco

GTZ is implementing the sector project “Global Food Security and Agrobiodiversity” on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. To receive copies of the series in German, English, French, or Spanish please contact Annette Von Lossau at: [Annette.Lossau-von@gtz.de](mailto:Annette.Lossau-von@gtz.de). For more information on the GTZ see: [www.gtz.de](http://www.gtz.de).

## JOURNAL

### ▲ Scientific Journal JFAE

This is to inform you that we have already uploaded the online version of the journal JFAE (Vol(5) 3&4 - July-October 2007) on the website. <http://www.isfae.org/scientificjournal.php>, <http://www.isfae.org/subjectarea.php#indexing>

We offer to you and your colleagues a free online access to the journal JFAE in order to download any paper you wish. Please keep the username and password in your file.

*username: helsinki27; password: helsinki27*

You may give the same username and password to your colleagues or student and also to the head of your library or the librarian asking them to make a link to the journal website.

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We encourage your library to subscribe the online and/or print version of the journal. This will enable us to continue running this scientific journal.

Looking forward to receiving your contributions to the journal.

Halttu, P.  
Assistant

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<http://www.isfae.org/scientificjournal.php>  
<http://www.world-food.net/>

### ▲ ***Biodiversity and Conservation* Journal: special issue on Biodiversity in Cocoa Production Landscapes**

This special issue of the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation* highlights the topic of biodiversity in cocoa production landscapes, and is guest edited by Goetz Schroth and Celia A. Harvey of Conservation International. Articles deal with bird diversity in cocoa farms and fragmented forests, incorporating livelihoods in biodiversity conservation, a comparative study on ferns, frogs, lizards, birds and bats in two contrasting landscapes, and contribution of the cocoa plantation to native ant populations. The articles focus mainly on landscapes in Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil and Cameroon.

The journal is available online at [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com), under the reference Biodiversity Conservation (2007) 16:8

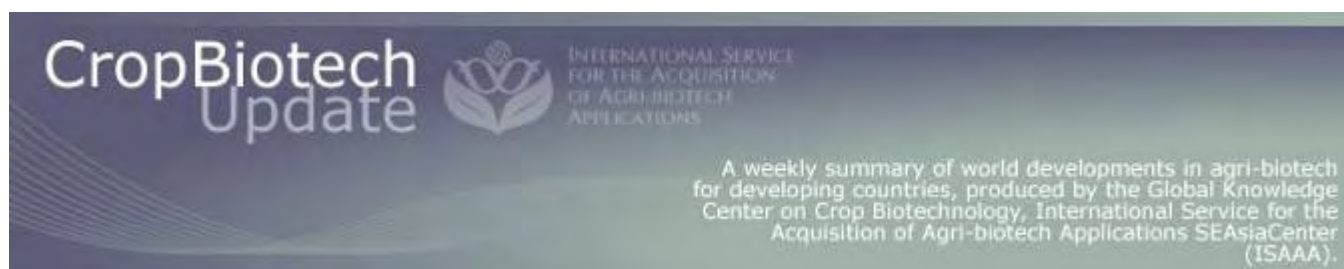
## NEWSLETTER

▲ It is my pleasure to share with you the most recent issue of ***Between the Lines***, the Equator Initiative newsletter. This edition features two timely articles on the response to climate change; one outlines the Secretary-General's High-Level Event on Climate Change that took place at the UN Secretariat in New York on 24 September, and the other describes the conference *Energy and Climate Change: North and South Perspectives* held at the Fordham Law School in New York on 1 October.

This edition also features *A Dialogue for the Future: Indigenous Entrepreneurship – Successes and Challenges*, a conference held at the United Nations Headquarters on 23 May in conjunction with the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). Other coverage includes the launch of the Community Knowledge Service in Bangalore, India, and the UN Country Office celebrations for Equator Prize finalists and winners.

The newsletter is available for download at: <http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/equatorknowledge/publications.htm>

Eileen de Ravin  
Manager, UNDP Equator Initiative



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## BROCHURES

### ▲ International Year Soils brochure in French

Year 2008 will be the International Year of Planet Earth, with many outreach projects stressing the importance of the earth sciences for human societies. A brochure on the soils was produced in English in 2006. The brochure is intended to explain to the general public and is now also available in French (*Le sol, épiderme vivant de la Terre*), both in electronic version ([www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org)); for printed copies send your requests to [roland.poss@ird.fr](mailto:roland.poss@ird.fr)

## WEBSITES (Mixed subjects – hope you will find some of them useful)

▲ Dear Colleagues,

I wish to inform you that an up to date web-page of the 5th ESSC international congress ([www.esscpalermocongress.it](http://www.esscpalermocongress.it)) is now ready on the net.

Waiting for the results of the reviewers work aimed at choosing the "selected papers" to be published on the n. 41 of "Advances in GeoEcology", it is possible to download from the web-page some materials of the congress, photos and a video of the gala dinner.

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### ▲ World Bank launches website and report on Agriculture and Development

The World Bank recently released the World Development Report 2008, which calls for greater investment in agriculture in developing countries and warns that the agricultural sector must be placed at the center of the development agenda to realize the goals of halving extreme hunger and poverty by 2015. Dealing mainly with the issue of agriculture and poverty reduction, the report examines what agriculture can do for development, effective instruments in using agriculture for development, and the question of how to best implement agriculture-for-development agendas. The last World Development Report on agriculture was completed 25 years ago.

The website profiling the World Development Report also includes policy briefs, special reports, and background papers on Agriculture and Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change, Biofuels, and Agriculture and Poverty Reduction, among others. In addition, the site features a slideshow, as well as compilations of feature videos, press briefings and podcasts on the topic of agriculture and development. Papers of particular interest to an ecoagriculture audience include:

- Policy Brief: Agriculture and Environment:
- Policy Brief: Agriculture and Poverty Reduction
- Background Paper: "Agroecological Approaches to Rural Development" by Jules Pretty

For more information see: <http://www.tiny.cc/Lerri>

### ▲ Website: Drynet - A Global Initiative, Giving Future to the Drylands

Due to current climate change and destructive land uses, land is rapidly degrading, increasing the surface area of drylands and deserts around the globe. Drynet, a new EU-funded NGO network aims to strengthen civil society networks, giving them the right knowledge and visibility to influence drylands development. Most recently, the Drynet network participated in the European DesertNet-Oasis side event at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of Parties in Madrid, Spain. For more information see: [www.dry-net.org](http://www.dry-net.org).

## EXPOSITION

### ▲ Call for applications: International Women's Environmental Entrepreneurs Fair

The World Conservation Union is organizing an International Women's Environmental Entrepreneurs Fair at the World Conservation Congress, taking place from 5-14 October 2008, in Barcelona, Spain. Fifty women from around the world will have the chance to showcase their innovative "green enterprises" at the Congress and to form the basis of a worldwide network of women green entrepreneurs.

The International Women's Environmental Entrepreneur Fair aims to: facilitate and strengthen women's productive enterprises that produce or provide services that are environmentally friendly, and showcase women's professional and business activities that go beyond regional borders and contribute to environmental conservation and the alleviation of poverty.

If you are a woman who belongs to an environmentally friendly entrepreneurial group, if you can recommend one, or if you are sponsoring a group of this nature, please contact the organizers and send in an application. A team of experts and practitioners will select the 50 finalists. Submissions will be accepted from **September 2007 through April 2008**. Finalists will be announced in May 2008.

The application is available at: [genderandenvironment\\_application](http://genderandenvironment_application). Completed submissions should be sent to [womenfair@iucn.org](mailto:womenfair@iucn.org).

For more information see: [leng=ingles&id=63">www.genderandenvironment.org/noticias/noticia.php?leng=ingles&id=63](http://www.genderandenvironment.org/noticias/noticia.php?leng=ingles&id=63).

### ▲ Slow Food Nation: An Exposition of American Food, San Francisco, California, USA, 1-4 May 2008

Slow Food Nation, a four-day exposition and celebration of food, will be held in San Francisco during 1 -4 May 2008. Its mission is to raise consciousness about how food is produced and distributed, through debates, lectures, tastings, demonstration, an international food film festival and a market of American artisanal foods. The event is part of a year-long campaign to change the way America produces and eats food, bringing together and amplifying the messages of related movements focused on organic food, local food, animal welfare, school food and childrens' health. After the first event, Slow Food Nation will move to other US cities, each with a regional focus to address the specific challenges facing sustainable agriculture and aquaculture in various parts of the country.

For more information on the Slow Food Nation Campaign see: [www.slowfoodnation.org/](http://www.slowfoodnation.org/) or contact Sarah Weiner at [sarah.weiner@slowfoodusa.org](mailto:sarah.weiner@slowfoodusa.org).

For more information on Slow Foods International see: [http://www.terramadre2006.org/terramadre/welcome\\_eng.lasso](http://www.terramadre2006.org/terramadre/welcome_eng.lasso).



# FRIEND(S) NEED YOUR HELP!

November 20, 2007

Dear Samran,

As you may be aware that Sidr cyclone has caused a serious damage and death tolls estimated no. 10,000 at Bangladesh coast dwellers especially Sundarban stakeholders with them we are working. Can you forward a message to your network members for supporting CCEC for immediate food, cloth, medicine for the victim families?

Regards,

+++++

Mowdudur Rahman

Director

Centre for Coastal Environmental  
Conservation

House # 93, Road # 2, Sonadanga R/A,  
Khulna-9000, Bangladesh

Tel: 88 041 810982

Cell: 01712995180

E-mail: [ccec\\_bd@khulna.bangla.net](mailto:ccec_bd@khulna.bangla.net);

[mowdud\\_ccec@yahoo.com](mailto:mowdud_ccec@yahoo.com)

**Hope members who are somewhat better off may be able to offer some help to Mowdud and his Bangladeshi fellows.**

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## MEETINGS 2008

**January 9-12, 2008** <http://www.lesspub.com/cgi-bin/site.pl?ntf/ntfConf>

### 2008 National No-Tillage Conference

Jan. 9-12, 2008  
Netherland Hilton Hotel  
Cincinnati, Ohio

[Register Here](#)

### National No-Tillage Conference Returning To Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 9 - 12

Many of the nation's leading no-till farmers and researchers will gather with both experienced and novice no-tillers when the 16th annual National No-Tillage Conference returns to Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 9 through 12 for the first time since 2005. The NNTC, widely regarded as the premier conservation-tillage conference, draws approximately 700 no-till farmers, agriculture officials and university researchers from around the country and the world for four days of presentations and discussions. This year's event, built around the theme "Gaining The No-Till Edge," will be held at the Cincinnati Hilton Hotel, a historic downtown landmark.

Among the speakers scheduled to address the conference are:

- Randall Reeder, an Ohio State University agricultural engineer, and prominent Ohio no-tiller and Extension Service specialist Allen Sundermeier: Understanding The Correlation Between Soil Compaction, Carbon And Other Components.
- Steve Cabbage, owner and president of Record Harvest Enterprises, a no-tiller on his own farm and a precision technology expert.
- Phil Needham, a no-till consultant and owner of Needham Ag Technologies: Streamlining Your No-Till Equipment For Effective Residue Management, and High-Tech No-Till Wheat Management.
- Jill Clapperton, soil biologist and consultant: The Ins And Outs Of Soil Microbiology.
- Roberto Peiretti, co-founder of the Argentinean No-Till Farmers Association: A Global Look At No-Till Production.
- Dave Dum: Money-Making No-Till Planter Adjustments.

Underlining the NNTC's focus on education, state regulatory agencies allowed no-tillers, custom applicators and crop consultants to earn more than 20 hours of continuing education credits for participating in previous conferences. Approval for a similar number of credits is expected for the upcoming NNTC.

The NNTC keeps attendees moving and engaged in various educational formats, including...

- No-Till General Sessions: Ten large gatherings will feature highly respected no-tillers, researchers and educators presenting the latest ideas for more cost-effective no-tilling. Presented for all conference attendees, these sessions will also include panel discussions about the most critical issues that could help no-tillers function more profitably in 2008.
- No-Till Classrooms: A dozen in-depth "no-till classrooms" will zero in on critical no-tilling challenges being faced today and explore solutions that make sense in today's farming economy. Attendees will select three sessions to hear the latest thinking on timely no-till topics from outstanding farmers or researchers with plenty of practical experience.
- No-Till Roundtables: Choosing from among the topics for 60 no-till roundtable discussions, attendees will select four face-to-face, 60-minute sessions with other attendees facing the same issues. These interactive roundtables, in which everyone is welcome to contribute ideas on a specific topic, deliver highly practical information from one no-tiller to another. Many growers have called these sessions their most valuable learning experiences at past conferences.

NNTC registration is \$247, with additional registrations from an individual farm or family available for \$217 each. Registration includes a 1-year subscription to the monthly *No-Till Farmer* newsletter. To register, click on "Register Here" at the top of this page, or call (866) 839-8455 (U.S. and Canada only) or (262) 432-0388, or fax your registration to (262) 786-5564, or send your payment to: National No-Tillage Conference, P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, WI 53008-0624.

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**REVIEW.** For an overview of the 2007 conference held in January in Des Moines, Iowa, [click here](#).

**PHOTOS.** For a look back at the 2007 event in pictures, [click here](#).

**PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE.** To purchase audio recordings of the 2007 presentations, [click here](#).

**NNTC SPONSORS.** For information about National No-Tillage conference sponsors, [click here](#).

**16th ANNUAL NNTC SPONSOR PROGRAM SOLD OUT.** For information, [click here](#).

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If you have questions about the National No-Tillage Conference, please contact *No-Till Farmer* by phone at (866) 839-8455 or (262) 432-0388; by fax at (262) 786-5564; by e-mail at [info@lesspub.com](mailto:info@lesspub.com); or by mail at P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, WI 53008-0624.

## **January 14-25, 2008**

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the **Mountain GIS e-conference** slated for 14 - 25 January 2008. The two-week e-conference is being jointly organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) to promote geo-information technology and applications for integrated mountain development.

The e-conference has the following four-fold objectives:

- To provide a virtual platform to share knowledge and experiences in the geo-information community by facilitating dialogue among a broad user base in the region and beyond;
- To facilitate showcase geo-information applications and decision support tools and methodologies for mountain development;
- To help foster a mountain geo-information network by establishing linkages among similar regional and global initiatives; and
- To sensitise people on the use of geo-information science and technology in mountain development policies and practices.

The e-conference will address the following main themes:

- i) Capacity building and networking;
- ii) Mountain databases, tools and methods; and
- iii) Thematic applications and decision support systems.

Participation in the e-conference is free and open to all.

To confirm your participation, you can directly register online at:

<http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ec/index.cfm?act=reg&econfid=15>

In case you do not have easy access to the Internet, you may request an electronic copy of the registration form by writing to the e-Conference Organising Team at: [gis@mtforum.org](mailto:gis@mtforum.org)

We look forward to your participation in this e-conference.

e-Conference Organising Team

Mountain GIS e-Conference

email: [gis@mtforum.org](mailto:gis@mtforum.org)

web: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ec/index.cfm?econfid=15>

## **February 25-28, 2008**

The **Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB 2)** will be held from **25 – 28 February 2008** in **Galway, Ireland**.

The conference will focus on three key areas:

**Disaster relief and emergency response** - harnessing ecosystem services for crisis prevention, recovery and redevelopment programmes

**Emerging infectious diseases** - integrating biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management into disease prevention and control programmes

**Food resources, diet and nutrition** - meeting nutrition security and poverty challenges with biodiversity

Conference sessions will explore how health aspects of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals are influenced by the status of global biodiversity, and will review the impacts and implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The over-riding focus will be on experience sharing on issues of health and ecological sciences.

#### **Interested?**

Abstracts are invited for poster and oral presentations exploring the linkages between human, animal, plant and ecosystem health. Presentations about experience on the design, planning or implementation of collaborative, inter-disciplinary approaches to health, nature conservation and international development issues, are particularly welcome.

Click [here](#) for full details of the conference or contact the conference organising committee at: [conference@cohabnet.org](mailto:conference@cohabnet.org). Information about the COHAB Initiative is available online at [www.cohabnet.org](http://www.cohabnet.org).

**March 7-8, 2008**

**International Geographical Union  
Commission on Land Use & Land Cover Change  
Commission on Biogeography & Biodiversity  
International Seminar  
on  
Land Use Land Cover Change and Agro-Biodiversity  
March 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2008**



**Organised and Hosted by**

**Department of Geography  
National Post Graduate College, University of Lucknow  
2 Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001, U.P., India**

#### **About the Seminar**

Land is basic or fundamental resource and real wealth as human beings live on it. Originally, land is our mother; which provides us food, clothing and housing. Demand of limited land is increasing day by day. So, the nature and tendency of land use land cover are changing rapidly throughout the world. Land use is the term that is used to describe human uses of the land, or immediate actions modifying or converting land cover. It includes such broad categories as human settlements, protected areas and agriculture. Within those broad categories are more refined categories, such as urban and rural settlements, irrigated and rainfed fields, national parks and forest reserves, and transportation and other

infrastructure. Land cover refers to the natural vegetative cover types that characterize a particular area. These are generally a reflection of the local climate and landforms, though they too can be altered by human actions. Examples of broad land cover categories include forest, tundra, savannah, desert or steppe, which in turn can be sub-divided into more refined categories representing specific plant communities, e.g., oak-pine scrublands, mangroves, seasonally flooded grassland, etc.

The scientific research community called for substantive study of land-use and land-cover changes during the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, and again 20 years later at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). In the past decade, a major international initiative to study land-use and land-cover change (LUCC), the LUCC Project, has gained great momentum in its efforts to understand driving forces of land-use change (mainly through comparative case studies), develop diagnostic models of land-cover change, and produce regionally and globally integrated models (Lambin et al. 1999, Geist 2002). The land use changes are cumulatively transforming land cover and agro biodiversity continuously at local to global level. In global spatial ecosystems, these changes are related to the issue of the sustainability of socio-economic development, since they affect basic parts of our natural wealth such as climate, soils, vegetation, water resources and agro-biodiversity. In present era of globalization, it is established fact that land use change is a major driver of global change, through its interaction with climate, ecosystem processes, biogeochemical cycles, agro-biodiversity and human activities. There is great need of present world from local to global level to study the burning issue of land use land cover change and agro bio-diversity for understanding recent critical changes in earth's environment.

How do land-use and land-cover change processes link to broader changes in the global environment, and to efforts to obtain environmental sustainability? The strong interest in land-use and land-cover results from their direct relationship to many of the planet's fundamental characteristics and processes, including the productivity of the land, the diversity of plant and animal species, and the biochemical and hydrological cycles. Land cover is continually molded and transformed by land-use changes such as, for example, when a forest is converted to pasture or crop land. Land-use change is the proximate cause of land-cover change. The underlying driving forces, however, can be traced to a host of economic, technological, institutional, cultural and demographic factors.

So, to address the issue of land use land cover change and agro-biodiversity in Lucknow city and its fringe area, Uttar Pradesh, India as well as in the world, it is the demand of hour to have a common platform where members of all disciplines come together and discuss the agenda of changes in the earth system at length. To provide a platform we propose to organize the International Seminar on Land Use Land Cover Change and Agro biodiversity, which will take place from 7th to 8th March 2008 in the city of Lucknow the capital of Uttar Pradesh, in the north India. This seminar will focus on global change due to land use land cover change and agro-biodiversity and the medium through which many human responses to global change will occur. It is clearly an essential component in all considerations of sustainability. Land use land cover change is building bridge between all sciences . It is a pathfinder seminar for all researchers and scientists who are interested to study the role of land use land cover change as a central issue for global change and sustainable planning.

**Major Theme of the Seminar:** International Seminar on Land Use Land Cover Change and Agro-Biodiversity

### **Sub Theme**

1. Role of Remote Sensing and G.I.S. for Monitoring Land Use and Land Cover Change.
2. Historical Development of Land Use Change and Biodiversity.
3. Agro- Biodiversity: Challenges and Responses
4. Development and Plantation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
5. Land Use and Land Cover Changes in Uttar Pradesh and its Environmental Implications.
6. Dangerous spatial pattern of Land Use Land Cover in fringe areas of cities in Uttar Pradesh
7. Land Use and Land Cover Changes impact on Biodiversity.
8. Land Use and Land Cover Changes: International and National Policies.
9. Biodiversity: International and National Policies and Planning Framework.
10. Land Resource Management for sustainable agricultural growth with reference to U.P., India & World.

11. Land Care Movements and youth
12. Panchayati Raj Institution and land resource development.

### **Goals of the Seminar**

**Disseminating** the information on land use land cover change research, theory, methodology, practice and policy practice

**Facilitating** the exchange of information across disciplines and among individuals, groups and institutions

**Reaching** out to develop collaboration through strengthening the networks and research groups

**Highlighting** the positive contribution of land use land cover change research to policy and practice

### **The host city: Lucknow**

Lucknow is the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, India; situated in Middle Ganga Plain on the bank of river Gomti, approximately 500Km. from New Delhi. Lucknow is among the few cities in India that have evolved its own character and definition. It is a city keeping pace, with the strides of time while maintaining its links with its roots. Lucknow lives as much in the serpentine by lanes of the Old City as it does in the plush shopping malls of Hazratganj. One can find all international brands and shop for the latest gizmos and freak around. The monuments have played a significant role in shaping the course of history and the future of the city, whether it be the Residency or the Imambaras and the Rumi Darwaza, the veritable leit motif of the city. Today, Lucknow is a growing modern city, with a humungous population. It has still remained faithful to its tradition being a city of history, culture, atmosphere, scenery, and culinary delicacies. The royal chefs of Avadh by way of their own experiments at blending spices, attained unparalleled heights in the culinary arts and it is the legacy that is carried to the day. The city has long taken pride in its academic supremacy and intellectual sovereignty earning a name' for itself as the breeding ground for academics, thinkers, writers, poets, artisans, and philosophers. The Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow is one of the country's topmost business school, others being Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), King George Medical University (KGMU), and four leading labs of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research labs (e.g. CDRI, ITRC, CIMAP, and NBRI). Apart from being the "City of Nawabs", it has kept-up with the jet age. Lucknow has been popular for its hospitality, etiquette with fineness and one needs to witness the same to enjoy the same. Therefore, the city is an ideal location for the seminar and welcomes you to a pleasant stay.

### **The host College: National P.G. College, Lucknow**

National Post Graduate College, established in the year 1974 by the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Chandra Bhanu Gupta. Situated on the bank of river Gomti the college has a large campus and lush green surroundings. Total strength of the college is 4000 students (Boys & Girls). College offers under-graduate and post-graduate courses in Arts and Commerce faculties and under graduate courses in Science and Computer faculties. The college has aimed and achieved cent-percent results in the examination. The college has made these achievements under the leadership of its dynamic and energetic Principal, well qualified and hard working faculty that strives to put in their best to raise the standard of the institution. The college has well equipped laboratories in all the faculties.

### **Invitation**

Community people, practioners, 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.

### **Papers**

Papers are invited for presentation in the seminar. The abstract of paper for the conference booklet should be typed with double space in Times Roman (12 Font Size) and contain the title of the paper, name of author(s), affiliation, text, and references not exceeding one page in MS Word format. The manuscript should be sent to the convener as e-mail attachment latest by December 31, 2007. Poster presentations should be indicated in the registration form, The size of the poster should not exceed A0.

### **Field Trip (March 9-11, 2008)**

Registration fee for the field trip is US\$500 for foreign delegates including transportation, meals, accommodation and technical materials. Programme of field trip includes visit to Taj Mahal, Urban Industrial Development and LUCC, impact of LUCC on environment, Biodiversity, Hot spot.

### **Patron:**

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### **April 7-10, 2008 (additional info)**

As indicated to you previously, the **2008 International Banana Conference** will be held in Mombasa, Kenya from 7-10 April, 2008 ([www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)).

This event is organized by IITA, Bioversity, FARA, ISHS and KARI, and will bring together scientists, policy makers, trade experts and the private sector from Africa and beyond.

You can still submit your abstract, and you can do via our website [www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)

Abstracts can be in English or French, and can be scientific or strategic in nature.

Please forward this message to interested parties, and looking forward to receiving your abstract and seeing you in Mombasa,

Dr. Thomas Dubois [t.dubois@cgiar.org](mailto:t.dubois@cgiar.org), [www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)

version française disponible sur le site web

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### **April 13-18, 2008**

**European Geosciences Union**

**General Assembly 2008**

**Vienna, Austria**

**Hydrological Sciences, General Session, HS1.2**

## **Linking Participation and Knowledge Sharing with Integrated Land Use Management**

Many areas in Europe and worldwide are undergoing rapid changes in land use, both in response to global climate change and to adapt to changing socio-economic conditions. A number of European and national projects are struggling with methodologies to manage these processes of change, mainly for marginal lands, in ways that will be physically, economically and socially sustainable. Many of these projects are attempting to integrate bio-physical and socio-economic models that will improve our understanding of complex process interactions. The bio-physical models are generally based on accepted principles, and the challenge is to incorporate these processes at appropriate coarse scales to be of policy relevance. A much wider range of theoretical frameworks is available for the socio-economic analysis, including models based on the social interactions between stakeholders, variants of economic optimisation, and questionnaire analysis. There are also arguments in favour of both top-down and bottom-up approaches. Experiences show that successful land management practices are rarely evaluated and used in other areas. There are few attempts to systematically document, evaluate, share and disseminate knowledge about successes and failures. So-called 'best practices' include land user's own practices, as well as research-based or extension- and project- promoted technologies and approaches.

In this session we invite contributions that focus on the use of participatory approaches in managing land use change. This is thought to ensure the acceptability and feasibility of proposed conservation techniques, as well as a sound scientific basis for judging effectiveness at various scales, and is one way of implementing the bottom up approach advocated by UNCCD. Such approaches need to be documented and analysed in order to use them in comparable areas. We recognise that there are substantial difficulties, from initially engaging stakeholders through to final dissemination of the knowledge gained, and papers on both theoretical and practical aspects are welcome.

[Abstract submission](#) deadline: 14 January 2008, choice between 'poster' and 'no preference'

[Financial support application](#) deadline: 07 December 2007

**Conference pre-[registration](#)** deadline: 31 March 2008

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**April 13-18, 2008**

EGU Vienna 2008  
**European Geosciences Union General Assembly (EGU-2008)**  
**Soil System Science Division (SSS). Soil conservation committee**  
**Vienna, Austria, 13 – 18 April 2008**  
Session on

**SOIL EROSION AND DEGRADATION ON  
MEDITERRANEAN TYPE-ECOSYSTEMS**

Convener

Dr. Artemi Cerdà

Departament de Geografia. Universitat de València

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Mediterranean type ecosystems are characterized by a seasonal contrasted distribution of the precipitation, by the coincidence of the driest and hottest season in summer, by a mountainous terrain and by a long history of intense human occupation around the Mediterranean sea. All those cultural and natural conditions result in a highly dynamic and complex soil erosion and degradation system. Within the last two decades substantial improvements on the scientific knowledge has been achieved by scientist around the world. The session to be held within the European Geoscience Union 2008 will be a great chance to share and show all those findings. The special session on SOIL EROSION AND DEGRADATION IN MEDITERRANEAN TYPE-ECOSYSTEMS (EroMed) will

discuss topics on soil degradation, past and present erosion processes, the effect of agriculture, grazing, mining and other human activities such as land abandonment on the Mediterranean soils, fluvial and slope erosion and deposition processes, the forest fire effects, and the soil and landscape restoration and conservation strategies. Investigations developed by means of experimental and laboratory studies, field measurement and quantification, modeling and mapping assessment are welcome. The meeting will allow the researchers to share knowledge also about the soil erosion and degradation processes in the five Mediterranean areas (Mediterranean sea, California, Chile, South Africa and Australia), and to define and discuss future research challenges and strategies. This is also a key meeting to plan programs and develop future research projects. Scientists are invited to submit abstracts on the above mentioned topics. A peer review international journal will publish a special issue on the soil erosion and degradation in the Mediterranean Type Ecosystems.

### **April 13 to 18, 2008**

**General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU 2008)** , Vienna, Austria, April 13 to 18, 2008.

We hope you will join us and share your experience and results of your work. EGU2008 will be an excellent opportunity to join geoscientists from the whole world, and to discuss problems dealing with soil and other components of the Earth system.

All necessary information can be found under <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008>

Please, be aware that the deadline for submission of abstracts is **January 14, 2008**.

Deadline for the receipt of abstracts with support applications is already **December 7, 2007 - next Friday** !

Respective information is given at [http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/financial\\_support.html](http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/financial_support.html)

We particular want to draw your attention on **Soil System Sciences** and the following session which we initiated due to their definite importance: SSS27 'Soil quality indicators to assess genesis, degradation and rehabilitation processes', Convener: Dilly, O., Co- Convener: Benedetti, A..

Details are given at [http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/sessions/information.php?p\\_id=313&s\\_id=5312](http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/sessions/information.php?p_id=313&s_id=5312)

Please, feel free to circulate this invitation to any student, post-doc, or other colleague who may be interested about this meeting!!!

We hope to meet you in Vienna in spring 2008

Oliver Dilly and on behalf of my Co-Convener Anna Benedetti

### **April 23-25, 2008**

#### **Lysimeter Workshop**

The 2nd Workshop Lysimeters for Global Change Research: Biological Processes and the Environmental Fate of Pollutants will be held at the GSF- National Research Center for Environment and Health – campus in Neuherberg near Munich from April 23-25, 2008. It will be organized by the Department of Environmental Engineering in co-operation with the Lysimeter Research Group.

[www.gsf.de/lysimeter-workshop](http://www.gsf.de/lysimeter-workshop)

### **April 28-May 1, 2008**

**6th International Symposium Agroenviron – 2008 Natural Resources Conservation Use & Sustainability, Ankara University, Antalya, Turkey** <http://www.agroenviron2008.org/>

First Agro Environ symposium in 1998 was organized by the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Trakya University in Tekirdag, Turkey hosted the Second Symposium in 2000 and the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) in Cairo, Egypt served as a host for the Third Symposium in 2002. The Fourth Agro Environ Symposium was organized by the University of Udine in Udine, Italy in 2004. Gent University, Belgium was the home of the last symposium in 2006.

The aim of the symposium is to involve scientists, engineers, planners, research centers and institutions in issues related to the agricultural environment. There is a need to assess and control the pressures and impacts of agricultural and horticultural activities on the environment in terms of soil, plant and atmosphere. **Agro Environ Symposia covered a range of topics addressing key environmental,**

agricultural and horticultural issues through applying new technologies that aim at sustaining agricultural systems, monitoring the environment and conserving natural resources.

The symposium is to bring together researchers from various disciplines, including soil science, geology, as well as agricultural engineering, geoinformatics, spectroscopy, agronomy, spatial statistics, and environmental engineering.

Participants are invited to get OnLine early registration and submit a 500-word Abstract of Paper (no figures or references) not later than [November 30, 2007](#) by visiting [Web Site <http://www.agroenviron2008.org/>](#)

**Dr. Sajid MAHMOOD (Azeemi) *Agroenviron Symposia Coordinator***

**June 8-10, 2008**

**LAND USE AND LAND DEGRADATION: Land Degradation Processes, Dynamics of Land Degradation:**  
Taiwan / Japan Conference web site: <http://www.taolin.com.tw/comland/comland.html>

Field Trip I: 5th-7th June 2008

**Seminar: 8th-10th June 2008**

Field Trip II: 11th-13th June 2008

Overview of Symposium

The main theme of the symposium is land degradation and land use change in a dynamic environment. Land degradation in response to land cover and land use change are critical issues through out the world. Regional differences give rise to a diverse array of impacts and scenarios, requiring different approaches for effective management. This symposium will provide a platform for dissemination of research findings and will promote discussion of these topics.

The symposium will be held in Taiwan and Japan, a particularly appropriate venue since these countries lie in a region that is regularly subject to the threat of earthquakes and typhoons and characterised by high population density, so that the problems of landuse and land degradation are especially prevalent and dynamic.

Please submit abstracts or questions to Gudrun Gissladottir ([ggisla@hi.is](mailto:ggisla@hi.is)) or Paul Hudson (Associate Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin [pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu))

**June 16-20, 2008**

**AOGS 2008 will be held in BUSAN , KOREA !**

Busan Exhibition & Convention Center, 16 to 20 June 2008 **Submit Abstracts before 24 January 2008**

Log on to [www.asiaoceania.org](http://www.asiaoceania.org) Brochure & Exhibition Order Form [CLICK HERE](#)

**July 6-11, 2008**

This is a second invitation to submit proposals for paper contributions to a Working Group entitled “**Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Rural Water Governance**” (WG 28) which I will convene at the upcoming XII World Congress of Rural Sociology in Goyang, Korea, to be held from 6-11 July 2008. Please find below a short outline of the Working Group. Issues to be addressed are still tentative and may be extended depending on your contributions. Suggestions for further topics to be included are welcome.

If you would like to participate in this working group and present a paper, please submit a one-page abstract via the IRSA web site (<http://www.irsa-world.org/index.html>) no later than 15 January 2008.

Meanwhile, I have received an expression of interest by the editors of a new peer-reviewed e-journal on Water, Politics and Development, called “Water Alternatives”, to publish a selection of high-quality papers presented in this working group as a special issue, possibly to be accessible online in early 2009. I believe this will be an additional incentive to propose an excellent contribution to the working group.

Please note that conference registration, as well as information on hotels, travel, etc., is being provided by the website that is being maintained by the local arrangements committee. The URL for that website is: <http://www.irsa2008.org/>.

I also would like to draw your attention to an upcoming conference on “Water Resource Management” organized by the International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) in Gaborone, Botswana from 8-10 September 2008 (<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/cfp-604.html>). Previous conferences were very

much focused on natural science and engineering aspects of water management. As a member of the program committee of this conference, I would like to see an expansion of the focus to also include social, cultural, institutional and political issues.

Please note that I am not able to provide any financial support for participants of either of the two conferences. I look forward to receiving your contributions.

Andreas Neef

### **Historical and contemporary perspectives on rural water governance**

Current water management and policy issues in rural areas of both industrialized and developing countries are strongly linked to historical forms of rural water governance. Comparative historical analysis is increasingly being recognized as a valuable approach to study the evolution of water governance. Lessons learned from earlier rural societies can help to understand past and present institutional arrangements for rural water management, current water conflicts and future challenges for multi-stakeholder water governance in many parts of the world.

Of particular interests are papers that address the following questions:

1. How did new paradigms of water management, such as integrated water resource management (IWRM) and polycentric water governance, develop and how are their participatory principles implemented in countries/regions with different legal and administrative histories of water governance?
2. What are past and present driving forces (e.g. colonial legacies, state legislation) for changes in collective action and local institutional arrangements of rural water governance?
3. What have been the links between a strong state and irrigated agriculture in classical "hydraulic societies", for instance in Southeast and East Asia?
4. How did competition and conflict in rural water management and conflict resolution mechanisms evolve over time?
5. What is the historical and present role of the rural sector in transboundary water governance issues?

#### **Dr. Andreas Neef**

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#### **August 12-15, 2008**

International Geographical Union's Congress in Tunis COMLAND Session: "**Land Degradation and Environmental Change**"

The IGU Commission on Land Degradation solicits papers for "special sessions" to be held at the 2008 International Geographical Union's Congress in Tunisia. We encourage papers which concern the topic of "Land Degradation and Environmental Change". We are interested in research with a focus along one or several of the following interdisciplinary fronts: Historical Human Impacts, Land Degradation and Society, Management of Land Degradation, and Natural drivers of Land Degradation. We welcome papers from a range of methodological approaches, as well as historical and process based studies.

Please submit abstracts or questions to Gudrun Gissladottir ([ggisla@hi.is](mailto:ggisla@hi.is)) or Paul Hudson (Associate Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin [pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu))

#### **September 30-October 3, 2008**

The **3rd Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping** (DSM 2008 U.S.A.) is scheduled for 30th September to 3rd October 3, 2008, at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, U.S.A. Bookmark the website for the IUSS Working Group on Digital Soil Mapping ([www.digitalsoilmapping.org](http://www.digitalsoilmapping.org)). The Digital Soil Mapping 2008 USA workshop website will be developed and linked to this site, where information including abstract submission, online secure registration, etc. will be posted.

#### **October 5-9, 2008**

**International scientific conference: Tropical Rainforests and Agroforests under Global Change, Bali, Indonesia, 5-9 October 2008**

Tropical rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate, causing unprecedented losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Despite an increased recognition of the value of these goods at national and international levels, rainforests continue to be seriously threatened by human-induced global change such as agricultural intensification and climate change. Understanding these processes needs an integrated scientific approach linking ecological, economic and social approaches at different scales, from the household and village level to landscapes and regions.

This conference will deal with these issues. It is being organized by the Collaborative Research Center for Stability of Tropical Rainforest Margins in Indonesia. Post conference field trips will include a visit to explore the tree diversity of primary forests of Lore Lindu National Park (Central Sulawesi), a visit to the Sulawesi Throughfall Displacement Experiment plots, and excursions in Bali (organic agriculture, coral reefs, National Park Management, etc.). The deadline for registration is **1 December 2007**.

For more information and to register see: [www.globalchange-2008.org/](http://www.globalchange-2008.org/) or contact Wolfram Lorenz at [lorenz@gwdg.de](mailto:lorenz@gwdg.de).

### **November 1-6, 2008**

**The Sixth Session of the International Academic Symposium on Hani/Akha Culture, Honghe Prefecture, Yunnan, China**

Hosted by Honghe Prefecture People's Government,  
Co-hosted by  
Honghe Prefecture Ethnic Affair Commission  
Luchun County People's Government of Honghe Prefecture  
Honghe Prefecture Hani Culture International Research Center  
Honghe Prefecture Hani Association

Hani is a cross-bordered nationality with a population of about 2,000,000, who are distributed in Southwest of China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, and the northern mountainous areas of Vietnam. Along with the long history, Hani people have created their distinctive traditional culture featured with Terrace-Culture and made great contribution to the multi-cultural development for the whole world. The International Academic Symposium on Hani/Akha Culture co-organized by Honghe Prefecture Nationality Research Institute and Yunnan University in 1993 held its premier meeting in Gejiu, city of Honghe Prefecture in the same year. In the following 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2005, the symposium was respectively held in Chiangmai, city of Thailand, Jinghong, capital city of Xishuangbana Prefecture, Yuanyang and Honghe, county of Honghe Prefecture and Mojiang, county of Simao City with great success and has brought positive effects. Authorized by Honghe Prefecture People's Government and the fifth Committee of the International Academic Symposium on Hani/Akha Culture, the sixth session is supposed to be held in Nov. 2008 in Luchun County. More details are as follows:

#### I. Aims

- 1) to offer an exchanging and learning chance where all scholars studying on Hani/ Akha culture and other ethnic culture from the whole world can establish academic contact so as to promote Hani/ Akha culture.
- 2) to strengthen the friendship among the scholars and promote the harmonious world's construction and development.
- 3) to broaden and deepen conservation and research activities on traditional Hani/ Akha regional culture; to explore the chance, challenges and related measures, and then to promote social and economic development in Hani/ Akha regions.
- 4) to introduce Honghe Prefecture to the whole world by unfolding its distinctive ethnic culture, natural landscape and social customs.

#### II. Themes: Harmony, Cooperation, Open and Development

#### III. Topics

- 1) chance, challenges and ways-out in the cause of establishing a well-off and harmonious society and constructing a New Socialist Countryside in Hani/Akha regions.

- 2) eco-conservation and construction in Hani/ Akha regions.
- 3) conservation and sustainable development on Honghe Hani Terrace Culture.
- 4) problems posed on Hani/ Akha traditional culture and the related measures.
- 5) problems related to tourism and cultural industry in Hani/ Akha regions.
- 6) complement, normalization and promotion of Hani/ Akha characters.
- 7) Hani/ Akha literature and art creation.

Scholars are supposed to write essays on any topic given above with individual preference.

#### IV. Requirements of participantship

- 1) the scholars, who can offer their essays based on any topic given above, are required to submit the title and abstract (both Chinese and English) of each essay before Nov. 20th, 2007. Be sure to offer such private information as name, sex, nationality, work place, job or position, available telephone numbers and E-mail address as well. The deadline for the submission of the essay will be informed at another time.
- 2) the visiting scholars, who cannot submit essays but have great fervor on Hani/ Akha culture and are willing to participate the symposium, are required to offer such private information as name, sex, nationality, work place, job or position, available telephone numbers and E-mail address before Nov.20th, 2007.
- 3) the interpreters, companies and relatives of the participants are required to offer such private information as name, sex, nationality, work place, available telephone numbers and E-mail address before Nov.20th, 2007.

The check of the private information and the final participant-ship should be authorized to the Committee of the International Academic Symposium on Hani/Akha Culture

#### V. Agenda: The symposium is supposed to last six days from Nov. 1st to 6th, 2008.

- 1) Nov. 1st arrive at Dongyang Grand Hotel, Luchun County.  
8:00 pm, large-scale performances of Hani folk songs and dance.
- 2) Nov. 2nd in the morning, celebration activities of Luchun County's fiftieth anniversary of establishment  
2:00-4:00 pm, opening ceremony of the sixth session of the International Academic Symposium on Hani/Akha Culture  
4:00 pm, traditional Long-street Dinner
- 3) Nov. 3rd. speeches and presentations a specific forum on the Terrace Culture.
- 4) Nov. 4th in the morning, group talk, in the afternoon, exploratory activities on folk customs
- 5) Nov. 5th in the morning, group talk, in the afternoon, closing ceremony
- 6) Nov. 6th dismissal

#### VI. Related fees

- 1) each participant is supposed to submit \$400 as registration fee.
- 2) each company or relative is supposed to submit \$300 as registration fee.

#### VII. Sponsors: Hosted by Honghe Prefecture People's Government and co-hosted by several agencies.

#### VIII. Contact address and phone numbers

Address: 8 Wenjing Street , Malan Residential Quarter, Mengzi County, Honghe Prefecture, Yunnan Province. Postal code: 661100

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You may ask [sombatpanit@yahoo.com](mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com) about your membership status, i.e. up to which year you have paid.

Then you may send your membership fee to either Bill or me or any other address in the following list:

- a. Dr. William (Bill) C. Moldenhauer, Vice President (Assist. Treasurer), 2400 Sunrise Ridge Circle #107 Brookings SD 57006, USA. Phone: +1-605-6976470, Fax: +1-605-6279123 Attn: W.C. Moldenhauer, [moldwc@itctel.com](mailto:moldwc@itctel.com). He can receive money from US and Canadian members through Personal Check, Money Order, or Bank Draft (**payable to WASWC**), and can receive VISA and MasterCard credit cards and Bank Draft (**payable to WASWC**) from all over the world. **\*\*\*For sending money through a bank, please give the following information to your bank:** United Bankers Bank, St. Paul, MN, USA; Routing Number (ABA Number) 091 001 322; **SWIFT Code: UBBKUS41**, For Benefit of First National Bank of Volga SD, Account No. 250-2334; Further Credit World Soil, Account No. 703-488.
- b. Dr. Samran Sombatpanit, WASWC Immediate Past President, 67/141 Amonphant 9, Soi Sena 1, Bangkok 10230, Thailand. Phone/Fax: +66-25703641, [sombatpanit@yahoo.com](mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com). He accepts Bank Draft from every country. Mark the draft “payable to Dr. Samran Sombatpanit”. He receives SWIFT through the Bangkok Bank, Bangkok Branch, 2124 Phaholyothin Road, Jatujak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand. Phone: +66-25614091/ 25791146-8, Fax: +66-25791149. **SWIFT CODE: BKKBTHBK, A/C No. 161-0-210864.**
- c. **Thailand:** Mrs. Nongkran Maneewan, Land Development Dept., Bangkok 10900, Thailand, for sending from members in Thailand. Savings A/C No. 039-1-01371-8, **Krung Thai Bank, Samyaek Kaset Branch.** [nongkran@ltd.go.th](mailto:nongkran@ltd.go.th), [kaek\\_nong@yahoo.com](mailto:kaek_nong@yahoo.com).
- d. **Japan:** Dr. Machito Mihara, WASWC Deputy President, c/o Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON), 2987-1 Onoji Machida-shi, Tokyo 195-0064, Japan. Phone/Fax: +81-42-736-8972, [hq-erecon@nifty.com](mailto:hq-erecon@nifty.com). He can receive all forms of payment from within Japan, and can receive Visa and MasterCard credit cards from all over the world (mark in all forms of payment “payable to ERECON Japan”). Payment is in Japanese yen only; see more details in [www.waswc.org](http://www.waswc.org).
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- f. **United Kingdom:** Dr. Mike A. Fullen, School of Applied Sciences, University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB, U.K. Phone: +44-1902-322410, Fax: +44-1902-322680, [M.Fullen@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:M.Fullen@wlv.ac.uk). He can receive money from within the UK in pound sterling equivalent to the rates stated above. **Cheques should be made payable to the University of Wolverhampton.** You may use the most recent exchange rate for converting US\$ into GBP.
- g. **Argentina:** Eduardo Rienzi, Fac. of Agronomy, Univ. of Buenos Aires, Av. San Martin, Buenos Aires. **Banco Nacion, suc 0082 Nro 200388227 CBU 01100204-30002003882279.** [rienzi@mail.agro.uba.ar](mailto:rienzi@mail.agro.uba.ar)
- h. **Kenya:** James O. Owino, Dept. of Agric Eng., Egerton University, P.O.B. 536 Njoro. **SWIFT: BARCKENXANKE, Bank code: 003, Branch code: 027, Acc. No. 1214170, P.O. Box 66, Nakuru 20100.** [jowin@yahoo.com](mailto:jowin@yahoo.com)
- i. **Brazil:** Antonio Guerra, Avenida Jose Luiz Ferraz, 250, apartamento 1706, CEP. 22.790-587, Rio de Janeiro – RJ BRAZIL. **SWIFT: BRASBRJRJO, Banco do Brasil – conta 652291-2; agencia 3652-8.** [antoniotguerra@gmail.com](mailto:antoniotguerra@gmail.com)
- j. **The Netherlands:** WRS Critchley, ABN AMRO Bank, Gelderlandplein, POSTBUS 87091, 1080 JB Amsterdam. **Account number 549365478, BIC number = ABNANL2A, IBAN = NL28ABNA0470430559.** [wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl](mailto:wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl)
- k. **Indonesia:** Syaiful Anwar, WASWC Indonesia Chapter (Masyarakat Konservasi Tanah dan Air Indonesia, MKTI, c/o Ministry of Forestry, Jakarta) with following account details: **Bank Mandiri cabang Jakarta Gedung Pusat Kehutanan; Account holders: Trisnu Danisworo, qq Zulfikar Ali; A/C No: 102-00-0437516-5.** [sanwar@cbn.net.id](mailto:sanwar@cbn.net.id)

*Other pay stations, pls contact following persons for more details:*

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- 3-1. **Organization membership (OM):** For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/ yr for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/ yr for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/ yr for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/ yr for an additional 100 persons or part thereof. Local organizations in developing countries can request to pay at a lower rate.
- 3-2. **Organization subscription (OS):** is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **subscriber**.
- 3-3. **Organization cooperation (OC):** is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **cooperator**, without paying a fee. Any organization can be a cooperator for 1-2 years before deciding to join as OM or OS if desired.
4. **Gift membership:** US\$5/ yr worldwide, to be purchased by anyone to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.