

# WASWC HOT NEWS 2008 (02) MARCH 17, 2008 (FV)

Compiled and sent out monthly by Samran Sombatpanit, Editor

Pls send your contributions/ information for next issue/s of HOT NEWS and WASWC Newsletter to [sombatpanit@yahoo.com](mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com) and [samran\\_sombatpanit@yahoo.com](mailto:samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com)

**This document is NOT properly edited, to enable a quick release, to meet many deadlines.**

Previous information is available on the website <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>, subpage WASWC HOT NEWS

This is FULL VERSION for posting on the website. The Light Version is sent to members by e-mail.

**REDUCE**



**REUSE**



**RECYCLE**

These are what every one of us can do to help mitigate global climate change - our imminent threat.

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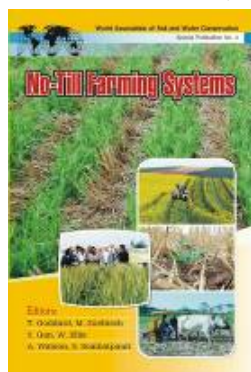
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## Why are we so late this time?

Since the first issue of HOT NEWS for this year came out on the New Year day, it has taken over two months before the next one is ready to release. What has happened or, to be more exact, why are we very late?



We have to apologize for this slow action in making this publication of WASWC come out so late. But there is a reason for what had happened. Apart from the WASWC Newsletter (our flagship) we consider HOT NEWS to be almost equally important in terms of the medium between members and us. In fact, there should not be any delay had we not produced the No-Till Farming Systems book. Thinking seriously, to have the latter published is worthwhile, as it has come into the agronomic literary system just in a good time when such technologies to reduce undesired effects on our Earth are being seriously sought.

It was an amazing act in producing this No-Till book. We spent 3 years to start the work with five chapters written by Western Hemisphere gurus. Once these manuscripts were ready to go to the printshop, we announced to find co-publishers, just as a way to get copies spread to readers quicker. Unexpectedly, a storm of authors came with almost 30 additional papers, all being in line with the concept of the editors that the book will be used as the baseline

for people to know this no-tillage practice that imparts so many usefulnesses to farmers and to the Earth at the same time. It took only 4 months for the group of six editors to finish their crisp manuscripts and get the book printed. Then it took another 3 months to deliver over 7,000 copies (weighing 4.2 tons) to readers all over the world, mostly by post. Photos below show parts of the book production and distribution process. We thank the cooperation and help of the Funny Publishing of Bangkok in handling this work nicely, so far the biggest contract in their 35-year history.



Our association has not been designed or equipped to publish any kind of publication like this No-Till book. In the former time, the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Iowa, U.S.A., had done that duty for us. Now, after having departed from U.S.A. we have to venture into these businesses and I myself have got to handle that duty almost off guard! But only with good support from many of our officers, especially Bill Moldenhauer and John Laflen in America, this initial stage of book publishing proceeded almost without any problem. I am sure within April all the boxes containing these books will reach their readers – mostly by boat.

After sending off the copies of the book, I started to finalize the CD that contains stuffs sent to us by members showing no-till works in many countries, plus other works concerning soil and water conservation and related fields that our members were involved. Actually the process was near to complete a few weeks ago but my computer had crashed and it took so long to fish out the specific files from thousands of them after getting recovered by an IT specialist.

Anyhow, the final product of this CD will prove quite useful, as it contains 17 folders, with 1,009 files together and occupy the whole space of it. The hundreds of PPT and PDF files will be useful for general reading, planning research, presenting to colleague researchers or teaching students for quite several hours.

This CD will be sent to those who had ordered it right away after the factory delivers to us on Thursday. For those who had paid for individual CDs the exact number will be sent out, now by airmail. If not, one CD will be sent to those who ordered only the books in bulk, and the duplication will be done overthere, thus avoiding transporting heavy stuffs for a long distance.

The CD is to accompany every copy of the book when purchased from now on, with the price for the set established for various destinations, i.e. US\$15 for Asean countries; \$16 for other Asian countries; \$18 for Africa, Australia, Europe, Oceania; and \$20 for the Western Hemisphere..

The CD is also available separately at US\$5/copy, with airmail delivery to any post address. **Since there are a lot of materials that can be useful to people of many careers, we have dedicated it as a contribution to the International Year of Planet Earth.**



So please learn about it and get hold of a CD, which you can pay in local currency at any of our >30 pay stations worldwide.

The delay in producing WASWC Newsletter and HOT NEWS caused by some additional works to do unexpectedly had caused us to be alert. The first thing to do is that we have to assess our situation and decide what activities we should do from now on and what activities we should not do. Second thing is to find institutions that can help handle some works that some colleagues and I have been doing during past several years, just to make sure of the sustainability of the association as the first place, and to improve the performance of it after some time.

Luckily, now we have as many as 23 members in the WASWC Council, we will surely find the way to solve these problems before too long. Moreover, during past 2-3 months we have had discussions with several institutions of note, and happily we have found some that have agreed to handle some works as a kind of institution support. I will report these findings to our members soon.



## St Patrick's Day – a great day for John Geraghty, WASWC VP for Ireland

Since I have finished composing this HOT NEWS on March 17, 2008, the St Patrick's Day of this year, I wish to congratulate our friend, John Geraghty ([info@jgeraghtyconsulting.com](mailto:info@jgeraghtyconsulting.com)), the WASWC Vice President for Ireland. John is an ardent student of Conservation Agriculture and particularly the No-Till practice. He was quite instrumental in shaping the No-Till Farming Systems book as we see now and encouraged the distribution of the book widely both in Ireland and other European countries that belong to the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF – [www.ecaf.org](http://www.ecaf.org)).

I therefore thank John very much for that, and wish you a very happy day today, drinking Guinness beer at a nearby pub in Clonmel, County Tipperary. I look forward to seeing you take part in such an important endeavor again, to help boost the WASWC activities in your country and elsewhere.



*Left: Bagpipers march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Monday, March 17, 2008 in New York. This annual parade has been held for the past 247 years in honor of the patron saint of Ireland and the archdiocese of New York. (Yahoo! News)*

Following is a short history of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. I copied it from a website [http://www.st-patricks-day.com/about\\_saintpatrick.asp](http://www.st-patricks-day.com/about_saintpatrick.asp) and think WASWC members who are interested in history and culture will find this useful to know little more after having heard so much about the St Patrick's Parade all over the world on this day as well as about everything Irish.

### ABOUT SAINT PATRICK



Saint Patrick is believed to have been born in the late fourth century, and is often confused with Palladius, a bishop who was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 to be the first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ.

Saint Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with bringing christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works, the Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish christians. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man,

pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God."



Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of childbirth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye." Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey. Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin city

### Why Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17th? One theory is that that is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins. In American cities with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, coloring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!

# HOT NO-TILL CD

The 17 folders in this No-Till CD, with 1,009 files, are as follows:

- 01 Introduction to the CD and International Year of Planet Earth
- 02 Introduction to the No-Till Farming Systems book
- 03 PPT-PDF files about no-till farming
- 04 Madagascar Direct-Seeding symposium
- 05 Other no-till works (papers, posters, etc.)
- 06 Works of other agencies
- 07 CIRAD Michel Raunet's 1997 work on Madagascar
- 08 BORASSUS – use of geotextiles for SWC
- 09 Martin Parkes and his students in China
- 10 Peter Storey's Durable Rural Development book
- 11 Ken Hargesheimer's Minifarm collection
- 12 Paitoon Kadeetham's Landslide and Debris Flow, N. Thailand
- 13 WOCAT – World Overview of Conservation Appr & Tech
- 14 Information about WASWC
- 15 WASWC publications (1988-2008)
- 16 New Books
- 17 Something nice to view and read – pls turn your speakers on

## AWARDS/ PRIZES/ FUNDS

▲ 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)

### ▲ 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.

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

▲ **Fund from the Global Environment Facility (GEF, [www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org))** is open for you to send proposal for small grants of US\$15,000 each (at least, but can be more). See some more information in the WASWC Newsletter 22(4) on our website. You may contact 'Al' (Alfred Duda) at [aduda@thegef.org](mailto:aduda@thegef.org). Refer to him where you have seen this news. **There is NO deadline.**

▲ **Echoing Green** (a funding resource), [www.echoinggreen.org/](http://www.echoinggreen.org/)

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

▲ **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>

▲ **USAID**

US Agency for International Development

Public-Private Alliances

Modification 2

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=40156>

▲ **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)

***Call for Applications: International Women Environmental Entrepreneurs Fair (Deadline: April 30, 2008)***

▲ **World Challenge 2008** is open for nominations!

World Challenge is BBC World's global competition for sustainable enterprise and its back for its fourth season. Once again we're looking to highlight and reward small businesses or projects that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grass roots level. We would love to hear from you about social entrepreneurs who are making a difference without costing the earth. It could be you or someone you know. So if you know of an initiative that's making a difference, **go to [www.theworldchallenge.co.uk](http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk) and fill out the simple nomination form**. The 12 best nominees - chosen by a distinguished jury - will be featured in the 7-part series on BBC World.

Who will take home \$20,000 dollars to reinvest in their business? It is all in your hands!

Saskia Roskam, Assistant to Robert Lamb  
One Planet Pictures  
20 Eastcastle Street  
London W1W 8DB, UK  
Phone: 0790 48 47 207/ 0207 580 1211  
[www.oneplanetpictures.co.uk](http://www.oneplanetpictures.co.uk)

### ▲ **Equator Prize 2008: Celebrating Community Success in Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction.**

This marks the fourth round of the internationally renowned Equator Prize. Awarded biennially, the Equator Prize recognizes community-based initiatives that demonstrate extraordinary achievement in reducing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the equatorial belt. Prize winners receive worldwide recognition for their work as well as an opportunity to help shape national and global policy and practice in the field.

Twenty-five community organizations will be honored with the Equator Prize 2008 and US\$5,000 each. Five of these communities will receive special recognition and an additional US \$15,000. Special recognition will be given in the following categories: one for each region of eligibility (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean), one to the initiative that best exemplifies community approaches to adapt to climate change, and one to the initiative that best exemplifies the conservation of agricultural biodiversity. The Equator Prize will be presented in October 2008, in Barcelona, Spain, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. All winners will have the opportunity to showcase their work in the “Poble” Dialogue Space at the Congress.

The Equator Prize 2008 nomination process will be open through **May 31, 2008**. Details on the criteria for the Prize, information on the award process, and the online nomination system can be accessed through the Equator Initiative website at [www.equatorinitiative.org](http://www.equatorinitiative.org).

**We encourage you to nominate** qualified community initiatives that are active in environmental conservation and sustainable development within the equatorial region. **Self-nominations are welcome.**

**Please disseminate this announcement widely to your electronic newsletters and networks!** With your help and nominations, we can continue to honor and celebrate exceptional communities around the world, support their invaluable work and grow a stronger network of community best practice in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. **Warm regards, Eileen and the Equator Initiative Team**

### ▲ **Seven Wetland Stewards Win 2008 National Wetlands Awards – Environmental Law Institute**

**Washington , DC — Seven citizens have been recognized nationally for their on-the-ground wetland conservation efforts and decades-long dedication to protecting these important natural resources. A diverse panel of wetland experts assembled at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) earlier this month to select the winners of the 2008 National Wetlands Awards.**

This year’s Award winners hail from all regions of the country and exemplify the extraordinary commitment and innovation that is so instrumental to conserving **wetlands** in the nation’s communities. “These wetland champions are restoring and protecting one of America’s greatest natural assets through education, **conservation**, and dedication,” said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA’s Assistant Administrator

for Water. “These profiles, both in courage and in stewardship, show us all how to meet the President's national goal of increasing, not simply maintaining, the quantity and quality of our wetlands.

The 2008 awardees are:

- **Valer and Josiah Austin**, landowners from Arizona who have restored miles of wetlands on their ranch lands and worked on cross-border watershed management to restore wetland habitat;
- **Caroline Dean**, a horticulturalist and teacher from Alabama who has led advocacy and education efforts to protect native **flora** and wildflowers found in wetlands throughout the Southeastern United States;
- **John Dorney**, the Supervisor of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality’s Program Development Unit who has been instrumental in the development of the state’s wetland and stream protection programs;
- **Mildred Majoros**, a Project Manager with the Trust for Public Land in Florida who has led efforts to protect hundreds of acres of coastal habitat in Puerto Rico;
- **Dianne Nygaard**, the founder of the non-profit Preserve Calavera who has raised awareness and aided in the purchase and restoration of wetlands in California;
- **Raymond Semlitsch**, a Professor in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri-Columbia whose research on **amphibian** ecology has raised awareness about the need to protect small wetlands and surrounding terrestrial habitat.

Collectively, the award winners have conserved thousands of wetland acres and have mobilized hundreds of individuals to contribute to wetland conservation. In May, they will take a well-deserved break from their efforts to receive their awards at a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

“We look forward to meeting the winners of this year’s awards and honoring them for their extraordinary achievements in wetland conservation,” said Dr. Jim Balsiger, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, **NOAA** National Marine Fisheries Service. “We are proud to support ELI’s National Wetlands Awards recognizing these individuals for their contributions to society and the **aquatic** environment. Healthy wetlands and ecosystems are vital to our nation’s recreational and commercial fish and shellfish fisheries, and other living marine resources.”

Program co-sponsors—the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service—hope that recognizing wetland leaders for their efforts will inspire others to follow their example. Given the national importance of wetlands, the federal agencies that sponsor the Awards welcome the opportunity to recognize and encourage voluntary wetland conservation efforts.

"Wetlands are a vital link between our land and **water resources**, and they provide a variety of ecological services to forests and grasslands. The Forest Service is proud to support the National Wetlands Awards program and to recognize the extraordinary work of the Award recipients," commented Abigail R. Kimbell, Chief of USDA Forest Service.

The winners of the National Wetlands Awards demonstrate how citizens and communities can—and do—make a difference. Arlen Lancaster, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, stated, "Wetlands are some of the most productive and dynamic habitats in the world and are vital to the



overall health of the environment. I salute the 2008 National Wetlands Awards winners and thank them for their outstanding contributions to the conservation of our Nation's wetlands."

"Wetlands provide optimum migrating, wintering, and breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and other wetland dependent wildlife species, as well as essential habitat for many neo-tropical birds. What we do for conservation today is important. What we do for conservation tomorrow is vital," said H. Dale Hall, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Contact Info: Amanda Martin at the Environmental Law Institute at (202) 939-3862 or [wetlandsawards@eli.org](mailto:wetlandsawards@eli.org). Information is also available online at [www.nationalwetlandsawards.org](http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org).

Website: [Environmental Law Institute](http://EnvironmentalLawInstitute.org)

## FELLOWSHIPS

Opportunity to apply for fellowships to study in Australia towards a doctorate; write to:

Professor Paul Martin, Director

[paul.martin@une.edu.au](mailto:paul.martin@une.edu.au)

Direct phone: 0416015161

or

Dr Ian Hannam

[ian.hannam@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ian.hannam@ozemail.com.au)

Both of the Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law  
Faculty of Economics, Business and Law  
University of New England Armidale, 2351 NSW Australia  
[Www.une.edu.au/aglaw](http://Www.une.edu.au/aglaw)

## COURSES

### 2008

Several training courses in India by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

<http://www.icar.org.in/miscel/inttrg07.pdf>

### January-May 2008

#### **Commercial Urban Agriculture Training Course, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA**

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)

### March 31-April 22, 2008

#### **Second International Training Course on "Low cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities".**

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 (please see the attached brochure for details).

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, [ksthapit@icimod.org](mailto:ksthapit@icimod.org), Training Coordinator

### **May 12-June 5, 2008**

▲ REEFS, RESOURCES AND RIGHTS: CONSERVATION AND TOURISM IN FIJI, May 12-June 5, 2008  
Instructor: Pete Brosius, Center for Integrative Conservation Research, 310 New College  
University of Georgia, 706-542-7681, [pbrosius@uga.edu](mailto:pbrosius@uga.edu) AND Maggie Miller at [pacific@uga.edu](mailto:pacific@uga.edu)

#### **Course Description**

Like many places in the tropical Pacific, Fiji's coasts, reefs and fisheries have suffered severe degradation in recent decades from the combined effects of development, overfishing, and tourism. The issue of how to respond has placed Fiji at the forefront of a series of global debates about the links between conservation and human well-being.

Two factors are especially salient in Fiji's efforts to promote marine conservation. First, local communities continue to exercise authority over their reefs through traditional resource management institutions. In the last decade the Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area network (FLMMA), has actively promoted and supported the proliferation of community-based marine conservation initiatives managed according to traditional institutions, and it has been touted globally as an exemplar of effective community-based conservation. Second, Fiji has recently emerged as a major global tourist destination, renowned for its white sand beaches, crystal-clear water, brilliant living reefs, and world-class waves. Resorts of all types have sprung up to satisfy tourist demand, ranging from village homestays, to backpacker camps with dormitory accommodation, to exclusive \$1000-a-day resorts. One of the most notable trends has been the growth of ecotourism, which is presented as a less intrusive, more beneficial and sustainable form of tourism, striving to maintain the smallest possible ecological footprint and

simultaneously supporting both conservation goals and local livelihoods. However, the distinction between tourism and ecotourism is not necessarily as clear as we may think: both large and small resorts may have adverse effects on the environment, and both may also promote the commodification of culture. The bottom line is that in Fiji marine conservation is tied up both with community rights and with tourism.

This course will examine the link between local communities, tourism and marine conservation through field-based research and service learning in two communities: Waitabu on the island of Taveuni and Soso on the island of Naviti. Additionally, we will also visit a series of resorts in the Mamanuca island chain. We will spend approximately one week in each community, living with local families. Research will focus on two main issues. First, students will look at traditional resource management institutions and the ways in which rights to resources are both defined and contested. Second, they will document local knowledge of reefs and resources, with a view to producing a set of maps that these two communities can use to support their conservation efforts. Integrating ethnographic and GIS methods, students will work with local community members to map reefs and other marine resources. They will also interview community members and participate in fishing and other marine subsistence activities with community members in order to document resource use. Finally, they will be responsible for providing their research results in forms that are useful to the community, possibly through digital maps or through production of an interpretive brochure that the communities can use to generate tourism revenue.

**June 1-5, 2008**

▲ [Training course on Sustainable Management for Renewable Resources in Arid Lands](#)

Date: June 1-5, 2008, Location: Syria

## **JOB**

**Hello Samran:**

I was not aware of a United Nations University campus in Canada (central Canada - Ontario province). I saw reference to the school while reading something else. I quickly checked it out and see they are advertising for 3 positions. Here is the URL. It may be too late for a HotNews insert but you may know of others (likely candidates to circulate it to). The Dryland job looks interesting; they are giving preference to candidates from developing countries. <http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/Vacancies.htm>

Tom G.

.....

## **NEW INFORMATION SOURCES**

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

## **BOOKS**

▲ **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)

### ▲ 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: <http://www.amazon.com/Nature-Friendly-Garden-Creating-Backyard-Wildlife/dp/0811732614>.

### ▲ 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.Lossua-von@gtz.de](mailto:Annette.Lossua-von@gtz.de).

For more information on the GTZ see: [www.gtz.de](http://www.gtz.de)

### ▲ 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>

### ▲ Z\_GIS presents new book: ‘Geoinformation for Development – Bridging the divide through partnerships’, Peter Zeil, Stefan Kienberger (Eds)

The new book "Geoinformation for Development" edited by Peter Zeil and Stefan Kienberger (Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg University) is now available. This volume provides a comprehensive insight to the timely discussion of the role of geoinformation in development cooperation and outlines challenges and obstacles and how they might be tackled. Scientists, actors in development cooperation and policy practitioners all have contributed aiming at a wider audience interested in this topic.

The publication is available at the [Wichmann Verlag](#) or through [Amazon.de](#).

### **Stefan Kienberger**

Centre for Geoinformatics | Salzburg University

Schillerstrasse 30 | 5020 Salzburg | Austria

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mail: stefan.kienberger@sbg.ac.at | web: <http://www.uni-salzburg.at/zgis/kienberger>

[Z\\_GIS...with the spatial view](#)

## **New books from the International Association of Hydrological Sciences**

### **▲ Evaporation**

by John Gash & Jim Shuttleworth, the second volume in the Benchmark Papers in Hydrology Series is now published. ISBN 978-901502-98-5 (2007) A4 format, softback, 526 + x pp., £40.00

### **▲ A New Focus on Groundwater–Seawater Interactions**

Edited by Ward Sanford, Christian Langevin, Maurizio Polemio & Pavel Povinec

IAHS Publ. 312 (2007) 978-1-901502-04-6 344 + x pp, price £64.00

### **▲ Quantification and Reduction of Predictive Uncertainty for Sustainable Water Resources Management**

Edited by Eva Boegh, Harald Kunstmann, Thorsten Wagener, Alan Hall, Luis Bastidas, Stewart Franks, Hoshin Gupta, Dan Rosbjerg & John Schaake

IAHS Publ. 313 (2007) ISBN 978-1-90150278-09-1 508 + iv pp. price £87.00

### **▲ Water Quality and Sediment Behaviour of the Future: Predictions for the 21st Century**

Edited by Bruce W. Webb & Dirk De Boer. IAHS Publ. 314 (2007) ISBN 978-1-901502-14-5; 322 + x pp. price £62.00

### **▲ Remote Sensing for Environmental Monitoring and Change Detection**

Edited by Manfred Owe & Christopher Neale. IAHS Publ. 316 (2007) ISBN 978-1-901502-24-4, 288 + viii pp. Price £55.00

Please order, or ask your library/department to order from Jill Gash, IAHS Press, Wallingford , Oxfordshire OX10 8BB, UK. [jilly@iahs.demon.co.uk](mailto:jilly@iahs.demon.co.uk), fax: +44 1491 692448

## **REPORT**

### **▲ Report from the Symposium of the "Poverty and Conservation Learning Group"**

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) Secretariat has produced a report from the 2007 PCLG Annual Symposium, 'Climate Change, Conservation and Poverty - What are the implications of climate mitigation and adaptation for conservation-poverty linkages?', which was held at the London Zoo, London (UK) on 7-8 November 2007. The report is ready to be downloaded from [http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/meeting\\_5.php](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/meeting_5.php).

Any further information about this Group please contact [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org).



## JOURNALS

▲ Irish Farmers' Journal Interactive [www.farmersjournal.ie](http://www.farmersjournal.ie) For your weekly in-depth farming news, technical information, market reports, and rural community news, check out our weekly print edition in your local newsagent every Thursday.

To view our weekly electronic edition, visit [www.farmersjournal.ie](http://www.farmersjournal.ie) or follow any of the links below.

### ▲ 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

## MANUALS

### ▲ Pennsylvania Soil Surveys Now Available on NRCS Website

Soil Information for the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now available through the Web Soil Survey. The more than 20 year effort to compile and digitize the county soil survey maps, capture the soil property and interpretation data, complete quality control and post the data to the Web Soil Survey was completed on September 27. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

▲ The Reporting Skills and Professional Writing Handbook: a self study programme for development professionals © Neil Kendrick 2007, Downloadable PDF package (8 modules, A4, 226pp)  
Published by Education, Language and Development Training Programmes (UK Charity no. 1083385)  
<http://www.reportingskills.org>

### ▲ Manual for Maintenance of Dirt and Gravel Roads

The Pennsylvania State University has created Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt and Gravel Roads, a 300-page manual created for a general audience interested in integrating environmental concerns into their unpaved roads program. Specifically, the manual identifies, documents, and encourages the use of environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt and gravel roads. It provides insight into using natural systems and innovative technologies to reduce erosion, sediment, and dust pollution while more effectively and efficiently maintaining dirt and gravel roads and gives the users a toolbox full of environmentally sensitive maintenance practices. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/sensitive/sensitive.html>

▲ [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.

## 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)

### ▲ Reprints available for *Working Trees for Agriculture* and *Working Trees for Water Quality* brochure

The United State's Department of Agriculture National Agroforestry Center's popular series of Working Trees brochures serves as a great introduction to agroforestry in the US. These color publications each illustrate various agroforestry practices that landowners can apply to help meet their production and conservation objectives. Reprints are available of the "Working Trees for Agriculture" and the "Working Trees for Water Quality." The entire series includes

- Working Trees for Wildlife
- Working Trees for Communities
- Working Trees for Livestock

To order up to 300 free copies of the Working Trees brochures, visit [www.unl.edu/nac](http://www.unl.edu/nac), or contact Nancy Hammond at [nhammond@fs.fed.us](mailto:nhammond@fs.fed.us).

## WEBSITES

### ▲ A new platform to start changing the world

From: WWF, March 4, 2008 09:40 AM



Forget **Facebook**, **MySpace** or **YouTube**: here comes **connect2earth**, a new online community where young people can **upload videos**, pictures and comments about the environment.

On [www.connect2earth.org](http://www.connect2earth.org), users and visitors will be able to write, speak, illustrate and video present their concerns on subjects important to them, and share environmental ideas and solutions.

Each month, users will vote for a winner who will receive a Nokia mobile phone.

"Connect2earth is a truly global space for young people to connect, share, express their concerns and hopes about the environment online — and win some prizes in the process", said James Leape, Director General of WWF International.

"This new community allows them to tell the world why they care about the environment and why it should be protected."

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said: "We live on an amazing planet — we need to protect it. We want to encourage young people to be involved in environmental issues and take action."

A panel of prominent conservationists will elect an overall winner who will get the chance to participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona next October.

She or he will have the opportunity to present some ideas directly to leaders from around the world.

"Young people feel increasingly strongly about protecting the environment because, for them, it represents their future", said Kirsi Sormunen, Vice President of Environmental Affairs at Nokia.

And how do you connect to earth through connect2earth? The site, not surprisingly, is particularly suited to uploading short films, photos and comments from mobile phones.

**- CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS NEW AVENUE TO TALK ABOUT OUR EARTH AND MANY THANKS TO WWF - Samran**

▲ 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

### ▲ Success Story

Dear visitors of my website [www.desertification.wordpress.com](http://www.desertification.wordpress.com),

I have the pleasure of inviting you to visit my blog where I published today a short success story on Family gardens blooming in the desert. I hope you enjoy it, in particular the pictures.

Good news for people interested in desertification!

Warm regards, Willem

▲ The [Stockholm Environment Institute \(SEI\)](http://www.sei-us.org) recently announced the release of a new version of the **Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning system (LEAP)**, a Windows-based analytical tool for climate change mitigation and energy policy analysis. LEAP allows complex quantitative questions about climate and energy policy for experts and students. In recent years, LEAP has become one of the most widely used modeling tools for energy policy analysis and climate change mitigation. It has already been applied by thousands of users in more than 150 countries worldwide.

**LEAP is distributed free of charge to academic, governmental and not-for-profit organizations based in the developing world.** Please [click here](#) to find additional details and download the software.

For more information contact: Dr. Charles Heaps, Stockholm Environment Institute - US Center, Email:

[charlie.heaps@sei-us.org](mailto:charlie.heaps@sei-us.org), [www.sei-us.org](http://www.sei-us.org)

Phone: +1 (617) 627-3786.

▲ 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.umsi.edu/application.html>. For additional questions, please contact the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at [osbornepl@umsi.edu](mailto:osbornepl@umsi.edu).

#### ▲ **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).

#### ▲ **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>

▲ GÉANT is an advanced pan-European backbone network connecting National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) across Europe totalling more than 50,000 km in length. GÉANT offers unrivalled geographical coverage, high bandwidth and innovative hybrid networking technology. GÉANT offers European academics and researchers high speed, private network connection to other research centres. A GÉANT Press Pack is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=3915](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3915)



## ▲ Paper in *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*: Developing Incentives and Economic Mechanisms for in Situ Biodiversity Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes

The main focus of this paper by Unai Pascual and Charles Perrings, published in 2007, is agrobiodiversity and its effects on agricultural production within agricultural landscapes. The paper focuses on the fundamental causes of agrobiodiversity loss by exploring the institutional and economic environment that mediates farmers' decentralized decisions. Reasoning that farmers do not invest in agrobiodiversity due to a lack of incentives offered by markets and other institutions, the authors discuss the institutional issues involved in establishing market-like mechanisms for agrobiodiversity conservation.

For more information see:

[http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/applications/library\\_documents/lib\\_document.rm?document\\_id=1132&ion\\_id=20](http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/applications/library_documents/lib_document.rm?document_id=1132&ion_id=20).

## A CALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION (sometime for help)

### ▲ The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels: Ensuring Biofuels Deliver on their Promise of Sustainability – **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

The **Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels** is an international initiative bringing together farmers, companies, non-governmental organizations, experts, governments, and inter-governmental agencies concerned with ensuring the sustainability of biofuels production and processing. The Roundtable is hosting a series of meetings, teleconferences, and online discussions with the aim of achieving global, multistakeholder consensus around the principles and criteria of sustainable biofuels production by June 2008.

*February 27th, 2008*

- Southern African Regional Workshop -- Johannesburg, South Africa, March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Downloads -- > [Agenda](#), [Invitation 1st of 2](#), [Invitation 2nd of 2](#)
- Read the [synthesis of the 6th Virtual Meeting of the Working Group on Environment](#) (1st Feb 2008 - Conservation and Biodiversity).
- Download the [RSB newsletter](#) (December 2007).
- Consult the Report of the [Steering Board in person meeting](#) (6-7 nov 2007, Lausanne)
- Regional Outreaches of the RSB! Please visit our special pages to download all the presentations and outputs from [Belo Horizonte, Brazil](#) and [Shanghai, China](#).

The October version of sustainability principles is available for stakeholder consultation - please [download them here](#), or make comments directly on the [Bioenergy Wiki website](#).

The Working Groups will continue refining these principles during this second round of feedback, but it's now time to start working on the criteria! Interested parties can begin drafting criteria for meeting these principles through four open Working Groups, divided by topic: [GHG lifecycle analysis](#) (GHG), [Environmental Impacts](#) (ENV), [Social Impacts](#) (SOC), and [Implementation](#) (IMP). If you have not already done so, please sign up for as many groups as you like here: [online WG registration](#). Each Working Group has its [own page on the Bioenergy Wiki](#), to host online discussions and share background documents.

We want as many people from as many countries and stakeholder groups as possible to participate in the Roundtable discussions! Please download our information sheet and share it with anyone who might be interested in participating in the Roundtable --> [Click to download](#).

Our aim is to have global consensus on the principles and criteria of sustainable biofuels production by June, 2008. The Roundtable's multi-stakeholder [Steering Board](#) will be responsible for overseeing this standards drafting process, according to the ISEAL Alliance Code of Good Practice for Standard Setting (downloadable [here](#)).

If you have any questions about the Roundtable, please e-mail Sébastien Haye ([sebastien.haye@epfl.ch](mailto:sebastien.haye@epfl.ch))

Meet the [Roundtable Team](#). [Background Papers and Further Reading](#) Website: <http://energycenter.epfl.ch/biofuels>

▲ The [United Nations Development Program \(UNDP\)](#) in Mexico and the [World Conservation Union \(IUCN\)](#) are undertaking a research project on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change from a Gender Approach. Part of the process is an open consultation which aims to gather information about the initiatives, studies, projects and works related to these subjects. The questionnaire, herewith attached, seeks to identify the scope of work of the organizations consulted, as well as to know if they can provide information about experts in any of the issues pertaining to the research project. Interested organizations are kindly asked to fill out the questionnaire and send it to Paula Zúñiga Díaz ([paula.zuniga@iucn.org](mailto:paula.zuniga@iucn.org)).

▲ **Call for researchers - please help in Katavi National Park, Tanzania** - Tanzania's Katavi National Park, with a size of 4,471 sq km, is the third largest park in the country. Located on the western side towards Lake Tanganyika, the park is endowed with high densities and diversity of herbivores, carnivores, birdlife as well as insects. Unexplored and wild, Katavi has a mosaic of habitats which enable it to accommodate one of the highest mammalian biomasses among East African protected areas. Unfortunately, the absence of research studies on park resources and ecological processes hinders science-based management decisions. The current park management is therefore calling for interested researchers to work in Katavi and help inform the long-term management of this jewel in the Tanzanian protected areas system. A number of research priorities have been identified. For more information and documentation, please contact Dr. Titus Mlengeya, [wildvet\\_tanzania@yahoo.com](mailto:wildvet_tanzania@yahoo.com), [www.tanzaniaparks.com](http://www.tanzaniaparks.com).

▲ I wanted to introduce you to the **Group on Science and Innovation Policy (GOSIP)**. This is a moderated forum for sharing information on important developments on science and innovation policy worldwide. The information shared includes news items, books, reports, research papers, websites and updates on the activities members. To subscribe send an e-mail to: [InnovationPolicy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:InnovationPolicy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
GOSIP website: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/InnovationPolicy/>  
Please feel free to share this message with others.

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<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/InnovationPolicy/>  
<http://bcsia.ksq.harvard.edu/global/>

### ▲ Invitation to contribute to *Viewpoints*

The *Natural Resources Forum* is inviting your views on the following question for the *Viewpoints* section of the August 2008 issue: ***"How can sustainable land management contribute to mitigating climate change?"***

The *Viewpoints* section of the journal is a series of policy debates to help stimulate and advance the dialogue on critical issues related to sustainable development. The aim of *Viewpoints* is to offer a platform for academics, practitioners and experts to share their individual perspectives and to feature these perspectives alongside other thoughtful responses in the journal.

Each entry should be **200 words or less** addressing the above question. When submitting a contribution, please also provide your name, title, affiliation and contact details.

Our Editorial team will work closely together with *NRF*'s Editorial Board Members and Advisors to select those contributions that address an important dimension of the debate. We encourage responses from different regional perspectives and from a broad range of disciplines, ensuring the right balance of perspectives.

The deadline for submission to the *Viewpoints* for the August 2008 issue is **April 31, 2008**. The Editorial team looks forward to receiving many contributions.

Hiroko Morita-Lou, Editor-in-Chief, Natural Resources Forum, Division for Sustainable Development - UN/DESA, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-2264, New York, NY 10017, Tel: (212) 963 8813, Fax: (212) 963 1267. Please also visit our website:  
[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/nat\\_res\\_forum.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/nat_res_forum.htm)

▲ Springer publishers will publish a series of books on each of the science themes of the **International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE, [www.yearofplanetearth.org](http://www.yearofplanetearth.org))**. The themes include soils, climate change, Earth and life, resource issues, hazards, megacities and oceans. The aim of the books is to present contemporary and innovative research authored by the world's top scientists.

If you are interested to author the soils book for the IYPE series (a single authored as well as multiple-authored edited book is possible) please contact Dr Doe at Springer: Dr. Robert K. Doe, Editor, Geosciences Springer, [robert.doe@springer.com](mailto:robert.doe@springer.com) The series (8 to 9 books of all themes) will be widely marketed etc - more details can be obtained from Springer.

▲ **Tebtebba Foundation** - a well known indigenous peoples-run research and policy organization based in the Philippines (for more information see: [www.tebtebba.org](http://www.tebtebba.org)) - is launching an initiative that intends to use positive developments within the global system and other opportunities available to operationalise the human rights based approach in order to strengthen the protection and enhancement of biological and cultural diversity of indigenous peoples.

Amongst the various activities to be carried out under this initiative, it is envisaged to commission review papers on indigenous ecological management practices, including the adaptive ones in the face of globalisation and similar global trends, such as climate change, economic integration, instantaneous communication, urbanisation and others.

In this regard, Tebtebba Foundation is looking for a couple of young people, preferably doc and post doc students, preferably but not necessarily indigenous, who have worked on the topic, both in the South and the North, and are very knowledgeable about the existing literature, willing to prepare review papers on the topic. Could you suggest a few names as well as their contacts?

If you have any suggestions, please send them to Vanda Altarelli - [v.altarelli@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:v.altarelli@yahoo.co.uk) - who is assisting Tebtebba in her personal capacity.

### ▲ AN IDEA ABOUT SOILS MUSEUM

Following is a note from Alfred Hartemink, Deputy Secretary General of IUSS responding my report that the Soils Museum, a long-term project of the Land Development Department (LDD) in Bangkok since the 1990s had been completed.

*Dear Samran,*

*Good to hear that the museum at LDD is finished, I would like to see it. Yes indeed there are soils museums in various countries. It would be good to have at least some pictures of all existing museums and some additional information. I will then put it on the web.*

*Best wishes, Alfred ([iuss.isric@wur.nl](mailto:iuss.isric@wur.nl))*

WASWC members are welcome to share this information and see how this can be done in one's institute-agency. So far, soil museum is a very effective means of disseminating knowledge and experience on soils and agriculture among people in every locality. Expertise exists in many countries; specialists from Thailand can also help if needed. Other few places known to me that have soil museum are: ISRIC at Wageningen, The Netherlands; Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Yangling, Shaanxi, Soil Science Institute, Nanjing and Guangdong Institute of Eco-Environment and Soil Sciences, Guangdong, China; National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers in Hanoi, Vietnam; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (above photo) and Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute at Dehra Dun in India, and certainly many more. With the availability of internet-website, the idea of establishing soil museum anywhere can spread quick to many others who may need one. Members are therefore urged to contribute to the better understanding of soil and the urgent need for soil conservation through this new avenue.





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## Advertisement

### SonTek/YSI People in the News



(San Diego, CA) [SonTek/YSI](http://SonTek/YSI), the international leader in the manufacturing of acoustic Doppler instrumentation for water velocity measurement in oceans, rivers, lakes, harbors, estuaries, and laboratories, is pleased to announce a new addition to its expanding Research and Development team, to support the company's rapid growth.

**Steve Maier** has joined SonTek as Senior Embedded Systems Engineer. Steve has spent the past 21 years of his career employed with Teledyne RD Instruments working with Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers, Doppler Velocity Logs, and Acoustic Doppler Flow Meters. Early in his career at TRDI, Steve started out as a Test Technician and eventually moved into Engineering where he ran the Software and Firmware Engineering groups. During that time, he was responsible for designing many of the algorithms (Bottom Track and Profiling Modes) that are in use today.

With his high-level expertise in Doppler signal processing and his extensive applications knowledge, Steve will be leading SonTek in many different areas of new product development.

"We had an exceptional R & D group that was primed to lead the industry, and now with Steve Maier coming on board, it just got better" says SonTek Director of Research and Development, John Romeo. "This is great news for SonTek customers everywhere" concludes Romeo.



In addition to working as part of the R & D team, Steve will also work along-side SonTek Founder and current YSI Technical Advisor, Ramon Cabrera, who also shares over a 20-year history in this industry.

Additional information and other product news can be found at [www.sontek.com](http://www.sontek.com).

For more information, contact us at:  
[inquiry@sontek.com](mailto:inquiry@sontek.com)

.....  
**Conference organizers may ask for a 'Conference Package' from WASWC, where among several benefits all the participants may obtain free Guest membership in WASWC for one year. This is our service to society.**

**IMPORTANT: We can better publicize your stuffs in Word than in pdf.**

## MEETINGS 2008

Note: For the following events, please kindly refer to the WASWC HOT NEWS for January 2008 at <http://waswc.soil.qd.cn/hotnews.html>.

- Lysimeter workshop, April 23-25, 2008
- Agroenvirons, April 28-May 1
- Historical and Temporary Perspectives on Rural Water Governance, July 6-11
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Global workshop, September 30-October 3, 2008
- Rainforests and Agroforestry, October 5-9, 2008

**March 18-19, 2008**

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Supported By:



Dear Delegates,

This is to formally invite you, on behalf of **Ta'aheel Event Management Team**, to be a participant for the upcoming Arab Bottled Water Forum (Almiyah) 2008.

The theme of this conference is "Thirst Dynamics & Strategies". It will be held at the Habtoor Grand Resort & Spa (Dubai Marina, Jumeirah Beach), in Dubai, UAE from March 18 to 19, 2008.

We are expecting delegates from all over the world and 16 renowned speakers in the bottled water industry.

Please register **online** or contact us at +9714 367 2344 or send us an e-mail with the subject line "**Participant for Arab Bottled Water Forum**" and please include

your contact details including name, telephone number and state the most convenient time which we can call you for a follow-up.

We would be pleased to include your name and company as one of our distinguished participants for the first **Arab Bottled Water Forum**.

Yours sincerely,



Sharaf Dabbagh  
Conference Director

## March 18 - 19, 2008

Habtoor Grand Resort & Spa (Dubai Marina, Jumeirah Beach)  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### "The First Arab Bottled Water Forum"



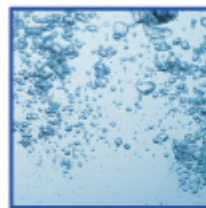
Spring Water



Mineral Water



Purified Water



Sparkling Water



Flavored Water

Suite G05, Block 8, Knowledge Village, Dubai, UAE  
Tel: + 9714 367 2344 • Fax: + 9714 367 2778  
[www.taaheel.ae](http://www.taaheel.ae)

## March 26-28, 2008

The inaugural **World Indigenous Television Broadcasting Conference 2008 (WITBC)** will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from March 26-28, 2008. The conference is aimed at unifying, strengthening and promoting indigenous broadcasters. The theme of the WITBC is 'Reclaiming the Future' of indigenous languages, cultures and identities.

Host broadcaster **Maori Television** is committed to the development of the industry by supporting New Zealand tertiary students who are studying in broadcasting related fields with a particular emphasis on indigenous culture and language. In this capacity, Maori Television will offer five student scholarships to attend WITBC 08. The scholarships cover the conference delegate fee, plus attendance at the two networking functions on Day One and Day Two.

Scholarships will be awarded to five students who can demonstrate a commitment in their studies and in their future aspirations, to the development of indigenous culture and language.

More information and application forms are available at <http://witbc.org/STUDENTS>

The deadline for applications is Friday March 14, 2008 at 5PM.

Please send your applications and questions to: Hone Paul, Maori Television, PO Box 113017 Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand. [hone.paul@maoritelevision.com](mailto:hone.paul@maoritelevision.com)

### **April 1-4, 2008**

Call for Papers, **International Symposium on Interdependencies between Upland and Lowland agriculture and resource management** (Uplands 2008)

We hereby would like to draw your attention to the international Symposium on "Interdependencies between upland and lowland agriculture and resource management 2008" (Uplands 2008).

The Symposium will take place 1-4 April 2008 at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. It will address environmental and socioeconomic aspects of upland-lowland interdependencies as well as integrated modelling issues and thus will provide a multi- and interdisciplinary platform for scientists and management professionals.

For further details please refer to the website <http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/uplands2008> soon to be posted.

We would greatly appreciate, if you could forward this information to your colleagues and we look forward to receiving your abstracts.

Holger Fröhlich [holger.froehlich@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:holger.froehlich@uni-hohenheim.de)

### **April 2-4, 2008**

**International Conference on Advances in Computer Science and Technology**

Location: Langkawi, Malaysia

### **April 2-4, 2008**

**Conference: Food Security and Environmental Change: Linking Science, Development and Policy for Adaptation, Oxford, UK**

This conference will bring together the research and policy communities addressing food security, environmental change and food policy to:

- Present and discuss research on global environmental change, food security and food systems, and decision support dialogues from the broad international community
- Present and discuss findings from conceptual and regional research supported by the GECAFS project (see [www.gecafs.org/](http://www.gecafs.org/))
- Bring together scientists and policy makers from diverse backgrounds to forge new partnerships

**Call for Papers:** Abstracts are invited for oral and poster presentation at the conference and should be submitted online at [www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com](http://www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com) by **October 31, 2007**.

For more information see: [www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com](http://www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com).

### **April 2-5, 2008**

The American Museum of Natural History's [Center for Biodiversity and Conservation](#), [IUCN-The World Conservation Union/Theme on Culture and Conservation](#), and [Terralingua](#) are convening the Symposium **"Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity In a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy"** at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on April 2-5, 2008. The goal of this symposium is to bridge gaps, address challenges and opportunities, and help to forge a long-term, multi-dimensional vision for sustaining biological and cultural diversity. In an effort to incorporate a diversity of voices and opinions from around the world **the organizers of the symposium would like to hear from people and communities about the connections between their cultures and nature**. Community representatives are invited to submit information in a variety of forms - through written responses, videotape, still photography, and voice recordings. Once submitted, these contributions will be compiled in an audio-visual presentation to share with those who attend the symposium. The contributions will also be posted on the [Symposium Website](#). Some of the ideas expressed may be used in policy recommendations.

### **Guide Questions**

The organizers would like to encourage you to use the following questions as a framework for gathering responses; you may wish to adapt them to suit your responder and the conditions under which the interviews are conducted, or focus only on certain questions:

- 1) Can you share with us thoughts/ideas on some of the ways in which your culture is important to your People or community?
  - 2) Can you share with us thoughts/ideas on some of the ways in which your culture supports the natural world? And ways in which the natural world supports your culture? (What links exist between your culture and nature?)
  - 3) If your people have made efforts to sustain the natural world and your culture, can you share with us what you have been doing?
  - 4) When you think of the natural world, are there things that would be difficult to translate into \_\_\_\_\_ [identify appropriate language(s), e.g. English/Spanish/Portuguese]? Can you give examples of what sorts of things?
  - 5) Do you think that in your lifetime some elements/words of your language will be lost?
  - 6) If no one spoke your language any longer, are there things that your community could no longer do? What sorts of things (e.g., rituals that you could no longer perform, etc.)?
- Interviewers should also be sensitive to the fact that some important ritual or other information might be secret and make it clear that they are not asking interview responders to talk about things that can't be talked about with outsiders, but that in such cases, very general comments would be appreciated.*
- 7) What kind of connection is there (if any) between maintaining your culture and maintaining the natural world?
  - 8) What are the biggest obstacles that you've faced in sustaining the natural world, your language, and your culture?
  - 9) I would like you to imagine that you no longer have direct, everyday contact with nature (translated using the closest appropriate term). How would this affect your life and that of your village (people, community, tribe, etc.)?

### Submission Process

Responses and any supplemental materials (audio, video, photographic) should be submitted to: Ms. Fiona Brady, Outreach Program Coordinator, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, U.S.A. Phone: +1-212-496-3431; Fax: +1-212-769-5292; [brady@amnh.org](mailto:brady@amnh.org); <http://cbc.amnh.org>

To be considered for inclusion in the "Voices from Around the World" selected-highlights presentation at the Symposium, please send your submission by **Monday, February 11, 2008**. Submissions will also be accepted beyond that date, for posting to the Symposium website. All accepted submissions will be available on the website until at least October 2008. After that, an archive of the Symposium's content will continue to be accessible. Please also submit a completed **Call for Participation Application Form**, available on the symposium website at <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/forms.html>.

**Please Note:** Submissions to "Voices from Around the World" do not require that the individuals involved attend the April Symposium. You are invited to register for the Symposium, but the American Museum is unable to provide financial support for travel or accommodation. A list of local hotels, student centers, and hostels will be posted at <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/travel.html>.

Additional information on the **submission process and recommendations** can be found here: <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/voices.html>

**April 5-11, 2008**

## 8th Conference on Successful Strategies for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

**Experts from around the world will convene in Cape Town, South Africa, on 5-11 April 2008, to collaborate on identifying concrete individual and collective actions to advance the global agenda of strengthening environmental compliance and enforcement at all levels of governance.**

All interested parties are invited to submit original papers for publication in Volume 1 of the Conference Proceedings. The first deadline for articles is 12 November 2007; please see the [INECE Conference page](#) for the full paper guidelines and other information.



**En français:** L'INECE annonce sa huitième Conférence Internationale portant sur l'application et la conformité environnementale, en Afrique du Sud.

**En español:** INECE anuncia su octava Conferencia Internacional sobre Aplicación y Cumplimiento Ambiental, a realizarse en Sudáfrica.

The International Network for Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) links the environmental compliance and enforcement efforts of more than 4,000 practitioners - inspectors, prosecutors, regulators, parliamentarians, judges, and NGOs - from 120 countries, through training and capacity building programs, raising awareness, and enhancing enforcement cooperation. To learn more about INECE, please visit <http://inece.org/>.

Contact Info:

Meredith Reeves

INECE Secretariat, Tel: 202-338-1300

E-mail: [inece@inece.org](mailto:inece@inece.org)

Website : [International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement](http://inece.org/)

**April 7-10, 2008**

**International conference on "Banana and plantain in Africa: Harnessing international partnerships to increase research impact"**, Mombasa, Kenya, organized by IITA, in collaboration with Bioversity, FARA, ISHS and KARI [www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)

Fostering international partnerships is a major objective of the conference, with particular emphasis on establishing the role of research in promoting future commercial activities and trade in banana, plantain and enset. There is an urgent need to target basic and applied research that connects to existing and emerging markets. This unique conference will be the first pan-African meeting to link research to markets in an African context. We encourage you to visit our website [www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com) for more information and updates, and hope you can forward this message to interested parties. Mark your calendars, and hope to see you in Mombasa.

Dr. Thomas Dubois, Bio-control Specialist

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture [www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)

International mailing address (preferred): IITA c/o Lambourn Ltd, Carolyn House, 26 Dingwall Road, Croydon CR9 3EE, UK

Local mailing address and address for DHL purposes: IITA, P.O. Box 7878, Plot 15, East Naguru Road, Upper Naguru, Kampala, Uganda (mention +256 75 2 787801 on sending form)

Email: [t.dubois@cgiar.org](mailto:t.dubois@cgiar.org), Fax: +256 (0)41 285079, Phone: +256 (0)75 2787808, [www.iita.org](http://www.iita.org)



## Banana and plantain in Africa: Harnessing international partnerships to increase research impact

[WWW.BANANA2008.COM](http://WWW.BANANA2008.COM)  
MOMBASA, KENYA, APRIL 7-10, 2008



**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

### Purpose of the conference

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in partnership with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Bioversity International, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), is organizing an Africa-based conference that will focus on banana and plantain research across Africa: lessons learnt and the way forward. Fostering international partnerships is a major objective of the conference, with particular emphasis on establishing the role of research in promoting future commercial activities and trade in banana, plantain and enset. There is an urgent need to target basic and applied research that connects to existing and emerging markets. This unique conference will be the first pan-African meeting to link research to markets in an African context.

Key priorities of the conference are:

- Develop an African strategy for the next decade to exploit banana and plantain research
- Strengthen research partnerships to overcome production bottlenecks
- Harmonize research with production trends, emerging markets and trade networks

## Importance of the conference

An Africa-based conference focusing on banana and plantain production improvement is long overdue. Banana and plantain are key staple crops in rural households in Africa. In addition, these crops are increasingly being targeted for income generation, through improved linkages with the private sector. Research aimed at improving banana and plantain production urgently needs to be streamlined in order to fully exploit the potential of this important crop for poverty alleviation and income generation. The conference also intends to foster research and trade experiences from other commodities.

## Likelihood of success and impact

The conference is being organized by a committed group of key players in Africa and beyond: IITA, KARI, Bioversity International, FARA and ISHS. As such, we have a formidable team of experienced researchers in banana and plantain and other commodities with relevant and transferable knowledge, spanning the full research spectrum. By emphasizing novel partnerships and stronger networks, constraints can be overcome and opportunities for the commercialisation of banana and plantain realised.

This conference aims to guide future directions for banana and plantain research on the continent. Conference contributions will be published as follows:

- A book of abstracts, which will feature all contributions during the conference.
- A special issue of an internationally reputable journal, which will contain all peer-reviewed contributed papers.
- A strategy document, harnessing outputs from plenary discussions and specific sessions, to provide a foundation for directing banana and plantain research in the future.

## Conference outline

The conference will focus on three major themes: **markets and trade**, **production**, and **innovation systems**. Each theme will consist of a plenary session featuring keynote and invited speakers, breakout sessions to cover a broader range of key topics within the theme, in addition to special discussion forums to promote dialogue and an interactive environment. Internationally recognized experts will provide keynote and invited talks, ensuring the highest quality of speakers, presentations and papers covering both scientific and commercial issues. Further interaction will be stimulated by comprehensive poster sessions and field visits.

Sessions within the themes will be organized by a Scientific Committee comprised of international leaders in the field as follows:

- *Markets and trade*
  - Competition and competitiveness on international banana markets
  - Consumer preferences: what do buyers want?
  - Banana markets and market segments: from global market dynamics to niche markets
  - Trade policies and market regulations
- *Production*
  - Responding to climate change
  - Genetic improvement for markets
  - Seed delivery systems
  - Plant health management
  - Intensification versus complexity
  - Post-harvest
- *Innovation systems*
  - How to get technology to the growers
  - Turning farmers into businessmen
  - Connecting farmers to markets
  - Boosting entrepreneurship
  - Privatizing the extension service
  - Lessons learnt from other commodities and continents

During the conference, each theme will be led by a Moderator and supported by Conveners, who will lead

the breakout sessions. During the final day of the conference, summary reports will be presented and used to develop a future strategy for banana and plantain research in Africa. This strategy will be published in a special issue of *Acta Horticulturae*.

### Conference schedule

|                 | <b>Early morning<br/>8.30-10.30</b>   | <b>Late morning<br/>11.00-13.00</b> | <b>Early afternoon<br/>14.00-16.00</b>  | <b>Late afternoon<br/>16.00-18.00</b>          | <b>Evening<br/>19.30-21.00</b>  |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Sun<br>6 April  |   |                                     |   |  | Opening   |
| Mon<br>7 April  | <b>Theme 1: Markets and trade</b><br>Global banana trends affecting Africa: keynote (1)<br>Markets and trade: Keynote (2), invited (3)  |                                     | Breakout sessions (4): contributed papers   | Posters / stands (structured around breakouts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion panels</li> <li>▪ Special sessions</li> </ul> |
| Tue<br>8 April  | <b>Theme 2: Production</b><br>Keynote (2), Breakout sessions (3): invited (3) contributed papers  |                                     | Breakout sessions (3): contributed papers   | Posters / stands (structured around breakouts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion panels</li> <li>▪ Special sessions</li> </ul> |
| Wed<br>9 April  | <b>Theme 3: Innovation systems</b><br>Keynote (2), Breakout sessions (3): invited (3) contributed papers<br>Posters / stands (structured around breakouts) will be combined with lunch) |                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Free</li> <li>▪ Scientific excursion</li> <li>▪ Leisure excursion</li> </ul> |  |   |
| Thu<br>10 April | <b>Strategy</b><br>Keynote (2), Reporting by Chairs and invited (3) Conveners from the themes (incl. posters): summary and link to overarching conference goal                          |                                     | Breakout sessions (unknown number): moderated discussions   | Plenary session: conclusions                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Banquet</li> <li>▪ Prizes and awards</li> </ul>          |

### About the venue

The conference will be hosted by Leisure Lodge Beach & Golf Resort ([www.leisurelodgeresort.com](http://www.leisurelodgeresort.com)) on a spectacular stretch of the Kenyan coast south of Mombasa town, with access to some of the most stunning marine sites on the East African coast. The Resort is of the highest standard with state-of-the-art conference and recreational facilities, and guarantees total privacy and tranquillity. A superb package of pre- and post-conference tours is available for delegates and their families.

Conference facilities of the Resort are excellent. All of the six conference rooms are fully air-conditioned, and range from the intimate Oasis Villa, seating 15 people, to the grand Dr. Meister Hall, seating 700 people. During the conference, high-speed wireless internet will be made freely available to participants.

Leisure Lodge Beach & Golf Resort is the only world class hotel on Kenya's south coast with a championship golf course, a choice of first class accommodations, entertainment and recreational facilities to suit the most discerning guests. Other sport facilities include: four large pools, a diving school, deep-sea fishing, dolphin safaris, snorkelling, two flood-lit clay tennis courts, a windsurfing school, a health club, beach volleyball, water polo and table tennis.

From the Resort, excursions to experience the African wildlife are plentiful and can be easily arranged using the in-house tour office.

## Costs and registration

Costs for attending this conference have been kept to an absolute minimum. Early registration costs 250 USD, while accommodation costs 70 USD per person sharing and 102 USD for a single, full-board, all-inclusive. Early registration will be open until September 30, 2007, after which the fee will rise. We therefore encourage you to register soonest via our website ([www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)). Our registration desk will be in contact with you and happy to answer any further inquiries or special requests.

## Call for abstracts

We are looking forward to receiving your abstract for an oral or poster presentation, which can be strategic or scientific in nature. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Accepted abstracts will be published and available during the conference. Based on the selection of the Scientific Committee, authors of outstanding abstracts will be invited to write full papers. These papers will be presented orally and published in a peer-reviewed issue of *Acta Horticulturae*. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and include full addresses of authors. Abstracts will not be accepted after 30 September, 2007. Abstracts should be submitted using our website ([www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)).

We also welcome further participation from institutions, companies or individuals for special sessions, keynote speakers and sponsorships.

The Organizing Committee: Fen Beed, Daniel Coyne, Thomas Dubois, Dominique Dumet, Mark Hassenkamp, Stefan Hauser, Sarah Hearne, Margaret Karembu, Jim Lorenzen, Richard Markham, Frances Onyango, Abdou Tenkouano, Leena Tripathi, Wilberforce Tushemeweirwe, Piet Van Asten, Bi Vroh, Lusike Wasilwa Details for further contact: please use the feedback form on our website ([www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com))

## April 13-18, 2008

**Soil Science Meetings: European Geosciences Union Conference** - Vienna, April 13-18, 2008

1. Soil erosion and degradation on Mediterranean-type ecosystems. Convened by Artemi Cerdà, J. Hooke, H. Lavee, L. Montanarella and A. Romero Diaz.
2. Original ideas for teaching on Earth Sciences. Convened by Artemi Cerdà, M. Jurgensen and A. Ceballos.
3. Soil organic matter decomposition under different climatic conditions. Convened by D. Dumroese, M. Jurgensen and Artemi Cerdà.

Contact [artemio.cerda@uv.es](mailto:artemio.cerda@uv.es) and more information <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2005>

## April 14-17, 2008

**Conference: Resilience 2008, Resilience, Adaptation, and Transformation in Turbulent Times, Stockholm, Sweden, 14-17 April 2008**

The aim of "Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation in Turbulent Times - Preparing for Change in Social-Ecological Systems" is to bring together scientists working with the complex dynamics of interconnected social-ecological systems and to present, discuss, and if possible, summarize the current understanding of resilience, adaptability and pathways of transformation in such systems. Representatives from government, business and other major actors will discuss the challenges facing societal development, and together with scientists propose directions to go and pathways to avoid. To explore this further and to complement and enhance the scientific symposium, organizers are collaborating with the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts and arranging a Resilience Art Exhibition in connection with the international science and policy conference. **The last day to register is April 1 2008.**

For more information and to register see: <http://resilience2008.org/resilience/?page=php/main>.

## April 15-17, 2008

**Soil science conference of Malaysia 2008 (Sustaining soil ecosystems with emphasis on coastal soils)** Location: Malaysia

## April 21-May 2, 2008

**The Seventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is now open.** The Seventh Session will take place at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, from 21 April to 2

May 2008. The special theme will be "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges."

Pre-registration is open to indigenous peoples' organizations, academic institutions and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status. **If you would like to participate, please visit the Seventh Session webpage where you will find all online registration forms:**

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session\\_seventh.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_seventh.html)

For additional information, please contact the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at [indigenouspermanent\\_forum@un.org](mailto:indigenouspermanent_forum@un.org).

## **May 2008**

### **Kurdistan conference on biological sciences**

Location: University of Dohuk, Iraq

## **May 6-8, 2008**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON STRUCTURES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE on 6-8 May 2008, Macau, SAR, CHINA,**

**Venue:** Tourist Activities Centre, Macau

THE LAST DAY FOR SENDING IN YOUR ABSTRACTS TOGETHER WITH THE FULL TEXT (PAPER FORMATE GUIDELINES CAN BE RETREIVED FROM THE HYPERLINK IN THE WEBSITE [WWW.CIPREMIER.COM](http://WWW.CIPREMIER.COM)) IS **31 MARCH 2008** TOGETHER WITH THE PAYMENT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE (us\$500 BY CREDIT CARD) PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE WITH FUTHER CONFERENCE DETAILS.

Organised by UNESCO Chair ECOLAND, Romania

With the support of the Macau Institution of Engineers, the Laboratory de Engenharia Civil de Macau.

and the Structural Engineers World Congress India

administrated by: CI-Premier Conference Organisation, Singapore

The following papers have been accepted for publishing, presentation and discussion:

#### **Special Session:**

To be devoted to Leslie E. Robertson "the World Builder who has always built in future" on the occasion of his LXXX anniversary

#### **Round Table Dialogue:**

To be Led by Pere Roca on ISO13822:2001

#### **KeyNotes:**

Ramiro Sofronie, ECOLAND, Romania

The Spirit of Endless Column's Place

R Sundaram, Structural Engineer World Congress, India

To be advised

Ulrich Cubasch and Heike Huebener

21st century global climate change and regional impacts as simulated by European climate models

Lyne Fontaine, Public Works & Govt Service, Canada

Canada Prince of Wales Fort and Climate Changes

Heike Huebener and Ulrich Cubasch

Expected future climate change in southern Morocco and possible impacts on local traditional buildings (Kasbah).

Stephen J Kelley, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc, USA



The effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans represent an interesting case study of the complexities of global climate change and our built heritage.

Er John S Y Tan, CI-Premier Pte Ltd, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841  
Tel: +65 67332922; Fax: +65 62353530; E-mail: [cipremie@singnet.com.sg](mailto:cipremie@singnet.com.sg); [www.cipremier.com](http://www.cipremier.com)

**May 10-11, 2008**

**UNITAR-Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy:  
Institutions, public participation and environmental sustainability: Bridging  
research and capacity development, Yale University, New Haven**

The *Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy* will take place at Yale University, New Haven, USA, from 10 -11 May 2008, in the margins of the 16th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The event brings together academic experts and practitioners from governments, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. Participants will take stock of contemporary research and knowledge gaps at the intersection of institutions, public participation and environmental sustainability. The objective of the Conference is to develop a research program and network to strengthen institutional approaches for effective and context-sensitive public participation in environmental governance. Discussions will cover various levels of environmental governance, including international, national, regional, local, and corporate governance.

For additional information please refer to the Information Note and consult the Conference website:  
<http://www.yale.edu/envirocenter/envdem/index.htm>.

Scholars and practitioners interested in participating in the event and submitting a paper should submit an Expression of Interest Form by 25 January 2008. The deadline to submit a synopsis for a Case Study Paper is 31 January 2008.

The Conference is organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Yale University, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters), the University of Cape Town, the French Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (ENGREF-AgroParisTech), the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future. Financial support for the event is provided through the UNITAR Programme on Environmental Governance and Democracy, the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Fund of the MacMillan Center at Yale, and the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Fund of Yale Law School.

Secretariat: UNITAR-Yale Environmental Governance and Democracy Conference, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy  
[envdem@yale.edu](mailto:envdem@yale.edu); <http://www.yale.edu/envirocenter/envdem/index.htm>; [www.unitar.org/egd](http://www.unitar.org/egd)

Contact person: Achim Halpaap, Manager, UNITAR, Environmental Governance and Democracy Program  
[achim.halpaap@unitar.org](mailto:achim.halpaap@unitar.org)

**May 10-13, 2008**

The Secretariat of the **International Workshop on Evaluating Climate Change and Development** announced its **Call for Papers and Presentations**. The International Workshop will take place **May 10-13, 2008** at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in **Alexandria, Egypt**. The International Workshop aims to identify good practices, methodologies, and information gaps in evaluation of climate change and development projects and programs. By doing so it aims to realize the potential of evaluations to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**REGISTRATION** is now open and accessible via [www.esdevaluation.org](http://www.esdevaluation.org). There are no fees, but participants are expected to cover their own travel and expenses. The organizers will award funding to some participants from developing countries, selected by a process to be announced later.

**PROPOSALS** for papers or presentations should address methodological issues in evaluating either climate change mitigation or adaptation. Research studies and non-evaluative assessments may also be considered, provided they are relevant to the evaluation of climate change issues. These may include reports on methodologies, measurements, and indicators or studies on the relationship between mitigation/adaptation and development.

**Proposals should be submitted by September 15, 2007.** Submit an outline or abstract (up to 500 words; in English) by emailing the Secretariat at [IntWorkshop@theGEF.org](mailto:IntWorkshop@theGEF.org). Include author contact information and professional affiliation. The Selection Committee will notify authors of its decision by November 5, 2007. Attached is a **short flyer** with additional details on the workshop and the call for papers and presentations.

**May 14-17, 2008**

**International Conference on Livestock and Global Climate Change.**

Location: Hammamet, Tunisia

**May 18-23, 2008**

**15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the**

**International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO)**

***Soil and Water Conservation, Climate Change and Environmental Sensitivity***

**WASWC members who will attend ISCO 15 and wish to present papers in Topic 10 on any aspect of soil conservation legislation and policy please contact Dr Ian Hannam at [ian.hannam@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ian.hannam@ozemail.com.au).**

The Organizing Committee is pleased to invite you to participate in the 15th Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) to be held in Budapest, Hungary, May 18-23, 2008. Attendees will include scientists, university lecturers, policy makers, and stakeholders from public and private institutions and non-governmental organization throughout the world. Four days of oral and poster presentations and a mid conference excursion will make the conference an event to be remembered.

**Conference topics include:** Soil Conservation, Climate change, Land degradation, Land use change, Water management, Soil erosion, Salinization, Desertification, Soil rehabilitation and management, Socio-economic aspects of land degradation, and Legislative and Institutional aspects of soil and water conservation. All interested persons are invited to give oral or poster presentations. Submission of papers require that one of the authors is registered at the Congress.

**Venue:** Budapest Congress & World Trade Center, H-1123 Budapest, Jagelló út 1-3.

**Conference languages: English, French**

**Excursions: Mid-week technical excursion to Lake Balaton catchment (included in the registration fee)**

Soil erosion problems of the Lake Balaton Catchment, the National Soil Monitoring System, and a visit to the terraced vineyards of Badacsony

**- The Great Hungarian Plain – Pre-conference excursion (2 days)**

**- The Vineyard Regions of Northern Hungary - Post-conference excursion (2 days)**

**Preliminary programme**

18<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday: Arrival & Registrations

Welcome Reception (in the evening)

19<sup>th</sup> May – Monday:

Official opening and participant presentations

20<sup>th</sup> May – Tuesday:

Participant presentations

21<sup>st</sup> May – Wednesday:

Mid-conference excursion

<sup>nd</sup>  
22 May – Thursday:  
Participant presentations  
Conference dinner (in the evening)

<sup>rd</sup>  
23 May – Friday:  
Participant presentations and closing  
ceremony

### **Registration fee**

Through 30 Nov., '07      **390 €**

After 1 December '07      **490 €**

Registration includes:

- . • Conference program, Book of Abstracts & Conference Proceedings (on CD)
- . • Reception cocktail
- . • Coffee breaks
- . • Lunches
- . • Mid-conference excursion

Participation fees for pre- and post-conference tours to be announced.

For registration go to: [www.isco2008.com/](http://www.isco2008.com/)

### **Accommodations**

A list of hotels of various price categories will be provided on the website. [www.isco2008.com/](http://www.isco2008.com/)  
It is recommended to book accommodation in one of the suggested hotels because bus transfer to conference site will be ensured from these hotels.

Deadline for      **September 30, 2007**  
receipt of abstracts

Notice of      Sept. 30, 2007  
acceptance of  
abstracts

Publication of      March 15, 2008  
preliminary  
program

Mailing address: Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences H-1112 Budapest,  
Budaörsi út 45 Hungary. [isco2008@imperialroads.hu](mailto:isco2008@imperialroads.hu)

Contact the Organizing Committee: Ádám Kertész – [kertesza@helka.iif.hu](mailto:kertesza@helka.iif.hu) Tel & Fax: 36-1 309-  
2686; Alexandra Kovács, [szandra@sparc.core.hu](mailto:szandra@sparc.core.hu)  
[www.isco2008.com](http://www.isco2008.com) OR [www.isco.org](http://www.isco.org)

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Budapest in May 2008 at the 15th ISCO conference!

# 2008 Global Katoomba Meeting XII

[www.katoombagroup.org/chesapeake](http://www.katoombagroup.org/chesapeake)



## *Developing an Infrastructure Fund for the Planet*

### **2008 Global Katoomba Meeting** *Developing an Infrastructure Fund for the Planet*

**June 9-10, 2008**

**The Smithsonian's  
Natural History Museum  
Washington, DC**

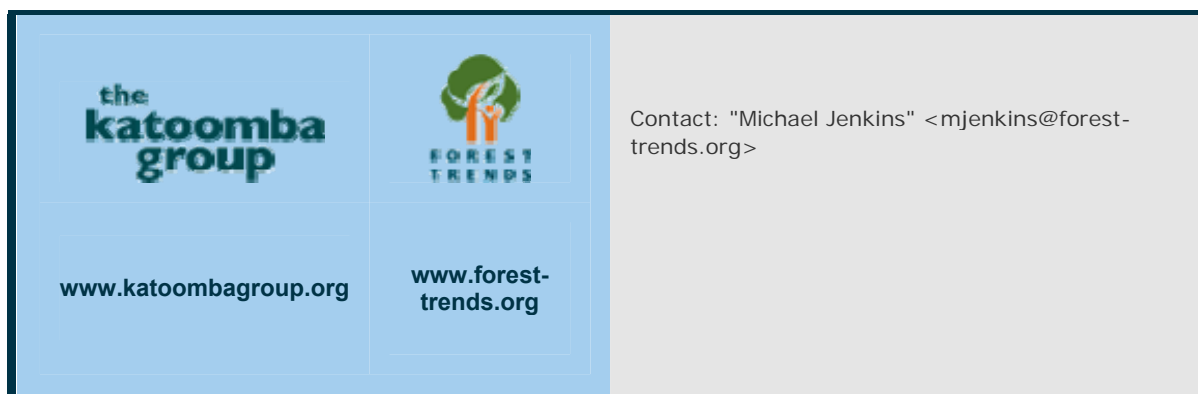
**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

For speakers and program visit:  
[www.katoombagroup.org/chesapeake](http://www.katoombagroup.org/chesapeake)

**ORGANIZED BY**

The services provided by our natural infrastructure - forests, aquatic systems, biodiversity, carbon and nutrient cycles - have long gone unnoticed and unpriced. However, ecosystem service payments and markets in carbon, water and biodiversity are quickly becoming a key solution to ensuring nature's services are not overwhelmed by human and economic activity.

Join us to hear about the latest developments in ecosystem markets and discuss how they are being created and utilized to help solve some of our most critical environmental challenges.



## May 27-31, 2008

BALWOIS 2008 Ohrid, Macedonia

## May 28-30, 2008

### Second International Conference on Environmental Economics and Investment Assessment, Cadiz, Spain, 28-30 May 2008

This conference will address the topic of Investment Assessment and Environmental Economics in an integrated way in accordance with the principles of sustainability and considering social and environmental impacts of new investments. It is organized by the Wessex Institute of Technology, UK, University of Cádiz, Spain, and the National Technical University of Athens, Greece and sponsored by the Wessex Institute Transactions on Ecology and the Environment.

For more information, contact: [jsolanki@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:jsolanki@wessex.ac.uk), or see: [http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/events/blank\\_2.html](http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/events/blank_2.html).

## May 28-30, 2008

### National Conference on Urban Ecosystems, Orlando, Florida, USA, 28-30 May 2008

The Conference will bring together members of the business, government and conservation communities, to solidify and expand partnerships and assess progress and plan strategies for building communities of the future. The conference will begin by laying a foundation of Nature and the Human Network, exploring how each system evolved and how each functions today. The conference will address national, regional and local issues required to build this new framework. Conference sessions will provide forums for developing and articulating federal agency ideas for managing Nature and the Network, such as the redesign of the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry. Other agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Economic Development and Department of Transportation will hold forums to discuss their new ideas and then share these ideas within the conference audience as a whole. **Discounted registration is available until May 1.**

For more information and to register see: [http://www.americanforests.org/conference/conf\\_08.ph](http://www.americanforests.org/conference/conf_08.ph).

## June 1-5, 2008

### Call for e-Biosphere 09: The International Conference on Biodiversity Informatics, London

Bio-Net, along with the Encyclopedia of Life and other leading organizations, is organizing e-Biosphere 09: The International Conference on Biodiversity Informatics, which will be hosted by the Natural History Museum in London from 1-5 June 2009. The new field of biodiversity informatics brings together data on species, higher taxonomic units, and their geographic distributions; specimens preserved in museums, herbaria and other repositories; and observations on organismal properties such as digital images and gene sequences. The conference will provide a platform for database developers and researchers to collaborate, as well as presenting an opportunity for officials from government agencies and NGO's to learn how biodiversity informatics provides a new scientific basis for policy decisions in conservation, agriculture, sustainable development and land management.

The conference Steering Committee has held its first meeting and is now forming subcommittees. They are inviting expressions of interest from other biodiversity initiatives and stakeholders who might be interested in:

- o Becoming a principal co-sponsor of the conference and joining the Steering Committee
- o Having a representative on one of the subcommittees organizing the Conference
- o Being an exhibitor at the conference
- o Demonstrating software systems in the exhibit/poster display areas
- o Sponsoring an event at the conference; and/or
- o Playing another role in the e-Biosphere 09 Conference

Please send your expressions of interest to [inquiries@e-biosphere09.org](mailto:inquiries@e-biosphere09.org) and also send a copy to Richard Smith at [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org). For more information on Bio-net see: [www.bionet-intl.org](http://www.bionet-intl.org).

## 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 Guorun Gisláttir <ggisla@hi.is> or Paul Hudson (pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu).

Paul F. Hudson, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin (2007-2008 Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Researcher, Department of Physical Geography, Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

**June 16-20, 2008**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Advertise, Exhibit, Sponsor!</b><br/><b>MAKE YOURS THE BRAND THEY REMEMBER</b><br/>Enquiries &amp; Customised Solutions - Email: <a href="mailto:info@asiaoceania.org">info@asiaoceania.org</a> Tel: +65 6341 7229</p>   |  |
| <p><b>AOGS 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b><br/>Busan Exhibition &amp; Convention Center (BEXCO)<br/>from 16 to 20 June 2008 in Busan , Korea</p> <p><b>Meeting Registration Opens</b><br/><a href="#">Register to Attend &amp; Pay by 22 April</a><br/><b>AOGS2008 Field Trips</b><br/><a href="#">Read/Download Field Trip Flyer</a><br/><b>Special Deals for Hotels</b><br/><b>Book by 22 April</b><br/><a href="#">Hotel Information Here</a><br/><b>Updates &amp; More at <a href="http://www.asiaoceania.org">www.asiaoceania.org</a></b></p> | <p><a href="#">Read/Download Updated AOGS2008 Brochure</a></p> <p><b>contains</b><br/>AOGS Membership Distribution<br/>AOGS Resource and Activities<br/>AOGS2008 Sessions &amp; Conveners<br/>AOGS2008 Fees &amp; Participation<br/>AOGS2008 Exhibition Layout<br/>AOGS2008 Exhibitor Booking Form</p> |
| <p><b>Trade Visitors Attend AOGS2008 Exhibition</b><br/><b>Free of Charge Remember to inform your customers &amp; contacts of this value addition</b><br/><b>16 to 19 June 2008 at the AOGS 5th Annual General Meeting in Busan</b></p>  |  |

**June 17-18, 2008**

**Technical and vocational education in Palestine ... Reality, Challenges and ambitions** Location: Gaza, Palestine

**June 17-19, 2008**

**International conference: Using Evaluation to Enhance the Rural Development Value of Agri-environmental Measures, Pärnu, Estonia, 17-19 June 2008**

The aim of this conference is to bring together a range of stakeholders with an active interest in the evaluation of agri-environment measures, including governmental officials and independent evaluators and experts. The conference will be jointly organized by Estonia (Agricultural Research Centre, the Ministry of Agriculture) and Finland (the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, University of Helsinki).

The objectives of the conference will be to improve understanding of the linkages between rural policies, farm practices and environmental outcomes; review and analyze the tools and methods available for the evaluation of agri-environment measures; and to identify those evaluation tools most useful for improving the integration of biodiversity conservation into agri-environment measures, particularly for the support of High Nature Value farming systems in the context of the 2007-2013 programming period.

Participants are invited to pre-register and to submit a presentation or workshop proposal addressing any of the themes of the conference at the conference website: [pmk.agri.ee/conference](http://pmk.agri.ee/conference) or by e-mail at [conference@pmk.agri.ee](mailto:conference@pmk.agri.ee). The call for pre-registrations, presentation, and workshop proposals closes **1 February 2008**. The detailed program will be available soon after and call for registrations opens in March 2008.

**June 24-25, 2008**

**International Conference on "Management of resources in Muslim countries and communities ....challenges and prospects"** Location: Malaysia

**June 29-July 5, 2008**

**International Grassland and Rangeland Congress**

The International Grassland and Rangeland Congress will be take place in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, June 29-July 5, 2008. Information on the Trade Show/Exhibits, Tours (Pre-congress, Post-congress and Mid-congress), Workshops and Delegate Sponsorship can be found at [www.IGC-IRC2008.org](http://www.IGC-IRC2008.org). This forum will be the first time that these two important International Congresses have met together to allow international exchange and discussion on the multi-function of grasslands and rangelands in a changing world. The Congress will focus on discussing scientific and technological aspects of Grassland/ Rangeland management, and on the challenges involved to overcome major limitations for implementing sustainable development. Any person from the research, university, government and industry sectors from around the world will find the 2008 IGC/IRC most stimulating and worthwhile. The first joint Congress will be a significant milestone in the history of IGC and IRC, and in research and development of grasslands and rangelands in the world. China has breathtaking scenery and outstanding hospitality. It is an ideal country to host the Congress with 392.8 million hectares of grasslands and rangelands in which more than 6,000 plant species grow. Diversity is most characteristic of China's grasslands, with alpine meadow, steppe, desert, tropical and sub-tropical ecosystems, and people of 56 nationalities who use the grasslands in many different ways depending on their culture. Agricultural and pastoral systems are being developed and modernized, with attention to landscape management, amenity values, plant and livestock production, and product processing and marketing.

**July 2-3, 2008**

**'First International Conference on Flood Recovery, Innovation and Response', London, England. Contact Carly Rose (Flood Repair Network Administrator) at [C.Rose@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:C.Rose@wlv.ac.uk), Phone: +44-(0)-1902 518530**

**Call for papers will be issued shortly. Please visit the Flood Repair Net website for further details:**

**[www.floodrepair.net](http://www.floodrepair.net)**

**July 2-4, 2008**

In order to seek synergies between research partnership projects in the North and the South and jointly identify entry points and pathways to sustainable development, the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South will organize an

**International Conference on Research for Development (ICRD 2008) from 2 - 4 July 2008 in Bern, Switzerland**

ICRD 2008 invites researchers, representatives from development agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to share research results, concepts, methodologies, and pilot experiences.

Individuals and/or project groups wishing to contribute to in the conference are invited to send their notice of intent to the conference secretariat by 20 February 2008.

For further details and the notice of intent, please visit our website at <http://icrd.unibe.ch>. We would appreciate it if you distribute this announcement among your partners and the research community, and we apologize for any cross-mailing.

We are looking forward to your participation.

Hans Hurni, Director NCCR North-South

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International Conference on Research for Development (ICRD 2008)  
National Centre of Competence in Research, NCCR North-South  
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)  
Hallerstrasse 10, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland, [icrd@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:icrd@cde.unibe.ch)

Tel. ++ 41 31 631 52 72 (secretariat); Fax: ++ 41 31 631 85 44; <http://icrd.unibe.ch>; <http://www.north-south.unibe.ch>

**July 7-11, 2008**

## Media Scholarships Offered To Attend the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium

***Open to reporters, editors, science writers and freelance journalists in print, broadcast and online media***

WASHINGTON, DC — SeaWeb, a global, non-profit organization, is offering travel scholarships for media to attend the world's preeminent summit on coral reef science and management. At this year's International Coral Reef Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from July 7 to 11, the media will have access to leading ocean experts from around the world and to press briefings on the latest scientific findings, as well as a field trip to see firsthand the threats to coral reefs.

### **About the Symposium:**

Held only every four years, the International Coral Reef Symposium will host more than 2,500 international scientists, policy makers, managers and conservationists. This year's symposium occurs during the 2008 International Year of the Reef. Key focuses of the symposium include the challenges that climate change, overfishing and pollution pose to coral reefs. Symposium sessions will be held in a question-driven format, with reports and breaking news on:

- The emerging link between ocean acidification and coral reef health
- Diseases killing coral reefs around the world
- Recovery of coral reef ecosystems following bleaching episodes
- Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

For more information, please visit [www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/index.html](http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/index.html).

### **About the Application Process:**

Scholarship applications should be submitted to SeaWeb by Friday, March 7, 2008 to [cknutson@seaweb.org](mailto:cknutson@seaweb.org). A limited number of scholarships are available to media from North America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands. The scholarships,

which will be applied to travel and/or accommodation expenses, will be based on need, point of origin and the ability of the media organization to help defray costs. Interviews may be conducted to obtain additional information following application. Scholarship recipients will be announced by early April 2008.

To apply, please submit the following (not to exceed three pages):

- Brief CV or bio, including concise descriptions of key coverage as it relates to coral reefs, oceans, science or the environment.
- Three clips or samples of coverage, especially any pieces relevant to this issue.
- Freelancers should include a list of outlets that routinely publish your articles and provide contact information or letters of interest from two outlets that are interested in news from the symposium.
- List of coral reefs issues are of interest to you.
- Description (not to exceed one page) of why you would like to attend the symposium, how your coverage would benefit, story angles you would like to pursue, and details on your media outlet and audience.

Contact Info: Corinne Knutson, Coral Program Coordinator, SeaWeb  
Tel : 619.269.1284; [cknutson@seaweb.org](mailto:cknutson@seaweb.org); [SeaWeb](http://SeaWeb)

### **July 14-18, 2008**

#### **The International Association for the Study of the Commons, 12th Biennial Global Conference, Gloucestershire, England, 14-18 July 2008**

The theme of this conference will be: 'Governing shared resources: Connecting local experience to global challenges'. The conference will focus on the exchange of ideas between the developing and the developed world, between practitioners and researchers, and between old and new conceptions of commons. The conference will provide a range of opportunities for those with the 'hands-on' experience of resource management to engage with researchers trying to understand, synthesize and develop new theories about the collective management of shared resources. The conference is organized around the following 6 themes:

- Understanding the benefits of commons
- Property rights: recognition, protection and creation
- Community and governance
- Analyzing the multi-functional nature of complex commons
- Evolution and enclosure of commons
- Social movements, networks and collective action

For more information see: [www.iascp.org/iasc08/2008themes.html](http://www.iascp.org/iasc08/2008themes.html).

### **July 14-18, 2008**

#### **Second International Conference on Ground Bio- and Eco-engineering: The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability, Beijing, China. <http://icgbe2.cirad.fr/>,**

**Contact: Alexia Stokes**

LIAMA-CASIA

Zhonguancun Dong Lu 95, Haidian District

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

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

[stokes@liama.ia.ac.cn](mailto:stokes@liama.ia.ac.cn), <http://liama.ia.ac.cn>

## **Sponsors and Partners**



July 26-30, 2008



# Soil and Water Conservation Society 2008 Annual Conference July 26-30, 2008

Tucson, Arizona





## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2008 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

The preliminary program with complete descriptions of conference plenary sessions, the list of oral and poster presentations and symposia, tours, workshops, and special events is online at [www.swcs.org/08ac](http://www.swcs.org/08ac)

**Conference highlights:** ~ Dig It! The Secrets of Soil - a keynote presentation featuring a "Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Soils Exhibit

Opening and the Traveling Tour" from the Smithsonian Institute and the Soil Science Society of America.

~ Illegal Immigration and the Conservation Consequences - a forum focused on the conservation issues in the border area of Mexico and the United States. The forum will feature speakers from the ranching, law enforcement, wildlife and government agency perspectives.

Educational content for the conference includes presentations in the following issue areas:

- o Soil Resources and Management
  - Soil Resource Assessment
  - Soil Resource Management and Conservation
- o Water Resources and Management
- o Conservation in Urban Settings
- o Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
- o Conservation Education
- o Conservation Tools and Technologies, and
- o Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design.

### Technical Workshops, Educational Tours & Networking Opportunities

There are eight tours, five workshops and dozens of opportunities – from the Networking/Social Night at the [Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum](#) to the Regional Networking Roundtable Lunches and the Exhibitor/Poster Reception on Sunday night – to learn and make connections with attendees, exhibitors and speakers in a variety settings and sessions.

Be sure to register by June 16th because prices will increase as we get closer to the conference. Register now by clicking on the YES button below.

Contact the JW Marriott Starr Pass at 1-888-527-8989 to make hotel reservations or make your reservations [online](#) through the SWCS website. Be sure to reference the Soil and Water Conservation Society conference to receive the group rate.



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#### WHEN

Saturday, July 26, 2008 8:00 AM -

Wednesday, July 30, 2008 4:00 PM

Mountain Time Zone

**WHERE**

JW Marriott Starr Pass  
3800 W. Starr Pass Boulevard  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
USA

[View Event Summary](#)

[View Event Agenda](#)

Please respond by clicking one of the buttons below



**July 26-30, 2008 (same venue as above)**

**SWCS Annual Conference with the International Symposium on Global Land Cover and Land Use Change**

Demetrio Zourarakis is organizing the International Symposium on Global Land Cover and Land Use Change for the 2008 SWCS annual conference. I would like to ask you for your considered opinion in response to this initial call. If you or colleagues have active interest in the topic and would consider taking part in the July 2008 symposium, I ask you to kindly reply to Dr. Zourarakis ([Demetrio.Zourarakis@ky.gov](mailto:Demetrio.Zourarakis@ky.gov)).

It will be especially helpful if you can forward this request to colleagues or interested scientists/institutions working on Land Use Change who have the potential to participate and contribute to the symposium. Scientists from Mexico and continents other than North America would be especially beneficial to reach with this call.

Given the extent of research taking place on Land Use Change, one idea is to use this symposium as a spring board for a stand alone conference, focused on soil and water conservation, in the future.

Thanks with regards,  
Sarah Workman ([sworkman@uga.edu](mailto:sworkman@uga.edu))

2008 Annual Conference: July 26-30 in Tucson , AZ ; Soil and Water Conservation Society  
[http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008\\_annual\\_conference/](http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/)

**July 28-31, 2008**

**1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Hydropedology - USA**

The conference will be held from 28-31 July at Penn State University, USA. The International Union of Soil Sciences' Working Group on Hydropedology (WG-HP) is organizing this inaugural conference to advance the emerging interdisciplinary field of hydropedology and to promote its synergistic collaborations across scientific disciplines, including soil science, hydrology, geomorphology, and other related bio- and geosciences. Hydropedology addresses interactive pedologic and hydrologic processes and landscape-soil-hydrology relationships across space and time, aiming to understand pedologic controls on hydrologic processes and properties, and hydrologic impacts on soil formation, variability, and functions. Such synergistic approach is needed to advance the integrated studies of the earth's Critical Zone, i.e., the critical interface between the solid earth and its fluid envelopes (generally viewed as that part of the earth from the top of vegetations to the bottom of aquifers). Abstract submission deadline is March 31, 2008. More information click [here](#)

**August 7-11, 2008**

**Conference: Applying Ecological Economics for Social and Environmental Sustainability, Nairobi, Kenya, 7-11 August 2008**

The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) is co-hosting its 10th Biennial Conference, along with African Society for Ecological Economics and the United Nations Environment Program. The conference will highlight the vision, methods, and policy adjustments needed to enable ecological economics principles be applied to the design and management of environmentally and socially sustainable development processes in the face of increasing global change and interdependence. More information about the conference will follow on the conference's official website.

For more information, see: [www.ecoeco.org/](http://www.ecoeco.org/).

**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 Guorun Gislason <[ggisla@hi.is](mailto:ggisla@hi.is)> or Paul Hudson ([pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu)).

Paul F. Hudson, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin (2007-2008 Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Researcher, Department of Physical Geography, Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

**August 25-29, 2008**

**EUROSOIL 2008**  
**Soil – Society – Environment**



25-29 August 2008, Vienna, Austria

<http://www.ecsss.net>

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Congress is organised in co-operation between the national soil science societies of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland, supported by the International Union of Soil Science Societies (IUSS), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Vienna Convention Bureau, the Vienna Medical Academy, Austrian Airlines, and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research.

Venue: Technical University, Vienna  
Organiser: Winfried E.H. Blum, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna  
[winfried.blum@boku.ac.at](mailto:winfried.blum@boku.ac.at)  
Secretariat: Vienna Medical Academy,  
Ms. Mirjam Uebelhoer  
([Eurosoil2008@medacad.org](mailto:Eurosoil2008@medacad.org))

The Congress offers approx. 30 symposia, 10 workshops, further meetings, 24 technical excursions and 2 social events.

Detailed information about the scientific and organising committees, registration and abstract deadlines, registration fees and other details is available on the website:

**Registration:** (registration fees in Euros)

| <b>Payment received</b> | <b>until 31 Jan. 2008</b> | <b>until 31 May 2008</b> | <b>after 31 May 2008 and onsite</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| regular participants    | EUR 250.-                 | EUR 300.-                | EUR 350.-                           |
| Students                | EUR 100.-                 | EUR 150.-                | EUR 200.-                           |
| Accompanying persons    | EUR 55.-                  | EUR 55.-                 | EUR 55.-                            |

## **PROGRAMME (preliminary):**

### **Symposia:**

- Soil Organic Matter
- Soils and Climate Change
- Soil Erosion
- Soil Compaction
- Soil Desertification and Salinisation
- Soil and Water – Theory
- Soil and Water – Practical Applications
- Soil Ecology – Soil as a Living Space
- Forest Management and Soils
- Advances in Soil Monitoring
- Management of Contaminated Soils - Practical Applications
- Management of Contaminated Soils - Concepts and Policy Development
- Buffering Function of Soils
- Organo-mineral Interactions
- Soil Information Systems, Regionalisation of Data, Including Soil Associations
- Soil Indicators
- Land Use and Soil Protection
- Urban and Anthropogenic Soils
- Soil Forming Processes and Soil Morphology
- Soil Classification
- Society's Demands for and Perceptions of Soil Conservation
- Soils and Societies in History
- Education in Soil Science and Raising Public Awareness
- Rhizosphere Processes
- Soils and GMOs
- Memory Function of Recent and Paleosoils
- Pedometrics and Digital Soil Mapping
- The Influence of Soil Quality on Human Health and Food Security
- Soil Fertility and Environment
- Time Scales of Pedogenic Processes for Predicting Soil Changes in Time
- Micromorphological and Mineralogical Features (Evidence) of Soil Environmental Change

### **Workshops:**

- International and EU Politics
- Humus as an Ecological Indicator
- EU Forest Soil Monitoring – BIOSOIL
- European Soil Database

- Contaminant Dynamics in Periodically Flooded Soils
- Critical Zone – Weathering
- "RISK-BASE" – Towards a risk-based management of the soil-sediment-water-system at river-basin scale
- "ENVIASSO"
- Greenhouse Gas Budget of Soils – Hotspots of Emissions /COST 639
- Frontiers in Soil Protection Research: New Perspectives and Challenges (ESSC)

**Pre- and Post- Congress Excursions:** are scheduled in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Switzerland.

For detailed information on the programme and for the submission of papers, please see the congress website: <http://www.ecsss.net>

Prof.Dr.Dr.h.c.mult. Winfried E.H. Blum  
 President, European Confederation of  
 Soil Science Societies (ECSSS)  
 University of Natural Resources and Applied  
 Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna  
 Peter-Jordan-Str. 82, 1190 Vienna, AUSTRIA  
 Tel.: (+43-1)47654-3101; Fax: (+43-1)47654-3130  
[herma.exner@boku.ac.at](mailto:herma.exner@boku.ac.at)

### September 1-3, 2008

GeoCart'2008 CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE <http://www.cartography.org.nz/geocart2008/>

in conjunction with SIRC 2008: the 20th Annual Colloquium of the Spatial Information Research Centre  
<http://www.business.otago.ac.nz/SIRC/index.html>

At the University of Auckland, New Zealand

Antoni Moore, Department of Information Science, University of Otago, Room 11.03, Commerce Building  
 PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel: 0064 3 4798180; Fax: 0064 3 4798311  
[amoore@infoscience.otago.ac.nz](mailto:amoore@infoscience.otago.ac.nz); <http://info-nts-12.otago.ac.nz/amoore/>

### September 16-18, 2008

**WaterTech Central Asia: Central Asian International Water Technology Exhibition & Conference** Location: Almaty, Kazakhstan

### September 17-23, 2008

#### **5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Land Degradation, Bari, Italy**

We have updated the web page of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Land Degradation ([www.iamb.it/5ICLD](http://www.iamb.it/5ICLD)). You could find updated information at the List of Participants on the left side of the screen related to those who have registered as of 20 January 2008. I would like to thank all of them who have sent us their abstracts and in the same time to request this for those that intend to participate. The deadline was set for **31 March 2008**. Please distribute this information to other colleagues that may have interest in the topic but are not aware of such event. We'll keep you posted on further news and developments!

Dr. Pandi Zdruli, Senior Research Scientist, Land and Water Department, CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Via Ceglie 9, 70010 Valenzano (BA), Italy. Tel: +39 080 4606 253; Fax: +39 080 4606 274  
 E-mail: [pandi@iamb.it](mailto:pandi@iamb.it); [www.iamb.it](http://www.iamb.it); [www.iamb.it/5ICLD](http://www.iamb.it/5ICLD)

### 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)

## October 5-14, 2008

We are happy to invite you to contribute to the **World Conservation Congress**, the premier environmental event of 2008 that will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 5-14 October 2008. The first half of the Congress will be the World Conservation Forum, from 6-9 October. This will be the place to debate pressing environmental issues and solutions for sustainable development. The Forum seeks to reach agreements, share solutions and create new partnerships for a diverse and sustainable world.

Building on IUCN's long history of bringing together diverse stakeholders and providing scientific leadership, the Forum will bring different sectors together from all over the world to share knowledge and experiences, develop innovative and inspiring solutions and make commitments to help us to move forward together on the path to sustainability.

If you would like to be part of this exciting event and organize one or more event(s) at the Forum, please visit [www.iucn.org/congress](http://www.iucn.org/congress) to find out more. You will be able to submit proposals under this website as of June 1. If you have further questions, please send them to: [congressforum@iucn.org](mailto:congressforum@iucn.org)

Enrique Lahmann, Congress Manager

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Estimado/a Señor/a,

Me complace invitarles a contribuir al Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza, el mayor evento ambiental del 2008, que se celebrará en Barcelona, España, del 5 al 14 de Octubre de 2008. La primera parte del Congreso, el Foro Mundial de la Naturaleza, tendrá lugar del 6 al 9 de Octubre y será el lugar para debatir asuntos decisivos y soluciones para el desarrollo sostenible. El Foro pretende lograr acuerdos, compartir soluciones y crear nuevas alianzas para un mundo diverso y sostenible.

Aprovechando la vasta experiencia de la UICN para conjuntar diferentes actores y brindar liderazgo científico, el Foro reunirá diferentes sectores, de todo el mundo, para intercambiar conocimientos y experiencias, desarrollar soluciones innovadoras e inspiradoras y lograr acuerdos para ayudarnos a avanzar juntos en el camino de la sostenibilidad.

Si desea formar parte de este gran acontecimiento y organizar uno o más eventos durante el Foro, favor visitar [www.iucn.org/congress](http://www.iucn.org/congress) para obtener mayor información. Será posible enviar sus propuestas electrónicamente en este sitio a partir del 1 de Junio. Si tiene preguntas adicionales por favor contáctenos en [congressforum@iucn.org](mailto:congressforum@iucn.org)

A la espera de sus contribuciones.

Enrique Lahmann, Gerente del Congreso

-----  
Madame, Monsieur,

J'ai le plaisir de vous inviter à participer au Congrès Mondial de la Nature, le principal événement environnemental de 2008, qui aura lieu en Barcelone, Espagne du 5 au 14 octobre 2008. La première

partie du Congrès, le Forum Mondial de la Nature, aura lieu du 6 au 9 octobre et sera l'endroit où débattre les sujets décisifs et les solutions pour une forme de développement durable. Le Forum veut favoriser les accords, le partage de solutions et la création de nouvelles alliances pour un monde divers et durable.

Fort de la grande expérience de l'UICN à réunir les différents acteurs environnementaux et à mettre à leur disposition les dernières avancées des connaissances scientifiques, la Forum réunira différents secteurs, du monde entier, afin d'échanger connaissances et expériences, développer des solutions innovantes et arriver à de nouveaux accords pour avancer, ensemble, sur le chemin du développement durable.

Si vous souhaitez faire partie de cet événement et organiser une ou plusieurs activités durant le Forum, vous pouvez visiter [www.iucn.org/congress](http://www.iucn.org/congress) pour en savoir plus. Vous pourrez soumettre votre proposition sur ce site web à partir du 1er juin. Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à les envoyer à : [congressforum@iucn.org](mailto:congressforum@iucn.org)

Enrique Lahmann, Responsable du Congrès

**October 20-22, 2008**



A Special Conference  
hosted by the  
Soil & Water  
Conservation Society



## Farming with Grass

Achieving Sustainable Mixed Agricultural Landscapes in Grasslands Environments

**The Call for Papers for this conference closes on February 6th.**

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will convene a conference to address the factors driving change in mixed agricultural systems. Specific objectives include:

- Engage participants across diverse disciplines and institutions in identifying research, technology, and policy needs to maintain competitive and environmentally sound agricultural systems under dynamic natural, social, economic, and policy drivers.
- Provide professional development and networking opportunities
- Identify key knowledge gaps and technology limitations that impede the ability of individuals and communities to evaluate options to meet multiple objectives
- Identify policy alternatives to promote sustainable agricultural systems

### Program/Agenda

The keynote speaker for the opening plenary session will be Dr. Frederick L. Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Speaking at the closing session will be Jean Steiner, USDA-ARS and Craig Cox, SWCS Executive Director. Additional information is available online at [www.swcs.org/fwg](http://www.swcs.org/fwg)

The three-day conference will consist of invited keynote speakers, submitted posters, and facilitated roundtable discussions organized around the following topic areas:

1. Status and trends in types of agricultural systems, inputs, productivity, profitability, environmental indicators, and rural demographics and economics. *John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri*
2. Environmental, social, and economic benefits of mixed grassland landscapes to include farm level, rural community, and broad social perspectives. *Deborah E. Popper, Associate Professor of Geography, College of Staten Island, City University of New York and Frank J. Popper, Professor, Planning and Public Policy Program, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University*
3. Factors driving change in grassland environments (e.g., resource availability, demographics, social dynamics, economics, climate change, farm, environmental and energy policy, and local zoning/farmland preservation) *Vivien Gore Allen, Thornton Distinguished Chair, Department of Plant & Soil Science, Texas Tech University*
4. Assessment tools for monitoring and predicting changes and to support scenario analyses of alternatives and tradeoffs. *Dennis Ojima, Senior Scholar, The H John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment*
5. Science and policy needed to sustain agriculture in mixed grassland environments, including role of marketbased tools, state and local water laws and policies, and environmental trades (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, water allocation, effluent releases). *George Boody, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Project*

SWCS will develop the conference proceedings and will disseminate the findings and recommendations to key scientific, policy maker, and agricultural audiences, including all attendees.

The early registration deadline is **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**.

**WHEN** Monday, October 20, 2008 2:00 PM -  
Wednesday, October 22, 2008 2:00 PM  
Central Time Zone

**WHERE** Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center  
737 S Meridian Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1601  
USA

**FEE Event Registration**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Member     | \$250.00 until<br>9/10/08<br>(<br>\$350.00 afterwards) |
| Non-member | \$300.00 until<br>9/10/08                              |

Register and Join SWCS

(  
\$400.00 afterwards)  
\$330.00 until  
9/10/08  
(  
\$430.00 afterwards)

View Event Summary

View Event Agenda

Please respond by clicking one of the buttons below.

If you click "NO" you will remove yourself from the list for ALL future messages about [this conference](#).



**October 20-23, 2008**

## **The 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Maize Workshop**

**Makassar, Indonesia, 20 - 23 October 2008**

The Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) are pleased to announce the **10<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Maize Workshop** to be held in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 20-23 October 2008. Scientists and maize production specialists of all disciplines, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and seed industries are invited to participate and submit contributions under the thematic areas listed below.

**Venue:** Sahid Jaya Hotel, Jalan Dr. Sam Ratulangi 33, **Makassar 90132, South Sulawesi, Indonesia**

**Theme:** Maize for Asia: Emerging Trends and Technologies

The following specific thematic areas are envisioned:

- **Market Trends for Maize in Asia** (socioeconomic, physical and political environment; changing demand and supply for maize; food, feed, industry, biofuel)
- **Farming Systems for Maize in Asia** (resource conserving technologies, sustainable agricultural practices, GIS, rice-maize systems, site-specific nutrient management)
- **Maize Breeding Trends and Progress** (conventional breeding, applications of biotechnology, etc.)
- **Abiotic and Biotic Stresses** (trends and progress with research on drought, low-N, acid soils, water-logging, cold tolerance, tolerance to diseases and insects, integrated pest management)
- **Value-added maize:** (improving the value of maize: QPM, micronutrients, specialty traits, etc.)
- **Policies and Priorities for Poverty Alleviation:** (factors affecting impacts, access to seed, socio-economic factors, gap analysis, etc.)
- **Demand for and Supply of Maize Technologies:** (Who are the clients and what maize research products do they need? What needs are being met and what gaps persist? Current and needed trends in partnerships: Public-private sector, NGOs, NARS-IARCs, etc.)

**Language of the workshop:** English

**Workshop proceedings:** Abstracts of all workshop presentations, as well as of invited full papers, will be published electronically. A high standard of contributions and presentations at the workshop is expected. Potential participants are invited to submit high quality abstracts electronically through e-mail to the Workshop Secretariat for consideration by the review panel. Screening of abstracts by a committee of peers will be based on the research quality and relevance to the themes of the workshop. Authors should indicate if they wish to make oral or poster presentations. Due to the limited time available, the oral presentations will be selected based on the quality

of the abstracts and to give a diversity of presentation topics and presenters. Those abstracts which are accepted but could not be scheduled in oral presentations will be presented as posters. Only participants with accepted papers will be eligible for sponsorship to attend the workshop.

**Call for abstracts and calendar:** Please submit your abstracts by e-mail to the Chair of the Technical Committee at [k.pixley@cgiar.org](mailto:k.pixley@cgiar.org) and [phzaidi@cgiar.org](mailto:phzaidi@cgiar.org) by the following deadlines, which will be implemented strictly:

**30 April 2008:** Receipt of abstract submission form ([word file 36kb](#) | [pdf version 19kb](#)) and a concise Abstract (250 words plus one table or figure) containing a brief summary of the objectives, methods, and results of the research

**31 May 2008:** Notice of provisional acceptance of Abstracts sent to authors.

**1 October 2008:** Final manuscript of invited papers due.

**Guidelines to authors:** will be distributed together with the Notice of Acceptance of Abstracts. Guidelines for preparation of oral and poster presentations will be provided with final full paper acceptance.

**Sponsorship:** Funding available to sponsor participants from the region is very limited. Support provided through CIMMYT to attend will depend entirely on the acceptance of the full paper by the Organizing Committee. Independently sponsored participants are welcome, but their inclusion on the program will also depend on acceptance of their full papers by the Organizing Committee.

**Organizing committee:** IAARD-CIMMYT

**Contact persons:**

- 1) Dr. Muhammad Azrai, ICERI, Maros, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Organizing Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> ARMW.  
Email: [azraimuh@yahoo.com](mailto:azraimuh@yahoo.com); [armw\\_x@yahoo.co.id](mailto:armw_x@yahoo.co.id)
- 2) Dr. Kevin Pixley, Co-chair: Technical Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> ARMW, CIMMYT, Global Maize Program  
Email: [k.pixley@cgiar.org](mailto:k.pixley@cgiar.org)
- 3) Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Co-chair: Technical Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> ARMW, CIMMYT, Global Maize Program  
Email: [phzaidi@cgiar.org](mailto:phzaidi@cgiar.org)

**Workshop secretariat:**



ICERI-MAROS, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

**Telephone:** +62-411-371-529

**Address:**

Indonesian Cereals Research Institute, (ICERI),  
Jalan Dr. Ratulangi 274, Maros 90514,  
South Sulawesi, Indonesia

**Facsimile:** +62-411-371 961

**Attn:** Dr. Muhammad Azrai

**e-mail:** [armw\\_x@yahoo.co.id](mailto:armw_x@yahoo.co.id)

**October 20-25, 2008**

During the last WWSM in November 2007 in the Philippines, two weeks in October (13-18 or 20-25) were pre-selected for the next **WWSM**. The WOCAT global management now decided that the second option is preferable.



We are therefore happy to announce that the next annual WOCAT Workshop and Steering Meeting (WWSM) will take place from **October 20 – 25, 2008 in Switzerland**. Please reserve these dates. The place will be announced in due time.

Hanspeter Liniger, Godert van Lynden, Rima Mekdaschi Studer, Christine Hauert and Gudrun Schwilch

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

Institute of Geography, University of Berne, Hallerstrasse 10, CH - 3012 Berne, Switzerland

Phone +41 31 631 54 59 / 88 22; Fax +41 31 631 85 44; [www.cde.unibe.ch](http://www.cde.unibe.ch); [www.wocat.net](http://www.wocat.net)

### **November 9-17, 2008**

#### **Soil Classification - Chile**

This conference will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 9 to 17 November 2008. The aim of the meeting is to bring together scientists and researchers in the field of soil classification to discuss recent progress in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources and other classification schemes. The conference is jointly organized by the IUSS, the Chilean Society of Soil Science, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, the Universities of Chile, Concepcion and La Serena, and the Centre of Advanced Studies in Arid Zones. Please check the website [www.scc2008.uchile.cl](http://www.scc2008.uchile.cl)

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

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

### **December 2-4, 2008**

International symposium on regulatory and safety issues in the commercialization of biotechnology research in the developing world

Date: 2-4 December, 2008

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

## **Other events in 2008 from F. X. Browne, Inc. website**

(Click on an event for more information)

[EPA Watershed Webcasts](#)

[EPA Stormwater Webcasts](#)

[PA Dirt and Gravel Road ESM Workshops](#)

[Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#)

[NJ Precautionary Principle Conference](#)

[Northeast PA Regional Contractors/Engineers Workshop](#)

[PA Society of Women Environmental Professionals Conference](#)

[NJ Environmental Commission Training to Protect Natural Resources](#)

[Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, Shad Symposium](#)

[PennFuture's Annual Watershed Workshop](#)

[KY Urban Water Management Conference](#)

[PA Environmental Regulations & Technologies Conference](#)

[PA Rural Water Association Conference](#)

[NJ Environmental Federation Conference](#)

[Green Infrastructure Course-WV](#)

[Delaware River Watershed Education Youth Eco-Leadership Summit](#)

[Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs Conference](#)

[National River Rally](#)

[ME River Management Symposium](#)



World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2008  
National WQ Monitoring Conference  
NEIWPEC Annual Conference  
Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference



To view upcoming lake and watershed workshops, events and conferences, visit the F. X. Browne, Inc. website at [www.fxbrowne.com/html/workshops.htm](http://www.fxbrowne.com/html/workshops.htm)

## MEETINGS 2009++

**January 5-8, 2009**



The **International Soil and Water Assessment Tool Workshop and Conference in Southeast Asia (SWAT-SEA)** will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during January 5-8, 2009. *SWAT-SEA* is expected to bring together 300+ people from SEA region and around the world representing academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and private industry, including a large contingent of undergraduate and graduate students.

First Announcement is in the website: <http://www2.mcc.cmu.ac.th/swat/index.php>

**February 4-7, 2009**

I am happy to inform you that the **4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (IV WCCA)** will be held on 4-7 February 2009 in New Delhi. The First Announcement is placed at the website [www.wccagri.ernet.in](http://www.wccagri.ernet.in) for information to all those who are interested in agriculture and natural resources. I shall be grateful if the announcement is given wide publicity among your professional staff for contribution and active participation in the Congress.

I may be contacted for more information about the Congress.

PK Joshi, Organizing Secretary, 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture  
Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research, Pusa, New Delhi 110 012,  
India. Tel: +91-11-25843036; Fax: +91-11-25842684; [wccagri@gmail.com](mailto:wccagri@gmail.com); [pkjoshi@ncap.res.in](mailto:pkjoshi@ncap.res.in)  
Congress website: [www.wccagri.ernet.in](http://www.wccagri.ernet.in); [www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html](http://www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html)  
Center website: [www.ncap.res.in](http://www.ncap.res.in)

**January 5-7, 2009**

## Thailand 2009 - Call for Papers Deadline Approaching



REMINDER: Thailand 2009 - Call for Abstracts

| Abstract Submission Deadline |
|------------------------------|
| April 4, 2008                |

[Download Call for Papers Brochure](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW!](#)

### CONFERENCE TOPICS:

CLIMATE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

WATER RESOURCES AND WATER SUPPLY

ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

...AND OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS

**Thailand 2009: An International Perspective on Environmental and Water Resources Conference** is scheduled to be held January 5-7, 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand at the AIT Conference Centre. The conference will consist of a three-day technical program, inclusive of opening keynote session, a closing panel discussion session, and three concurrent technical session tracks in between the opening and closing sessions. The conference will also include social and networking events as well as tours of Bangkok.

This conference will cover a wide variety of topics related to environmental and water resources. While technical sessions will include topics on both developed and developing countries, much of the focus of this conference will be on water resources and the environment in developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa. The emphasis

will be focused on global effect of regional issues and solutions. Participants, including paper presenters and attendees, will include engineers, scientists, planners, economists, and legal professionals from all over the globe.

The deadline for abstract submission is fast approaching. Abstracts should describe the theme and content of the proposed paper and should address one or more of the conference topics. A list of conference topics can be found by visiting the conference website at: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/thailand09>. In addition, your abstract must be 500 words or less, written in English; include the full paper title; list the affiliation; mailing address, phone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the author(s) and indicate the primary contact. Abstracts should be submitted electronically via the conference website and are due by April 4, 2008.

Thailand 2009 is being organized by the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). Thailand 2009 is the second EWRI-led international conference which follows EWRI's first successful international conference held in New Delhi, India in 2006 jointly with IIT (Kanpur). EWRI is planning a third international conference which is scheduled to be held in 2010 in Chennai, India where EWRI will work jointly with IIT a second time.

For more information about the Thailand 2009 Conference, visit the conference website at:  
<http://content.asce.org/conferences/thailand09>.

## February 23, 2009

International Conference on Implementing Environmental Water Allocations Port Elizabeth South Africa

## March 16-22, 2009

### 5th World Water Forum

Location: Istanbul, Turkey

## August 1-6, 2010

The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Brisbane, Australia, 1-6 August 2010.

Contact Philippa Tolmie at [philippa.tolmie@nrw.qld.gov.au](mailto:philippa.tolmie@nrw.qld.gov.au)

The 20<sup>th</sup> WCSS Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2014.

**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, which you should also indicate "payable to Dr. Samran Sombatpanit".**

**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, Samyae 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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**Note: For the convenience of all parties you are advised to sign up as a Life member or to pay for several years (e.g 4 years and get 5 years) in one time. Contact [sombatpanit@yahoo.com](mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com) if you have any problem.**

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