

WASWC HOT NEWS 2008 (04) MAY 2, 2008

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 and 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

New items are highlighted in light blue for easy identification

REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

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



PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS

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HOT ISSUE

ISCO – Its first 25 years and how it should proceed further



If you know ISCO or have ever attended an ISCO conference you may know that it has been around for sometime and has produced a number of proceedings, many of them have been very helpful to academics and professionals worldwide.

The acronym ISCO (International Soil Conservation Organization) was coined at an international conference on *Soil Erosion and Conservation* in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in early 1983. The meeting agreed on calling the Hawaii conference as ISCO 3 and giving the number of the previous meeting in Gent, Belgium, in 1978 ISCO 1 and the one in Silsoe, UK, in 1980 as ISCO 2.

After the Hawaii conference in 1983, the next events (ISCO 4 and ISCO 5) were organized in Maracay, Venezuela, in 1985 and in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1988, where I was brought in to involve. ISCO 6 and ISCO 7 took place in Kenya+Ethiopia (1989) and Australia (1992), while ISCO 8 and ISCO 9 were in India (1994) and Germany (1996), respectively. ISCO 10 (1999) and ISCO 11 (2000) went to the Western Hemisphere (West Lafayette, Indiana, USA and Buenos Aires, Argentina).

ISCO 12 went to Beijing, China, in 2002 and ISCO 13 was in Brisbane, Australia in 2004. The last event (ISCO 14) went to Africa (Marrakech, Morocco) in 2006 and the upcoming one (ISCO 15, in a couple of weeks from now) will be in Budapest, Hungary. The website www.isco.org provides some information and proceedings, plus something more.

By simple calculation one may know that ISCO was born 25 years ago this year. In January, I wrote a note to all directors of the ISCO Board, congratulating them on the occasion of the 25th



Anniversary as well as voicing my concerns of how ISCO had evolved, stagnated or deteriorated over the years, plus some recommendations of how we could improve the performance of this important organization if we wanted to see it thrive and sustain for many more years to its posterity. There was very little discussion about it, all of them rejecting what I had pointed out in the script “A FEW WORDS ...” as shown below.

As we are going to have this conference held again soon (ISCO 15 in Budapest, Hungary), and I am sure many of our WASWC members are going to attend it, I would like to share the opinions and concerns among us and also would like to request those who can make to Budapest to please enquire members of the Board of Directors if they have considered my suggestions and what the outcomes would be. The following script was originally written in September 2006, shortly after my return from ISCO 14 in Marrakech, but with some amendments to match with the present time.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PROS AND CONS OF ISCO AND MY PROPOSED

IMPROVEMENT: As has been described earlier in the WASWC Newsletter, this series of ISCO conferences has been well recognized as very unique among the venues for academics and professionals to gather and present their works on the management and care of land based natural resources. Apart from presenting and/or listening to the hundreds of innovative ways to mitigate degradation of land and water resources, participants have an excellent chance to renew friendships with old friends and meet new ones. Many discussions and agreements, casual and serious, occur outside the conference rooms, either during the coffee breaks, field trips or at dinners. Coming to attend the ISCO meeting is therefore NOT ONLY to present one’s paper or to listen to others’ lectures; it is much more. Therefore the originators of the ISCO conference and subsequent organizers during the last quarter century are to be congratulated for this innovative idea from the 1980s that still applies in the 21st Century.

However, there are certain aspects of the conference organizing procedure that cause my concern. As someone who was deeply involved in organizing the 5th ISCO Conference in Bangkok in 1988, I have been feeling uneasy about some things during the last few years—during this period we have seen the so-called ISCOers, who used to attend every conference without a break from ISCO 1 (Ghent, 1980), leave the list one by one, certainly with reasons that would be different from one to another. True, the ISCO Board (comprising previous ISCO conference organizers from the beginning plus invited men and women of wisdom) has been successful in encouraging various countries to organize a conference every 2–3 years without a break, already for 14 times. But in terms of quality, I doubt if we are up to the standard of conferences conducted by other well established societies and associations. One very important thing that should be expected from such a global meeting event like ISCO is the **Conclusions and Recommendations**.

A lack of conference conclusions and recommendations from the Buenos Aires ISCO in October 2000 was the starting point that triggered my concern. Such a document is considered important, as hundreds of participants have to spend a total sum of millions of dollars to attend each meeting; not having this document available subdued the essence of the conference. It also makes it more difficult for those who have to report to their organization upon arriving home. As well, the usefulness of the conference is much reduced because there is nothing to guide one’s direction later on.

After having searched for the missing document for some time without success, I proposed at the ISCO Board meeting in Beijing in 2002 to add a sentence in the ISCO Guidelines about the requirement for organizers to accomplish this (written conclusions and recommendations) within a suitable period of time after the conference. However this was turned down right away, without any deliberation by members, and the reasons for this decision were not given. At the end, the minutes from the Beijing ISCO Board meeting furnished by the ISCO President at that time were not accepted either.

For the ISCO 13 conference in Brisbane, Australia, in 2004 I had the privilege to work with the organizers about this issue, so the conclusions document was produced, but it was only distributed to WASWC members through the newsletter, and not included on the ISCO website. This shows the ISCO Board has no interest in the outcome at all after the event had passed.

With regards to the Marrakech conference (May 15-19, 2006), my insistence on the importance of a conclusions document was raised at the ISCO Board meeting on May 17, 2006, then someone on the Board was asked to write it. As it was an impromptu assignment, the document turned out to be just the impressions of one person—no details and no concrete recommendations. As a rule, such documents should be prepared by a group of people, with good planning beforehand and subject to good editing before release.

I can say that there is a lack of interest in making the ISCO conference attain a reasonably good quality; to have such a conference organized every 2-3 years – but ignoring the principles of having the meeting convened decently and with a valued outcome – IS NOT ENOUGH. Along with sufficient evidence of ‘improper governance’ of the ISCO Board during the past 6 years, I would like to make an open letter to the present ISCO President (Prof. Ádám Kertész) and all Board members as well as the public at large to suggest the necessary changes, and I very sincerely hope that actions will be taken immediately and seriously within the period of ISCO 15.

1. INSTITUTIONALIZATION: The ISCO movement at present has been well accepted worldwide, and **the originator should be pleased of this success and should release the ISCO from being personal to being public.** Therefore the idea of having ISCO as a ‘floating’ organization shifting from one country to another during successive events, without any secretariat office to handle matters, should be scrapped. At present one cannot find certain documents that were made some 2–3 events before. Arguments occur frequently at the Board meeting because deliberation is usually done on the basis of ‘memory’ of each member and no one was assigned to write the minutes – thus reflecting ISCO as a good-timers’ club rather than a professional organization! I suggest that a secretariat, or any office anywhere in any name that can do the same work whatever it is called, should be set up as soon as possible to assure the availability of all important documents.

2. GUIDELINES UPDATING: The ISCO Guidelines should be updated to give guidance to good actions and results and everyone involved should adhere to them strictly. As an example, if certain Board members have come to the conference but did not attend the Board meeting, either because of unjustified reasons or having no reason at all, they should not be regarded as having attended. Up to now, such issues have been taken very lightly as if there are no such guidelines at all. Also, the regulation that if a member of the Board could not make to the meeting event three times consecutively one may lose the status – this should be scrapped! In the light of the fact that the chance for attending a meeting has become more and more difficult because of the economic reason, and the availability of the internet which is simpler and cheaper for all to interact, such regulation seems too far outdated.

3. REORGANIZATION: At each Board meeting, members should pay utmost attention to all proposals, as they are brought up to improve the performance of the ISCO—not to deteriorate it, since all Board members comprise those who have long experience in organizing such conference. At this stage it is necessary to reorganize the structure of ISCO to make it able to handle the conferences smoothly. The upcoming organizers are normally urged to hold the event as soon as 2 years after the last one, though this is barely enough time for potential participants to produce papers of a decent standard to present, and, more importantly, the organizers themselves might not have enough chance to contact donors for funding, and it will result in either participants having to pay high registration fees, or there will be less opportunity for the organizers to sponsor people from developing countries who cannot afford to travel and participate. This is exactly the case for the upcoming Budapest conference that I did not hear the organizers could sponsor anyone from developing countries at all, except to waive the registration fee of few participants, which was offered by a company.

In connection with this, the reorganization of the ISCO should provide enough opportunity for the incumbent ISCO President to know and understand the general works of the organization during the period between conferences. At every Board meeting since many events ago, the actual ISCO President could not handle the deliberation as such, and it became someone else who moderated the discussions, which resulted in things that did not help improve the organization. And it was the same person every time since the beginning.

In this connection I should mention that “ONE PERSON IS NOT A BOARD”. Though the person who originated it “has taken, with the acceptance of the rest of the members of the Board, the task of coordination of the activities of the ISCO Board between and during the Conferences” (according to the words of one senior member) but as the ISCO has evolved steadily through its first 25 years and the conditions have changed so much in this century comparing with those in 1983, one should not claim to hold that coordinatorship after this very long period very firmly. Also at the ISCO 7 in Sydney in 1992, a Board of International Advisors was appointed, which was transformed to be the ISCO Board of Directors at the ISCO 8 in India in 1994. As such, it is not fair that the coordinator during the early period should claim the responsibility for the coordinatorship until this day, which makes him look like the Life President rather than just an ordinary member of the Board (while leaving the real President jobless). Therefore, I would like to stress that all actions in the Board of Directors since 1994 need to be implemented in the same way as an institution or corporation that has a Board. To have the ISCO as a free-flow movement disregarding all decent ways of good governance will only shorten the life of itself.

As such, if only one or few in the Board wanted to do something and claimed it was from the decision of the Board, this cannot be considered correct. A recent argument happened about referring something crucial to be because of the action of the Board while the Board was not informed at all.

4. LIBERALIZATION: The ISCO Board should be liberal in inviting people of wisdom to join and should avoid double standards in handling such matters, e.g. one large association had pledged to join and work with ISCO to proliferate it, especially to have it known to its several thousands of members who are implementing soil and water conservation all over the world, but was rejected successively for three times; while one society that was invited to join sometime ago could not send anyone to attend the conference also for three times but its name is still kept.

5. DEMOCRATIZATION: The ISCO Board should be democratic and use the majority rule as the basic principle. During the last ISCO Board meeting, with eight people attending, seven Board members had a positive opinion towards one proposal, but it could not materialize because the eighth Board member (the coordinator) did not agree with. I have a strong doubt if some kind of veto power has been provided to anyone in this kind of public organization?

6. MODERNIZATION: The ISCO Board should modernize itself by using modern modes of communication, particularly the internet, to do its deliberation in various issues regularly, instead of keeping the agendas and waiting to meet face-to-face at the venue every 2–3 years. The internet has been around for around three decades but ISCO has not yet utilized this fast, cheap and efficient mode of communication. In fact, this item was put into the agenda for deliberation of the ISCO Board last time in Marrakech, and was agreed, but the Meeting Summary appearing recently (after 23 months) still does not mention about its acceptance. One simple reason was, no one was assigned to write the minutes during the deliberation and it was the coordinator who wrote the summary. Would this mishap happen if we had a secretariat?

These are the issues that I would like to propose to the ISCO President and the ISCO Board to consider immediately and take action as soon as we can, so that the ISCO Board Meeting in Budapest will be in a decent and civilized style. I would like to cite someone who gave an example of dinosaurs that could not adapt to the changes on earth 65 million years ago, so they all had perished. I don't want ISCO to disappear. ISCO should exist and perform its duty well, to serve society especially when we have a serious threat from global warming that needs a lot of knowledge and experience in soil and water conservation, plus cooperation among all of us. So please consider these proposed changes and take action immediately. If we can bring about the changes as proposed, I am sure we will not have a problem of continuing the ISCO work when our generation ceases to exist and the next one starts.

Samran Sombatpanit, ISCO Board Member (involved in the ISCO since 1988)

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“You should do the right thing.” – Wesley Autrey, who helped a teenage boy in New York from being run over by a subway train on January 2, 2007

AWARDS/ PRIZES/ FUNDS

▲ Finnish Funds

You may know a group doing some mapping that can benefit from this funding opportunity. The focus is thematically restrictive, but I think mapping process or practice can be used across any development theme to achieve any set objectives.

This is the message that appears at the Siemenpuu Foundation, a Finnish Funding agency.

We welcome applications for project funding from Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America. Preliminary applications may be submitted between **April 1 and May 9, 2008**. The thematic funding areas of this application round are:

- 1) Alternatives to the industrial monoculture plantations in Africa and Latin America
- 2) Environmental issues at the World Social Forum

Please see the website for more details: <http://siemenpuu.org/index.php?lang=1&a=1>

▲ African Fellows Programme: 8th call for Pre-Proposals

The aim of the African Fellows Programme is to support sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa by catalysing innovative solutions needed to achieve food security. Projects should aim to develop lasting partnerships and strategic alliances that will help in developing local scientific capacity relevant to sustainable agricultural production. African scientists will carry out research projects in a partner European research institute, or university, for periods normally of 6 to 8 months.

Closing date: 6 August 2008. Contact: t: +44 (0) 1582 763133 ext. 2475 | 2441, f: +44 (0) 1582 467490, e: rothamsted.international@bbsrc.ac.uk | [More...](#)

▲ IFAD Funds

Français: Le texte en français suit le texte en anglais.

Español: Por favor mire abajo para la versión español.

The [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) is inviting indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, and organizations that work with them, to apply for grants that fund micro projects and partnerships to promote the development of indigenous peoples and their unique cultural identity.

Grants ranging from US\$10,000 to US\$30,000 will be awarded to applicants from IFAD's developing Member States through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility.

You can find more information on application requirements and an application form at <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/grants/index.htm>

You can e-mail or mail your application to IFAD. The closing date for applications is **30 June 2008**. IFAD will not accept applications after that date.

E-mail your application to indigenouspeoples@ifad.org.

Mail your application to:

Antonella Cordone

Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues

Policy Division

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Via del Serafico, 107

00142 Rome

Italy

A board made up primarily of indigenous members will work with IFAD staff to consider the proposals and make recommendations.

Good luck and warm regards, Gaby

Français

Le Fonds international de développement agricole invite les organisations et communautés autochtones, ainsi que les organisations qui collaborent avec elles, à solliciter un don pour financer un microprojet ou un partenariat visant à promouvoir le développement des populations autochtones et leur identité culturelle spécifique.

Des dons compris entre 10 000 USD et 30 000 USD seront attribués, par l'intermédiaire du Mécanisme d'assistance pour les peuples autochtones, à des ressortissants d'un des pays en développement membres du FIDA qui en auront fait la demande.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations sur les critères de sélection, ainsi qu'un formulaire de demande, en cliquant sur le lien: <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/grants/f/index.htm>

Vous pouvez faire parvenir votre candidature au FIDA par courrier électronique ou voie postale. La date limite de candidature est fixée au **30 juin 2008**. Le FIDA rejettera tout dossier reçu après cette date.

Pour faire parvenir votre dossier par voie électronique, envoyez-le à indigenouspeoples@ifad.org.

Pour faire parvenir votre dossier de candidature par voie postale, adressez-le à:

Antonella Cordone
Coordonnatrice des questions autochtones et tribales
Division des politiques
Fonds international de développement agricole
Via del Serafico, 107
00142 Rome
Italie
Bien cordialement, Gaby

Español

El Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola invita a las organizaciones y comunidades de pueblos indígenas, y a las organizaciones que colaboran con ellas, a solicitar donaciones para financiar microproyectos y asociaciones que promuevan el desarrollo de los pueblos indígenas y su excepcional identidad cultural.

Se concederán donaciones, por una cuantía de entre 10 000 y 30 000 dólares de los Estados Unidos, a solicitantes de países en desarrollo Miembros del FIDA con cargo al Fondo de Apoyo a los Pueblos Indígenas.

Puede obtenerse más información sobre los requisitos exigidos para la presentación de solicitudes, así como un formulario de solicitud, en <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/grants/s/index.htm>

Puede enviar su solicitud al FIDA por correo electrónico o correo postal. El plazo para la presentación de solicitudes termina el **30 de junio de 2008**. El FIDA no aceptará las solicitudes que lleguen después de esa fecha.

Correo electrónico: indigenouspeoples@ifad.org.

Dirección postal:
Antonella Cordone

Coordinadora de Cuestiones Indígenas y Tribales
División de Políticas
Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola
Via del Serafico, 107
00142 Roma
Italia

Una junta integrada principalmente por miembros indígenas examinará, en colaboración con el personal del FIDA, las propuestas presentadas y formulará recomendaciones.
Saludos cordiales, Gaby

▲ 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

▲ **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 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)** 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. Refer to him where you have seen this news. **There is NO deadline.**

▲ **Echoing Green** (a funding resource), 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&opId=40156>

▲ **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 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

▲ **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.

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**

▲▲▲ OTHER GRANTS-AWARDS

[PennVEST Infrastructure Loans/Grants](#)

[PA American Water Environmental Grant Program](#)

[YSI Foundation Minding the Planet 60th Anniversary Grant](#)

[PA Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants](#)

[Conservation Security Program Sign-up](#)

[Wetland Program Development Grants](#)

[PADEP Growing Greener Grants](#)

[EPA Offers Smart Growth Technical Assistance](#)

[PA Invasive Species Volunteer Monitoring Training](#)

[Southcentral PA Riparian and Ag BMP Initiative](#)

[Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Poetry, Essay and Photography Contest](#)

[PA Recycling Development and Implemental Grants](#)

FELLOWSHIPS

▲ Scholarships for Young Researchers

The ISTRO Board unanimously agreed to once again help young researchers attend the 18th Triennial **ISTRO conference** by sponsoring four (4) scholarships. Note that young scientists are defined as being under the age of 40, and having demonstrated superior research accomplishments. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young scientists from all countries. The other three scholarships are open to researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." Eligible "low-income" countries can be found at:

http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income

The scholarships will cover the costs of airfare (lowest cost possible) and the package deal of the ISTRO2009 conference (www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr). This package deal of € 650 includes registration, lodging (shared double room), all meals, banquet dinner, field day tour and CD. Scholarship candidates must be current members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by current members of ISTRO.

Nominations including supporting material documenting their research activities (e.g., two recent journal or conference publications), a curriculum vitae listing education and all publications, presentations and teaching activities, and the Abstract for a paper to be presented at the 2009 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary- General (Doug Karlen, doug.karlen@ars.usda.gov) by **December 31, 2008**. The selection committee will consist of the three new Board Members (Totka Mitova-Trifonova, John Fielke, and Mekhlis Suleimenov). After the selection, all applicants will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organizers to help make the final arrangements.

Becky J. Roland

Secretary (OA)

Soil and Water Quality Unit, National Soil Tilth Laboratory, 515-294-5014

Becky.Roland@ars.usda.gov

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

Professor Paul Martin, Director

paul.martin@une.edu.au

Direct phone: 0416015161
or
Dr Ian Hannam
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 or contact Jay Salinas at jay@growingpower.org

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 AND Maggie Miller at pacific@uga.edu

May-November 2008

▲ PARTICIPATORY PLANNING MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Uganda: 5-16 MAY 2008

South Sudan: 9-14 JUNE 2008

Kenya: 17-28 NOVEMBER 2008

▲ FACILITATING COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Ethiopia: 9-20 JUNE 2008

South Sudan: 18-29 AUGUST 2008

Uganda: 20-31 OCTOBER 2008

To enroll ... Please contact us for the course brochures which provide further details. To register, simply fill in the application form and email it back to us.

In Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya: The two-week course is \$1,500 for international delegates and \$1,300 for residents of the host country.

This amount covers tuition fees, training handouts, field/agency visits, full board accommodation, and airport transfers. Participants are expected to cater for travel, medical and insurance covers as well as out of pocket allowances.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nicola Kiara
Training Assistant

Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction

International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Africa Regional Centre
P.O. Box 66873-00800, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-20-4442610, 4440991; Fax: 254-20-4448148; training@iirr-africa.org
Physical address: Westlands, Brookside Grove off Waiyaki Way, Brookside Close

June 1-5, 2008

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

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

28 July-28 September 2008

▲ Master Program: Biodiversity, Conservation and Environmental Policies, Nicaragua, Cost: USD \$ 6,700.00. **Contact:** Ms Ana María Hernández, e: anamaria.hernandez@uam.edu.ni | Dr. Antonio Mijail Pérez, e: mijail64@gmail.com | [More....](#)

JOBS

Ecoagriculture Partners is Hiring!

Ecoagriculture Partners is hiring for two positions: a Communications and Outreach Manager and a Director of Finance. Please see links to full terms of reference below. If you are interested in applying, please send your application materials to Ariela Summit (asummit@ecoagriculture.org) by **May 11, 2008**.

1. **Communications and Outreach Manager**

<http://www.ecoagriculture.org/employment.php?id=85>

2. **Director of Finance**

<http://www.ecoagriculture.org/employment.php?id=86>

Please pass this along to anyone you think might be interested!

PHOTO COMPETITION

Oikocredit has organised a photo competition entitled "How fair is your world?". Are you interested in participating? Take a photograph of yourself or someone else to show us what fair financing and being a fair trade consumer means to you or them.

The winner will visit one of Oikocredit's project partners in Asia, Africa or Latin America and will be able to see with his or her own eyes how Oikocredit's fair financing can support people to empower themselves.

Instructions:

- The competition is open to amateur photographers only.

- Entries must be received by **31 October 2008**.
- Pictures must be submitted to photocompetition@oikocredit.org accompanied by:
- name of the photographer, address and contact phone number.
- a short description of what or who is depicted in the photograph (name, age, country, job) + you or their words on fair financing
- Ensure that the photograph is high-quality, so it can be used in publications or in other ways at a later date.
- Upon sending the photograph, you should receive a confirmation mail with as sender photocompetition@oikocredit.org. If you do not receive this mail, it may have been rejected by your provider. Resend the message in a lower resolution.
- By entering the competition, the entrant verifies that he/she has read and agrees to the [Rules of Entry](#).

NEW INFORMATION SOURCES

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

BOOKS

www.nationalgeographic.com, ngs@newsletters.nationalgeographic.com



NEW IN PAPERBACK

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE RIGHTS OF UNBORN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS:
Law, Environmental Harm and the Right to Health**

By Laura Westra

This book, with a foreword by Roger Brownsword, is the first systematic examination of how the rights of the unborn and future generations are handled in common law and under international legal instruments.

[READ MORE / ORDER ONLINE>>](#)

STATE OF THE WORLD 2008: Ideas and Opportunities for Sustainable Global Economies

By The Worldwatch Institute * £12.99

Featuring chapters on renewable energy, innovations in clean production, commons resources, trade policy, finance for sustainability, new economic yardsticks, and many other topics, State of the World 2008 is the first global-level publication to showcase a wide range of diverse innovations and to demonstrate their near-term potential to put whole societies on a sustainable path.

[READ MORE / ORDER ONLINE>>](#)

FORESTRY:



Lessons from Forest Decentralization

Money, Justice and the Quest for Good Governance in Asia-Pacific

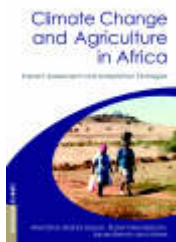
Edited by **Carol J. Pierce Colfer, Ganga Ram Dahal and Doris Capistrano**

A unique examination of decentralization issues in forestry with clear lessons for policy, social equity, forest management, research, development and conservation in forested areas across the globe from the tropics to temperate regions.

RRP £49.95

[More information](#) ►►

CLIMATE CHANGE:



Climate Change and Agriculture in Africa

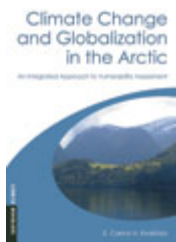
Impact Assessment and Adaptation Strategies

By **Ariel Dinar, Rashid Hassan, Robert Mendelsohn and James Benhin and others**

This landmark book encompasses a comprehensive quantitative analysis and assessment of the extent of potential economic impacts of future climate change, and value of adaptation measures in Africa for different zones, regions, countries and farm types.

RRP £49.95

[More information](#) ►►



Climate Change and Globalization in the Arctic

An Integrated Approach to Vulnerability Assessment

By **E. Carina H. Keskitalo**

Major trends such as globalization and the changing characteristics of the political and economic governance systems are crucial in impacting and shaping a community's capacity to adapt to climate change but are seldom included in climate change vulnerability assessments. This book addresses this shortcoming in that it first develops a methodology and framework for qualitative vulnerability assessment in "multiple impact" studies (of climate change and globalization), and then applies the framework to several cases of renewable natural resource use across scales.

RRP £70.00

[More information](#) ▶▶

COMING SOON... PRESS COPIES AVAILABLE:

The Climate Diet

How You Can Cut Carbon, Cut Costs and Save the Planet

By **Jonathan Harrington**

The must-have 6-step climate diet plan explaining climate change concepts, problems and, most importantly - SOLUTIONS!

[More information](#) ▶▶

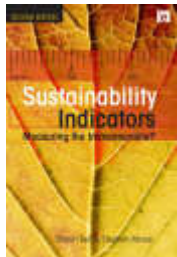
RRP £9.99

Paperback 9781844075331

Publication date: June 13th 2008

Journalists: " for your pre-publication copy, interviews, articles and exclusive extracts contact gudrun.freese@earthscan.co.uk Tel +44(0)20 7841 1930

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:



Sustainability Indicators

Measuring the Immeasurable?

By **Simon Bell and Stephen Morse**

The groundbreaking first edition of Sustainability Indicators reviewed the development and value of sustainability indicators and discussed the advantage of taking a holistic and qualitative approach rather than focusing on strictly quantitative measures. In the new edition the authors bring the literature up to date and show that the basic requirement for a systemic approach is now well grounded in the evidence.

RRP £19.99

[More information](#) ▶▶

JOURNALS:

No-Till Farming Systems book

Special Publication No. 3 of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation - <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>, www.waswc.org, edited by: T. Goddard, M. Zoebisch, Y. Gan, W. Ellis, A. Watson and S. Sombatpanit. Thirty-four contributions from renowned experts and practitioners around the world provide a comprehensive review of the rapid growth of no-till, the barriers that have been overcome and the challenges that still lie ahead. Chapters cover current research and new directions as well as policy needs, adoption and extension. Five other new books on the topic are also reviewed.

ISBN: 978-974-8391-60-1, 544 pages. Depending on the destination, price ranges from US\$15-20 per one set (book + CD described below) including delivery (Asean: \$15; Other Asian countries: \$16; Africa, Australia, Europe, Oceania: \$18; Western Hemisphere: \$20). For details contact Samran Sombatpanit (sombatpanit@yahoo.com, <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>), WASWC Immediate Past President and Coordinator.

CD on NO-TILL and Other Works from CIMMYT, CIRAD, FAO, ICRISAT, USDA, WASWC, etc

This CD was planned as a collection of supplementary reference materials, to serve as a companion to the printed book *No-Till Farming Systems* (2008). This CD is entitled the **25th Anniversary Souvenir Edition** of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC – established 1983) and it is a contribution to the **International Year of Planet Earth**. There are 17 sections, comprising 1,008 files in 106 folders, mostly in PDF, PPT, Word, describing no-till and other related SWC works from many national and international organizations. An application form is also provided for those who wish to join WASWC.

WASWC's publications are available widely and inexpensively. This CD, if purchased separately, costs US\$5/copy, with delivery to any post address worldwide. You are most welcome to reproduce and use all materials in any form, without restriction. To get your copy(ies) please contact Samran Sombatpanit at sombatpanit@yahoo.com.

BULLETIN-NEWSLETTER

▲ We are happy to introduce to you the **Sub1** Rice News (newsletter for the IRRI-Japan Project on Submergence-Tolerant Rice Varieties) for this year. We will be glad to send the newsletter to you in PDF format.

Rowie

Maria Rowena M. Baltazar

Specialist-Research and Extension Program 1

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), College, Los Baños, Laguna

Phone: +63-49 536-2701 to 2705 loc 2287; Mobile: +63-915-254-4951 R.Baltazar@cgiar.org

▲ **Agroforestry for food security in the South for the fight against climate change**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes the opportunity in this way: “**more than a billion hectares are available for conversion to high-productivity agroforestry systems that have the capacity to reduce poverty and deforestation in a significant manner and to sequester carbon on a large scale**”.

Our Newsletter relating to Pro-Natura International activities in the field of Agroforestry and Sustainable Farming will be sent to you as requested.

Guy F. Reinaud

President, Pro-Natura International

15 Avenue de Ségur

75007 PARIS Pro-Natura@wanadoo.fr
Tel. +33 680 61 09 36 mobile
www.pronatura.org

WEBSITES

▲ I know that this is a little late. The proceedings might be of interest to people though.

http://en.ljbc.net/online/var_details.php?id=515

The 1st International Conference on Role of Geographical Information Systems in Africa started Saturday morning in Al-Jafara Shabia. The conference is being organized by the Libyan Center for Remote Sensing and Space Science in collaboration with the Post Graduate Academy. The conference brings together a number of experts, researchers and scientists in the area geographical information systems from the Great Jamahiriya, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, U.S., Britain, Germany, Italy, Malta, Poland, France and India. More than 45 scientific research papers on the role of geographical information systems in promoting sustainable development in Africa will be delivered during the conference.

Jon Corbett, PhD., Assistant Professor
Community, Culture and Global Studies, University of British Columbia Okanagan,
3333 University Way, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1Y 6A2 jon.corbett@gmail.com

▲ Oregon Power Plant Offset Program www.climatetrust.org

In 1997 Oregon became the first state in the nation to adopt legislation regulating greenhouse gases. The law requires new Oregon power plants (and other large energy facilities) to offset a significant portion of their carbon dioxide emissions. While emitters may choose to offset the emissions through their own investments, all of the regulated power plants to date have utilized the Climate Trust to achieve compliance.

The Climate Trust invests the offset funds it receives from the Oregon Standard regulated power plants into high-quality projects that reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. To date, over 1.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide have been offset through The Climate Trust's Oregon Power Plant Offset Program.

▲ Dear Samran,

You might be wondering what I am doing in IRRI. But please take a look at the newsletter about the project I am responsible which is accessible at www.irri.org/science/Sub1_RiceNews_Vol1No1.pdf. Kindly circulate this to your colleagues.

You may wish to access the IRRI bulletin news also at <http://bulletin.irri.cgiar.org>.

Romy Labios, Coordinator, IRRI-Japan Sub1 Rice Project

▲ WOCAT in Google Earth

All case studies from the WOCAT database can now be viewed in [Google Earth](#). A WOCAT logo is displayed for countries with case studies described; smaller "clickable" WOCAT icons indicating the location of individual case studies will appear when zooming in closer. World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) is a project coordinated by the University of Bern, ISRIC and FAO in collaboration with many institutions worldwide. WOCAT aims to promote

sustainable land management into land use systems world-wide by offering a tool for standardized documentation and evaluation of SLM technologies and approaches. WOCAT has so far collected comprehensive information on over 180 technologies and 110 approaches from ± 40 countries. For more information contact: wocat@giub.unibe.ch or Godert.vanlynden@wur.nl

▲ **Announcement: A Practical Report Writing Toolkit for Development Professionals**

"At last there is a clear, simple toolkit on report writing skills for people working in international development." Dr. Christine Hogan author of 'Facilitating Multicultural Groups'

Sorry for this brief interruption to your day! We'd just like to announce a new resource for development professionals that just might help you and your team turn out more effective progress and evaluation reports and save you time, stress and funds. The Reporting Skills and Professional Writing Handbook (2nd Edition) is a self-study programme based on the best of 10 years' experience working with INGOs, NGOs, GOs and IOs over hundreds of training courses. It's available on CDROM for convenient desktop study, and, for larger organisations, the Trainer Edition is supported by a complete Training Pack.

"I read every single word in the module. I was so fired up that I wanted to share it with everyone in the office." Susan, Development Worker, Uganda

There's a free download of the first module (Professional Writing and the Writing Process) at <http://www.reportingkills.org> (requires sign-up, but stick around and there's more to follow) or you can get all the info in one document at <http://www.reportingkills.org/synopsis.pdf>. (ELD is a registered United Kingdom charity, so don't worry about either your privacy or getting a virus.)

The Handbook is already in use by a wide range of development organisations such as country offices and projects of CARE, CGIAR, GTZ, UNEP and the World Food Programme. We're sure you'll find it worth your time to take a look.

Andrea (andrea.a.stoeckle@gmail.com)

▲ **From the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka:**

Recently, we developed a web site for our Society - www.ssssl.org.

These days, we are working hard to make urgently essential amendments to Sri Lanka Soil Conservation Act (1951). It is nearing completion. I am hoping to send you a brief note on recent amendments made to the above Act for publishing in WASWC news letter with the view of sharing information with other WASWC member countries.

K M A Kendaragama, National Representative of WASWC for Sri Lanka (kendarag@sltnet.lk)

▲ Please click to get to the latest newsletter of [Ecoagriculture Partners](#).

A CALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION (sometime for help)

▲ **About No-Tillage and GIS**

Dear Samran Sombatpanit,

I am in receipt of the book on No Tillage farming. Thanks a lot for the same. It shall be an valuable resource for me. Wanted to explore a possibility, as written earlier we are aiming to have integrated GIS portal which aims to provide integration of spatial and non spatial data on varied topics in a systematic format. We are identifying some

pilot institutions to help us develop the portal, would you like to help us with the spatial and non spatial data on no tillage farming on the same? We would capture all efforts on no tillage farming across the globe with local data, maps, best practices etc. and make it available for preview in an integrated form.

Dr. Megha Phansalkar, Pakistan drmegha@hotmail.com

▲ Inquiry about SOILS MUSEUM (080421)

Dear Samran,

I just want a little inquiry what's inside the "SOILS MUSEUM". What things I should put in there if I want to establish a 'soils museum'. I want to build a simple 'soils museum' in my place. There are many tourists both foreigners and locals coming to our place, Loboc on Bohol Island, every day. In this way I could help conserve our very fragile planet. I don't have any idea what it looks like. Should I put in a soil monolith, rocks and others? I don't know either. Please help me....

Conching (👤 "Concepcion Payapaya" cbpayapaya@yahoo.com), The Philippines

▲ Inquiry about soil erosion/conservation experts in SE Asia (080416)

Dear Sombatpanit,

As per our previous conversation by email for searching consultant/organization for our proposed consultancy project on soil erosion and conservation techniques, please can you send suitable experts /agency details with past experience in Southeast Asian countries immediately for further contacts since the tender for the consultancy work is published in a local government newspaper. It may be treated as urgent.

DR H M THIPPESWAMY (👤 "THIPPESWAMY HOLIGE MALLIKARJUNAIAH" thippes_9@yahoo.com), Brunei
Ed: WASWC members and non-members who would like to do consultancy jobs, please write to me, with your CV attached, so we will record in the list and get some assignments for you when available.

▲ A short survey of UNESCO & UNF

Dear Equator Net members,

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Fauna & Flora International, and the United Nations Foundation are conducting a brief survey on 'Perceptions of Conservation Emergency'. The information collected through this survey will feed into the future direction of the [Rapid Response Facility \(RRF\)](#), a small grants programme that aims to provide rapid funding to tackle emergency threats to biodiversity.

Input from the wider conservation community will be invaluable in shaping the RRF's future. Given your experience in conservation you are invited to provide your input.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and is available in:

- 1) English: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=GX_2bi98_2f37ORaLX6_2bV75F8A_3d_3d
- 2) Espanol: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Rpq1ksxH2RqcW3P4IDxyHQ_3d_3d
- 3) Francais: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6MK42Em3BZirUr_2bK3g_2bhcQ_3d_3d

You are also encouraged to forward this survey to others within the conservation community who may wish to contribute. Gaby

▲ Dear Samran Sombatpanit

We are doing a research project titled "Investigation of impact of using managed water harvesting system in increasing crop yield" In semi-arid area in Zanjan, the northwest of IRAN with 350 mm rain fall. If WASWC members have information or experiment about this subject, please help us.

F.B. Movahhed (bayat_nrrcz@yahoo.com)

▲ 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 12th and 13th. 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)

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).

▲ **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, 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
GOSIP website: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/InnovationPolicy/>
Please feel free to share this message with others.

CALESTOUS JUMA, Professor of the Practice of International Development
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
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<http://ksgexecprogram.harvard.edu/program/sti/overview.aspx>
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/InnovationPolicy/>
<http://bcsia.ksq.harvard.edu/global/>

▲ 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). 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 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) - 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 - 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)

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 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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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 publicize your stuffs sent to us in **Word** better 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.gd.cn/hotnews.html>.

- Historical and Temporary Perspectives on Rural Water Governance, July 6-11
- 3rd Global workshop, September 30-October 3, 2008
- Rainforests and Agroforestry, October 5-9, 2008

May 2008

Kurdistan conference on biological sciences

Location: University of Dohuk, Iraq

May 5-17, 2008

MEETING AT THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINBLE DEVELOPMENT

(<http://gppn.stakeholderforum.org/>)

1. Water and Climate Change – Adaptation, Risk Assessment and Water Resource Management (Week 2)
2. Up to and Beyond 2015: The Challenge for the Water and Sanitation Agenda (Week 2)
3. The Global Public Policy Network on Water Management – presenting global stakeholder inputs to the CSD-16 water and sanitation review.(Week 1)

May 6-8, 2008

1ST 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) IS **31 MARCH 2008** TOGETHER WITH THE PAYMENT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE (us\$500 BY CREDIT CARD) PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE WITH FUTHER CONFERENCE DETAILS.

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; 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>.

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. 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. 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

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

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.

Mailing address: Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences H-1112 Budapest, Budaörsi út 45 Hungary. isco2008@imperialroads.hu
Contact the Organizing Committee: Ádám Kertész – kertesza@helka.iif.hu Tel & Fax: 36-1 309-2686; Alexandra Kovács, szandra@sparc.core.hu, www.isco2008.com OR www.isco.org

May 24, 2008

Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction Day at CBD CoP9

The IIED-facilitated Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG)[1] together with the CBD Secretariat and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) will host a one day meeting on **Saturday May 24th, 2008** during the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to review experience to date in linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction - in policy and in practice.

The event is intended to help build links between conservation and development communities, to share different perspectives, and to explore the implications of lessons learned. The day will be divided into two sessions – the morning focussing on international and national policy initiatives, the afternoon on practical implementation. The day also provides an opportunity to launch a variety of relevant publications or other resources.

The agenda for the day is under development and we are interested to receive proposals from potential presenters and participants. Please send a brief abstract outlining your proposed presentation as soon as possible and by **25th April 2008** at the latest to: pclg@iied.org.

For more information please see www.povertyandconservation.info or contact Dilys Roe (dilys.roe@iied.org)
IIED is a company limited by a guarantee and incorporated in England. Reg. No 2188452. Registered office: 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK. VAT Reg. No. GB 440 4948 50. Charity No. 800066 www.iied.org

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, or see: 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.

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:

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

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

June 3, 2008

Partnership, Innovation, Agriculture International Meeting

This international meeting will be held in Paris, France in June 3, 2008 and organized by the National Research Institute (INRA) and the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), and their public interest group IFRAI, the French Initiative for International Agricultural Research. The goal is to identify research priorities in agriculture by creating a space for a constructive dialogue between the different players in the agricultural arena. INRA and CIRAD hope that this meeting will initiate future collaborations and provide an opportunity for French agricultural research organizations and their partners to highlight their expertise and establish new partnerships. The programme will consist of oral presentations (keynote papers and case studies) and round-table discussions. This will be followed by floor discussions and debates focusing on: Ecology of Innovation and New Challenges Facing Integration. The deadline for preregistration is 30 April, 2008.

See details at:

http://www.international.inra.fr/all_the_news/events_and_symposia/april_june_2008/partnerships_innovation_agriculture

June 7-8, 2008

Bangladesh International Conference on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering

The First International Conference of the Bangladesh Association for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (BABGE) will be held June 7-8, 2008 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka. Guest scientists from such countries as Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Philippines, USA, Australia, Japan, and Italy are expected to attend. Deadline for abstract submission and registration is 31 May 2008. Visit <http://www.bdbic.org> for details on BABGE and for online registration information.

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 land use and land degradation are especially prevalent and dynamic.

Please submit abstracts or questions to Guorun Gislason <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 8-11, 2008

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE 2008

Abstracts: Close April 30th 2008

Title: Te Tatau Pounamu - The Greenstone Door: Traditional knowledge and gateways to balanced relationships

Dates: 8 - 11 June 2008

Venue: The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Theme: The Conference focuses on traditional indigenous concepts, values, ideals, models and strategies for sustaining balanced and healthy relationships within and across families, communities, nations, nation-states, local, regional and global borders, territories and environments. The Conference will provide opportunities to discuss indigenous strategies for sustaining relationships between collectives and over generations, for resolving conflict, for peace-making, reconciliation and restorative justice. There will also be opportunities to share what has been learned from diverse contexts around the world about how indigenous models, values, concepts and processes have been incorporated into state or government initiatives and with what impact for indigenous peoples. The international conference with associated community workshops and satellite meetings enables us to bring together in dialogue a wide range of participants, perspectives, voices, frameworks and models for understanding indigenous frameworks.

The Conference email address is: indigenous-conference@auckland.ac.nz and website address is: www.indigenous-peace-conference-2008.ac.nz

June 9-10, 2008

2008 Global Katoomba Meeting

Developing an Infrastructure Fund for the Planet

The Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, Washington, DC

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

For speakers and program visit: www.katoombagroup.org/chesapeake

ORGANIZED BY

Forest Trends and the Katoomba Group

Phone: (202) 298-3000

chesapeake@katoombagroup.org

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The Smithsonian

World Resources Institute

MEETING TOPICS:

- Report on the current state of U.S. and global ecosystem markets
- What is next for the already \$30 Billion carbon markets
- How water quality trading markets are helping address the world's growing water crisis
- The emergence of biodiversity markets and how they can be optimized for superior results
- How to bridge the gap between current challenges and future economic and environmental solutions
- Create an infrastructure fund for the planet that will invest in our vital natural services

Contact: "Michael Jenkins" mjenkins@forest-trends.org

June 9-13, 2008

International Conference: **Mining and Sustainable Development in Africa**, Conakry, Guinea.
siffee@siffee.org t: 1 (514) 288-2663, f: 1 (514) 288-7701. [More...](#)

June 10-14, 2008

14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM)

The 14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) will take place on **10th -14th June 2008**, at the University of Vermont, **Burlington, USA**. The theme of the 2008 ISSRM Symposium is "People and Place: Linking Culture and Nature". ISSRM offers many types of opportunities to participate, including traditional paper (oral) presentations, poster presentations, and a variety of sessions that can be organized by participants. Abstracts for all of these forms of participation are due by February 8, 2008.

<http://www.ISSRM2008.org>

June 16-19, 2008

I would like to invite you to Warsaw in POLAND for the **International Symposium and the Workshop** organized in the frame of CASCADOSS Project which main subject is evaluation of FOSS4G (Free and Open Source for Geomatics) solutions in environmental applications.

Evaluating Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformation for Environmental Applications
International Symposium **June 16th 2008** and International Information Workshop **June 17th-19th 2008** Warsaw, POLAND*

A 1-day International Symposium and a 3-day International Information Workshop will be held in Warsaw. The Symposium will take place on 16 June, immediately followed by the Workshop from 17 to 19 June 2008.

The main purpose of the International Symposium is to present results accomplished so far by the CASCADOSS Project such as outcomes of an evaluation of available GIS&RS OSS solutions, and to demonstrate the most promising and useful applications.

The following subject will be also discussed:

- How can open-source software foster use of GI technologies (particularly with respect to the GMES Programme) in the public sector?

- How do existing GI standards contribute to the development of open-source applications?

What are the current trends in this area?

- How can GIS&RS services benefit from open source solutions and stimulate development of business-related GIS&RS applications?

The rationale and leading element of the International Information Workshop will be to discuss “ with a group of experts“ the issues and topics raised at the preceding International Symposium.

The discussions will be followed by training sessions in working groups, devoted to a further analysis of topics defined during the expert debates.

At the Workshop, working group sessions in computer labs will also take place, with the purpose to discuss the outcomes of the evaluation of available GIS&RS OSS solutions collected on the LIVE CD, and familiarizing with environmental applications that are based on, and/or utilize, GIS&RS OSS.

Both events are being offered to the international GIS community “in particular:

- members of organizations dealing with geo-information (GI);
- scientists;
- small- and medium entrepreneurs;
- representatives of regional self-government authorities;
- staff of institutions involved in implementation of the GMES Programme, including representatives of national GMES offices;
- staff of National Mapping Authorities (NMAs);
- members of the Open Source community

Participation in both events is free of charge. Both events will be held in English.

VENUE: The Conference and Congressional Center in the Public School of Business Administration (PWSBIA), 9 Bobrowiecka Street, 00-728 Warsaw, POLAND

REGISTRATION: To register for both events, please fill the electronic form at the CASCADOSS Project website.

Deadline for registration is 10 May 2008.

MORE DETAILS can be found on the CASCADOSS website: www.cascadoss.eu in the EVENTS section.

Monika Ruzztecka

Programme Manager

UNEP/GRID-Warsaw

Str. Sobieszynska 8, 00-764 Warsaw,

tel.: +48 22 840 6664 ext. 115

<http://www.gridw.pl>; <http://www.cascadoss.eu>

June 16-20, 2008

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AOGS 5th Annual General Meeting

Busan Exhibition & Convention Center (BEXCO)
from 16 to 20 June 2008 in Busan , Korea

Meeting Registration Opens

[Register to Attend & Pay by 22 April](#)

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June 17, 2008

Mapping For Sustainable Communities - 17th June 2008 - University College London

An interactive day of reports and discussion for community practitioners, academics and community groups

There is a growing interest in the use of collaborative and participatory mapping to draw together local information and to develop action plans that can address local environmental and social issues.

The seminar will consider recent work and ways forward. It is being organised by University College London and the London 21 network as part of their 'Mapping Change for Sustainable Communities' project funded under the UrbanBuzz programme and their Environmental Justice programme. These projects use internet-based and paper mapping along with other tools to work with communities on collecting and collating local information.

The seminar will bring together academics, practitioners and community groups to discuss the use of mapping as a means of engagement and tool for collaborative action, and to consider the benefits and limitations. The seminar includes sessions for academics and practitioners and a celebration of community work.

Outline Agenda

10.30 am - Theory and research

- * The use of different methodologies in participatory mapping
- * Mapping, impacts and inequalities
- * Panel discussion: the balance between participation and the use of technology

2pm - Practice

- * The use of mapping with local communities
- * Mapping, empowerment and Community Development
- * Local Government, Regeneration and the use of community mapping
- * Practical workshop: starting a participatory mapping project

4.30pm Community Showcase

- * A brief introduction to the development of the two projects, followed by presentations about the five case studies.

6pm Reception

The conference is **free** but numbers are limited. Register on-line at http://www.communitymaps.london21.org/includes/mcsc_conference.php

Dr. Muki Haklay: Senior Lecturer in GIS
Department of Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering
University College London (UCL)

Gower St. London WC1E 6BT
T: +44 20 7679 2745
E: m.haklay@ucl.ac.uk
W: <http://www.ge.ucl.ac.uk/~mhaklay/>

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 or by e-mail at 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 18-20, 2008

16th Organic World Congress in the theme, The Principles of Fairness and Health, Modena, Italy.

Organized by IFOAM, Tel: +49-228-92650-10, Fax: +49-228-92650-99, headoffice@ifoam.org, <http://www.ifoam.org>

June 23-25, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

“INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL TURBULENCE”

Baeza, Spain Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

June 24-25, 2008

International Conference on "Management of resources in Muslim countries and communitieschallenges 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.

June 30-July 2, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

“HABITAT FRAGMENTATION AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: THE ROLE OF ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY AND BIOLOGICAL CORRIDORS” **Baeza,**

Spain Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

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, 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

July 2-3, 2008

The 'Flood Repair Network' is pleased to draw your attention to the 'First International Conference on Flood Recovery, Innovation and Response' (FRIAR)

Venue: Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) Headquarters, Great George Street, London, UK Dates: 2 and 3 July 2008 (please note the revised dates).

This two day Conference will provide a unique opportunity for Practitioners and Researchers to meet in order to exchange experience and ideas.

Scientific and technical sessions will provide an opportunity for the international flood repair community to share experiences and best practice. Themes will include flood repair, research, recovery, response, insurance and innovation in this field. A schedule of social events will also be offered.

The first call for Abstracts is currently being put into circulation, along with details of various advertising and promotional packages.

There is already significant interest in this event, so please register on our website. To obtain further details about this exciting project and to reserve your place, please visit our web site:

www.floodrepair.net

July 2-4, 2008

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

The ICRD was first announced on 15 January 2008. We are pleased to inform you that the second announcement is now available at <http://icrd.unibe.ch>.

There was a great response to our call for contributions, so that we were able to compile a most ambitious and challenging programme:

Keynote speakers on each day, addressing five principal research themes, and researchers from the international North-South community, presenting their experiences and the results of their work in three parallel sessions devoted to each conference theme. An extended poster session will allow optimal interaction with the contributors present.

All participants, whether confirmed as contributors or interested persons, are invited to register formally by 15 May 2008. You will find the details and the registration form on our website. We apologize for any cross-mailing.

Hans Hurni, Director NCCR North-South

International Conference on Research for Development (ICRD 2008)

National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 10

CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland

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

July 14-18, 2008

2nd international conference on ground bio-and eco-engineering: the use of vegetation to improve Slope Stability, Beijing, China

This Conference is the second in the series ‘The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability.’ The first Congress was held at Thessaloniki, Greece, from 13 – 17 September 2004. In an era where more natural hazards are occurring; soil erosion, landslides and other catastrophic events cause loss of lives and infrastructure and major environmental damage. The aim of these meetings, therefore, is to bring together scientific researchers, practitioners, geotechnical and civil engineers, biologists, ecologists and foresters to discuss current problems in slope stability research and how to address those problems using ground bio- and eco-engineering techniques.

Ground bioengineering methods integrate civil engineering techniques with natural materials to obtain fast, effective and economic methods of protecting, restoring and maintaining the environment. Eco-engineering has been defined as a long-term ecological strategy to manage a site with regards to natural or man-made hazards. Conference sessions will focus on an area where such engineering techniques are used increasingly frequently (i.e. natural and man-made slopes). Papers will be presented on slope instability, erosion, soil hydrology, mountain ecology, land use and restoration and how to mitigate these problems using vegetation. The mechanics of root-soil interaction are of utmost importance, along with the modelling of root reinforcement and the development of decision-support systems, areas where significant advances have been made in recent years. Proceedings will be published in a special edition of an international journal. We hope that you will be able to join us at this meeting, to be held in exciting Beijing, the 2008 Olympic City!

Organizing Committee:

T. Fourcaud, CIRAD, Montpellier, France / LIAMA-CASIA, Beijing, China.

L. Jouneau, INRA Jouy / LIAMA-CASIA, Beijing, China.

Henry Lu, WASWC, Beijing, China.

Y. Lu, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China.

T. Luo, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research CAS, Beijing, China.

J. Norris, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK.

I. Spanos, Nagref, Thessaloniki, Greece.

*A. Stokes, Inra, Montpellier, France / Liama-Casia, Beijing, China.

X. Zhang, Liama-Casia Beijing, China.

***Conference Chair and for further information, please contact:**

Alexia Stokes, LIAMA-CASIA, PO Box 2728, Zhonguancun Dong Lu 95, Hadian, Beijing 100080 P.R. China. Tel: 00 86 10 82614528; Fax: 00 86 10 62647458, stokes@liama.ia.ac.cn, <http://liama.ia.ac.cn>, <http://icgbe2.cirad.fr/>

Sponsors and Partners



July 14-18, 2008

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

For more information see: www.iascp.org/iasc08/2008themes.html.

July 22-24, 2008

FAO Technical Workshop for the Alleviation of Poverty in the Tropics

A Technical Workshop towards the Alleviation of Poverty in the Tropics, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome will be held on **22-24 July 2008**. About 80 public, private and civil society stakeholders across the four primary interest groups in policy, science and technology, field practice and financing and donor support, and those who have influence, commitment and capacity to make a difference will be invited. The forum will be held to: 1) describe the principles of conservation agriculture (CA) and to widen attention of potentially-supportive decision makers in policy-making, science & technology, practice, and financing; 2) discuss, suggest and agree on the chief forms of interlinking decisions and action which would provide positive encouragement of, and support to, farmers to make and sustain their transition to beneficial CA systems as most appropriate to their different agro-ecological and socio-economic situations; 3) pave the way for comparable fora to develop and function at continental, national and local levels; and 4) favor the development of an inter-connected community of practice around the subjects pertaining to and the benefits deriving from conservation agriculture.

For details of the training workshop, contact Theodor Friedrich (Theodor.Friedrich@fao.org), FAO, Rome; Amir Kassam (kassamamir@aol.com), TAA, UK; and Francis Shaxson (fshaxson@gotadsl.co.uk), TAA, UK.

July 26-30, 2008

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

JW Marriott Starr Pass Saturday, July 26, 2008 8:00 AM -
3800 W. Starr Pass Boulevard Wednesday, July 30, 2008 4:00 PM
Tucson, AZ 85745 Mountain Time Zone
USA

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).

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)

2008 Annual Conference: July 26-30 in Tucson, AZ ; Soil and Water Conservation Society
http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/

July 28-31, 2008

1st 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/.

August 12-14, 2008



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST [click here](#)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS [click here](#)

CONTACT: Sally Brown, sally.brown@uq.net.au

CTF08 Conference Secretariat, PO Box 108, Kenmore, QLD 4069, Australia

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> 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)

August 17-23, 2008

World Water Week. 17-23 August, 2008. "Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World". Stockholm, Sweden. [Website](#)

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
Secretariat: Vienna Medical Academy,
Ms. Mirjam Uebelhoer
(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)

Payment received	until 31 Jan. 2008	until 31 May 2008	after 31 May 2008 and onsite
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
- "ENVASSO"
- 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

September 1-3, 2008

Climate Change and Systematics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. e: climate@tcd.ie | [More...](#)

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; <http://info-nts-12.otago.ac.nz/amoore/>

September 1-4, 2008

11th International River Symposium. 1-4 September, 2008. "A Future of Extremes". Brisbane, Australia.
[Website](#)

September 4-5, 2008

11th International Specialised Conference on Watershed & River Basin Management. 4-5 September 2008.
Budapest, Hungary. [Website](#)

September 16-18, 2008

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

September 17-19, 2008

Growdiesel International Summit, New Delhi, India

Growdiesel Climate Care Council is pleased to invite you to the inaugural International Summit on Algae Biofuels to be held on 17th, 18th & 19th September 2008 at New Delhi, India. The Summit is focused on next generation of Biofuels using Algae as main feedstock.

You may also visit Summit website at www.astaxanthin.in

Ms. Tripti Sharma, Program Coordinator, Growdiesel Consortium, India growdiesel@gmail.com

September 17-23, 2008

5th International Conference on Land Degradation, Bari, Italy

We have updated the web page of the 5th International Conference on Land Degradation (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 is **30 April 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; www.iamb.it; www.iamb.it/5ICLD

September 23-26, 2008

International Scientific Conference Celebrating the 50th Jubilee of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society, Kaunas, Lithuania

On behalf of the Board of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society (LSSS), we hereby cordially invite you to attend the International Scientific Conference Celebrating the 50th Jubilee of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society to be organized at the Lithuanian University of Agriculture (in Kaunas). We are pleased to announce the possibility to publish original research papers in the journal 'Agricultural Sciences', which is the periodical publication (four issues per year) of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The scientific standard of all papers is maintained by the Editorial Board, which comprise scientists of the highest qualification: professors, habilitated doctors and academicians. Currently, the journal 'Agricultural Sciences' is indexed in CABI Publishing: <http://www.cabi.org/>

In this connection, we ask those who might be interested in the above-mentioned publication to give us some simple initial information as soon as possible. This should include name(s) of the author(s) and title of the article (not exceeding 10 words). For the purpose of further planning, it would serve us as a

useful indicator of your wish and willingness to prepare the paper for the journal.

Conference topics: The international conference dedicated to the commemoration of the 50th Jubilee of the LSSS allows us to be flexible, to enable participants to present their research results in thematic group discussions referring to divisions recognized by the IUSS:

Genesis, morphology, classification and cartography of soil

Soil processes and properties

Use and management of soils

Role of soil in the environment

Programme:

Tuesday 23 September 2008: Arrival of participants.

Wednesday 24 September 2008: Ceremonial opening of Conference and plenary session followed by discussions and posters session. Welcome party.

Thursday 25 September 2008-Friday 26 September 2008: Two-day field excursion and completion of official conference.

In case you got interested to participate, please contact the LSSS Secretary **Assoc Prof Dr R. Vaisvalavičius**, Secretary of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society rimantas.vaisvalavicius@lzuu.lt or **Prof Dr Habil. A. Motuzas** algirdas.motuzas@lzuu.lt, da@lzuu.lt, Secretary of the Editorial Board of 'Agricultural Sciences' and President of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society

Conference Secretariat: Department of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Lithuanian University of Agriculture Studentų g. 11, Akademija Kaunas, LT-53361 Lithuania.

Tel: 00 370 752 239; 752 279; 752 212; Fax.: 00 370 752 239 rimantas.vaisvalavicius@lzuu.lt

FYI: Conference Fee: €100; Cost of 2-day Field Excursion: €70 (transport, board, accommodation and excursion guidebook)

September 29-October 1, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

“MID-HOLOCENE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION” Baeza, Spain

Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

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.

Contact Wolfram Lorenz at lorenz@gwdg.de; info@globalchange-2008.org; www.globalchange-2008.org

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 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

Enrique Lahmann, Congress Manager

October 6-7, 2008



INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION
COMMISSION ON LAND USE & LAND COVER CHANGE
COMMISSION ON BIOGEOGRAPHY & BIODIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING SOCIETY

**International Conference on
LAND USE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

ORGANISED AND HOSTED BY Departments of Tourism – Botany – Physics

NESAMONY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY, TIRUNELVELI)
MARTHANDAM, KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU – 629 165, INDIA
Ph: 0091-4651272059 Mobile: 0091-9443370257, 0091-9443170648
nesamonymcc@yahoo.co.in

About the Conference

To address the issue of land use change and climate change in Kanyakumari and its adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, it is imperative to have a common platform where members of all disciplines come together and discuss its impact on earth. To provide a forum we propose to organize an International Conference on “Land Use Change, Biodiversity and Climate Change” from 6th to 7th October 2008 at Marthandam in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. This seminar will focus on global change due to land use change, biodiversity and climate change with special emphasis on South India. It will also study the human response to various ecological changes. It will further concentrate on all aspects of sustainability. Land use change builds bridges among all sciences. It is hoped that the conference will break new ground and foster research among scientists in land use change, biodiversity and climate change.

Sub Topics

- **Land use Change: Physical, Chemical and Biological processes.**
- **Land use Change: Social, Economic and Political Processes.**
- **Land use Change Monitoring: Role of Remote sensing GIS and GPS.**
- **Impact of Land use change on Biodiversity.**
- **Impact of Land use change on Climate change.**
- **Tourism Development and Land use change.**
- **Climate change – Adaptation and Mitigation.**
- **Climate change and Coastal Environment.**
- **Land Resource Management for Sustainable, Biodiversity Development with Reference to Tamil Nadu, India and the world.**

Goals of the Conference:

- Disseminating information on land use change, biodiversity and climate change, methodology, practice and policies.
- Facilitating the exchange of information across disciplines and among individuals, groups and institutions.
- Reaching out to develop collaboration through strengthening the networks and research groups.
 - Highlighting the positive contribution of land use change, biodiversity and climate change, research policy and practice.

Location

Once called the Alexandria of the East, ‘Cape Camorin’, presently Kanyakumari, located on the Southern end of Indian Subcontinent, derived its name from the Virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari. It is a land of harmony where St. Thomas, one of the disciples of Christ, visited and where Swami Vivekananda meditated and enlightenment.

The host town: Marthandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

Steeped in tradition, folklore and history, Marthandam tastes sweet thanks to honey that the bee-hives yield round the year, going round the world in bottled majesty. Ever-flowing and never-drying river, *Thampiraparani*, would have already injected goodness into the good old village called *Nalloor* that stands high among the rocks and the palm-fringed banks of the river. One kilometer away from the river, there stand the tall and lofty Church that harmoniously links the caste-ridden inglorious past with the enterprising, educational ENDEAVOURS of the present. Nesamony Memorial Christian College (NMCC), Marthandam, Kanyakumari District, is a testament of educational FAITH to the ceremoniously neglected, underprivileged sections of society. And already, it has sent from its womb hundreds of brilliant, talented, confident youth to conquer greater heights of social glory.

The Host College: Nesamony Memorial Christian College (NMCC), (Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli) Marthandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

- **Established in 1964.**
- **Courses UG & PG (Aided & Self supporting).**
- **Co-educational**
- **Students’ strength – 2,750.**
- **Well qualified faculty and well equipped laboratories.**
- **A light to the people of remote and rural regions.**
- **Located near National Highways (NH47), between Nagercoil and Tiruvananthapuram.**
- **Nearest International airport - Tiruvananthapuram (45 km).**
- **Nearest Railway station – Kulithurai (1 km).**

Participants

- Academicians
- Research scholars

- Practitioners
- Technicians
- NGOs and
- National and international experts

Papers

- ◆ Papers are invited for presentation in the seminar.
- ◆ The abstract of paper should be typed with double space in Times Roman (12 Font Size), title of the paper, name of author(s), affiliation, text, and references not exceeding one page in MS Word format.
- ◆ The manuscript should be sent to the convener as e-mail attachment latest by **August 20, 2008**.
- ◆ Poster presentations should be indicated in the registration form, the size of the poster should not exceed A0.
- ◆ The programme includes talks and discussions followed by deliberations for recommendations.
- ◆ Poster sessions will be organized during the seminar.

Field Trip (**October 8-9, 2008**)

Registration fee for the field trip is US\$500 for foreign delegates including transportation, meals, accommodation and technical materials. Programme of field trip includes visit to Monumental Heritage sites & Kanyakumari District, Biodiversity, Hot spot, etc.

Seminar Registration Fee

The registration fee will cover the proceeding launches, refreshments, cocktails and seminar kits.

Category	Amount
Individual Foreign Delegate	US\$100
Indian Delegates	Rs. 500
Students Delegates / Research Scholars	Rs. 200

Field Trip Fee: Individual Foreign Delegates US\$500

Contact: Prof. H.G. Deva Kumar Samuel, HoD, Department Physics, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam – 629 165, Tamil Nadu, India. Mobile : 09443417121, (R) 0091-4651-270346 E-mail: hgdksskk@gmail.com or Dr. R.B.Singh, NAGI Secretary General, rbsgeol@yahoo.com

October 9-11, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucia ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

“PLANT BIOMASS FOR FOOD AND ENERGY: FUTURE AND REALITY”

Baeza, Spain Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

October 15-16, 17-19, 2008

2008 International Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Workshops and Conference, Beijing, China ([2008 SWAT Conference English Web site](#))

Dates

October 15-16, 2008 SWAT workshops (beginners or advanced)

October 17-19, 2008 SWAT conference

Theme

Development and Application of SWAT Model

Conference Venue

Yingdong Academic Halls, Beijing Normal University

[2008 SWAT Conference English Web site](#)

- [Background](#)

- [Organizing Committee](#)
- [Scientific Committee](#)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- [Registration & Lodging](#)
- [Application](#)
- [Contacts](#)

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is a public domain model jointly developed by USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the Temple, Texas, USA. SWAT is a river basin scale model to simulate the quality and quantity of surface and ground water and predict the environmental impact of land management practices on different soil patterns and land use patterns. It is developed for assessing the impact of management and climate on water supplies, sediment, and agricultural chemical yields in watersheds and larger river basins.

SWAT is widely used in soil erosion prevention and control, non point pollution control and regional environmental management in watersheds. The major components of SWAT include hydrology, weather, erosion, plant growth, nutrients, pesticides, land management, and stream routing.

SWAT is applied in various fields worldwide. In order to promote the development and application of SWAT in China and international communications, Beijing Normal University (BNU) successfully held the First International SWAT Workshop in China on November 5-7, 2006. Authorized by USDA-ARS, the 5th SWAT International Conference will be organized by School of Environment, Beijing Normal University on October 15-19, 2008.

Contact: Dr. R. Srinivasan, Texas A&M University, USA. r-srinivasan@tamu.edu

Drs. Fanghua HAO or Yun ZHOU, School of Environment, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, P.R. China. Tel.: 8610-58807937(O) fanghua@bnu.edu.cn; zhouyun@craes.org.cn

October 15-18, 2008

IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Thessaloniki, Greece
Organised by UNESCO Chair INWEB in cooperation with UNESCO IHP, IGRAC, SAHRA and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Aims of the symposium: Assess the state of the art and recent progress made in the sustainable management of transboundary waters by different disciplines such as law, socio-economics and water science.

Review current major international programmes concerned with the assessment and management of transboundary water resources.

Promote interdisciplinary approaches for integrated transboundary water resources management.

Read more: http://www.inweb.gr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=241&Itemid=146

October 20-22, 2008

Farming with Grass - a special conference hosted by the Soil & Water Conservation Society

Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center Monday, October 20, 2008 2:00 PM -

737 S Meridian Ave

Wednesday, October 22, 2008 2:00 PM

Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1601

Central Time Zone

USA

More info at www.swcs.org

October 20-23, 2008

The 10th 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 **10th 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

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

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; www.wocat.net

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

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

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

December 9-12, 2008

World Biodiversity Congress, Chiang Mai, Thailand. [More...](#)

December 10-12, 2008

GEO-CHIANGMAI Thailand, focusing on **New Developments** in

- ☐ Soil & Rock Engineering
- ☐ Engineering Geology &
- ☐ Environmental Geotechnique

Secretariat Address: CI-Premier Ptd Ltd, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841. Republic of Singapore (Tel: 065-6733-2922, Fax: 065- 6235-3530, email: cipremie@singnet.com.sg)

Er John S Y Tan
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 Fax: +65 62353530
 E-mail: cipremie@singnet.com.sg
 Website: www.cipremier.com

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](#)
[NEIWPCC Annual Conference](#)
[Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference](#)
 See more in www.fxbrowne.com/html/workshops.htm

MEETINGS 2009++

January-November 2009

Darwin 200 Symposia

The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announce the 'Darwin 200' programme to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth in 2009. Darwin 200 will comprise a series of scientific symposia and satellite meetings on five continents. [More...](#)

January 5-7, 2009

Thailand 2009 - Call for Papers Deadline Approaching

Thailand 2009: An International Perspective on Environmental and Water Resources

Conference Co-Organizers

AIT & EWRI

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>.

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. Contact Dr Attachai Jintrawet at attachai@chiangmai.ac.th and attachaij@gmail.com.

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

See also the 2008 International SWAT conference in October 2008 in Beijing, China: [2008 SWAT Conference English Web site](#)

February 4-7, 2009

4th 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.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html; www.wccagri.ernet.in for information to all those who are interested in agriculture and natural resources.

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February 9-12, 2009

International Congress: Global Warming, Biodiversity of Insects: Management and Conservation, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India. **Contact:** Dr K. Murugan, **t:** 91 422 2422 222 Ext: 483, **f:** 91 422 2422 387, **e:** kmvkvk@yahoo.com | [More...](#)

February 23, 2009

International Conference on Implementing Environmental Water Allocations Port Elizabeth South Africa

March 16-22, 2009

5th World Water Forum. 15-22 March, 2009. Istanbul, Turkey. [Website](#)

June 15-19, 2009

18th Triennial ISTRO Conference

Hopefully you have already received your copy of the first call for submissions to the 18th Triennial ISTRO Conference that will be held **June 15-19, 2009** in Izmir, Turkey. The conference will last five days and include various technical sessions, Working Group meetings, tours and displays. Two different tours will be offered. They are for a Field Day & City Tour on June 17th and Historical Site: Ephesus – House of Virgin Mary on June 18th. Critical times to remember include:

Date	Critical Action
October 15, 2008	Deadline for abstract submission
December 1, 2008	Notification of authors
December 15, 2008	Deadline for early registration
January 31, 2009	Deadline for submission of full papers
March 15, 2009	Notification of Oral and Poster venues

Conference Themes under which oral and poster presentations are to be submitted are:

1. Conservation tillage, direct seeding, & no-till applications
2. Sustainable forest management
3. Rehabilitation of degraded areas
4. Soil compaction: Causes, effects, & control
5. Soil dynamics & traction

6. Soil Management as a tool to reduce erosion, nutrient leaching and greenhouse gas emission
7. Production of bio-fuel
8. Soil biological quality & health

Abstracts of 250 words or less should be submitted by **October 15, 2008**, as a Microsoft Word file on the Congress website (www.istddro2009.ege.edu.tr) or in an email to istro2009@mail.ege.edu.tr.

Please name the file attachment with your last and first name.

The Conference will be held at Surmeli Efes Hotel & Resort in Selcuk, Izmir. This site is located about 60 km from the Adnan Menderes International Airport and is very close to the city centre. For more information about the venue, please view their website at:

<http://www.surmelihotels.com/eng/SurmeliEfes/default.asp>. Registration and lodging as a package that also includes meals, banquet dinner, field day tour, and CD is:

Registration for:	Conference Only		Lodging & Conference	
	Early *	Late	Early *	Late
Members	€350	€450	€650	€750
Non-members	€400	€500	€700	€800
Students	€250	€350	€550	€650
Partners			€500	€600
Children (age 6-12)			€400	€500

*Early registration ends 12/15/2008. Also, hotel room prices are for one bed shared in double bed rooms. For single room, please add €25 per day to the room price.

Registration fees should be paid through the website (www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr) or directly to the following banking account: **AKBANK** (Euro Account) (Office of Ege University, **Office Code: 940**), Account Number: **940-07772**; IBAN Number: **TR40 0004 6009 4003 6000 0077 72**.

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

The **20th WCSS Congress** will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2014.

You may ask 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 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. 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.

Note: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from your side from the amount of money to send.

2. For sending money by bank transfer, please add US\$X per transaction to compensate for the charge(s) at the receiving bank in South Dakota. Ask moldwc@itctel.com how much 'X' means in your case. This additional charge is NOT applicable for the payment of membership fee(s) of US\$50 or more.

3. Sending money by credit card does not require any additional charge(s).

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. 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"**.

Note: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from your side from the amount of money to send.
2. For sending money by bank transfer please add US\$8 per transaction to compensate for the charge(s) at the receiving bank in Bangkok. This additional charge is NOT applicable for the payment of membership fee(s) of US\$50 or more.

Ask sombatpanit@yahoo.com for addresses in other countries that you may pay in local currency.

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 if you have any problem.

1. Individual membership: US\$5/yr for developing countries; US\$10/yr for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. Payment for 4 years will enable the membership to be valid for 5 years.

2. Life membership: US\$80 for developing countries; US\$160 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide

3-1. Organization membership (OM): For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/yr for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/yr for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/yr for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/yr for an additional 100 persons or part thereof. Local organizations in developing countries can request to pay at a lower rate.

3-2. Organization subscription (OS): is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **subscriber**.

3-3. Organization cooperation (OC): is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **cooperator**, without paying a fee. Any organization can be a cooperator for 1-2 years before deciding to join as OM or OS if desired.

4. Gift membership: US\$5/yr worldwide, to be purchased by anyone to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.



PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS