

# NATURAL HERITAGE

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### AGENDA

21st Session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

*25 - 29 May 2009. Jeju, Republic of Korea*

World Not Standing Still on Climate Change Session

*1 - 12 June 2009. Bonn, Germany*

World Oceans Day on “One ocean, one climate, one future»

*8 June 2009. Monaco, Principality of Monaco*

International Training Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development in MAB Biosphere Reserves

*22 - 24 June 2009. Lavrion, Greece*

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## NEWS

### Coral Triangle Initiative (Conservation International)



The Philippines. Indonesia. Papua New Guinea. Malaysia. Timor Leste, The Solomon Islands. Parts of all of these places – each with a stunning array of human, animal, plant, and geophysical diversity of great importance – are part of the Coral Triangle. Conservation International (CI) is working with governments and a host of partners to save them all.

### Konashen Community Owned Conservation Area Expedition (Conservation International)

**About the Expedition:** Learn what, where, why and how it came about.

**In the Field:** Read the reports from the field teams including their methods and interesting findings.

**Maps and Facts:** Learn more about the Konashen region and the sites the field teams surveyed.

**Meet the Team:** Meet the participating organizations and staff members on the Konashen expedition.



### Protecting Our Oceans and Seas (Conservation International)

Article by Robin Moore



© CI/Photo by Robin Moore

Protecting the world's oceans and the underwater life that sustains people everywhere takes many forms. Conservation International (CI) is working on many fronts to protect our oceans, and one partnership in particular aims to conserve most of the world's known coral species. In a vast marine protected area, traditional sea turtle hunters learn of alternatives to the meat and eggs harvested for

food and cultural ceremonies. To stop illegal poaching of sharks for their fins, local villagers become patrollers of coastal waters with the power to make citizens' arrests.

### Science in Action: Putting Out Fires (Conservation International)

Article by Jessie H. Quinn



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Not too long ago, efficiently managing fires in remote locations meant a “firewatch”: a solitary figure on a high tower, miles from the nearest settlement, scanning the landscape from dawn until dusk. A “fire alert” meant either sounding an alarm or making a radio call, allowing community or agency fire brigades to respond to the fire as quickly as possible. The need to detect and quickly respond to fires is no

less pressing today. Fires are occurring on an unprecedented scale across the globe, significantly altering healthy ecosystems, contributing to carbon emissions via deforestation, and impacting human health and economies...

### Maud Fontenoy appointed spokesperson for the oceans

Renowned French navigator Maud Fontenoy has been named UNESCO and World Ocean Network Spokesperson for the Oceans. The nomination was announced just ahead of the first United Nations World Ocean Day, which will be celebrated on June 8 under the theme “one ocean, one climate, one future”. As Spokesperson for UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Ocean Network – a non-governmental organization – Ms Fontenoy will work to raise awareness of the need to protect the ocean environment against major threats such as climate change, pollution and unchecked urban development of the world’s coastal areas.



### UN launches campaign “Seal the Deal! on the world environment Day



Sue Dewar (Canada)

Brussels, 4 June 2009. The World Environment Day on June 5, coincides this year with a crucial moment since the United Nations is ready to launch its “seal the deal!” campaign aimed at the success of the Copenhagen international Conference on climate change in December 2009. “Together we must exert pressure on Governments and seal the deal for a new commitment on climate” declared Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations in his message on World Environment Day. The campaign “Seal the Deal” encourages Governments to seal an equitable, effective, and balanced agreement on climate change towards the COP 15 meeting, the UN conference on climate change, to be held in Copenhagen from December 7 -18 2009. In Brussels the “CoolPlanet 2009” initiative, the European

branch of “Seal the Deal”, sent by the UNRIC and the UNEP, the United Nations Environment Programme, celebrates the World Environment Day with several initiatives.

- UNRIC presents a new concept “Wear Seal the deal” is characterized by the DIY philosophy, in associa-

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tion with the Belgian designer Jean-Paul Knott, based on the Internet download of tools that allows you to produce your own pins, t-shirts or postcard with the logo “Seal the Deal”. Jean-Paul Knott explains each stage of the operation in a 3-minute video entitled “Wear Seal the Deal”.

- European Leaders of opinion, experts in environment, artists and personalities will wear the “Seal the Deal” pins on the occasion of the World Environment Day
- A new 30-second video entitled “Seal the Deal for CoolPlanet” ensures the promotion of the campaign “Seal the Deal” and is available from the webpage [www.CoolPlanet2009.org](http://www.CoolPlanet2009.org) . The video can be used by anyone wishing to help to disseminate the campaign’s message.
- Newspapers are encouraged to publish in their webs the link to the videos <http://www.vimeo.com/cool-planet2009/videos>
- If you wish to download the videos and disseminate them, contact Gregory Cornwell ([cornwell@unric.org](mailto:cornwell@unric.org))
- In Paris, screening of “Home”, the film by French photographer and expert in environment Yann-Arthus Bertrand. The showing will take place on 5 June at 22.00 in Champs de Mars.

For more information: Jean-Pierre Bugada ([bugada@unric.org](mailto:bugada@unric.org))



### South Africa - In Namaqualand, Water for All (Conservation International)

Article by Molly Bergen

Situated in the Northern cape province of South Africa, Namaqualand is known for its open spaces and rare species such as the speckled cape tortoise (*Homopus signatus*)

- the world’s smallest tortoise. The sunny grasslands known as the veld provide an ideal habitat for many types of flowers that bloom by the thousands every spring. About 1,000 of the area’s 3,500 wildflower species are found nowhere else in the world...

### The blue revolution

Oceans cover 70% of the Earth’s surface. They generate incredible power as shown by the Indian Ocean tsunami, causing destruction and despair in coastal communities. But beneath the surface of the oceans lies an extraordinarily diverse and relatively peaceful world. It is estimated that more than 1 million species live on coral reefs alone, and perhaps as many as 10 million in the deep seas. But this world, whose many secrets are still to be unlocked, is under siege. The threats facing the marine environment are numerous and complex yet less than 1% of the oceans are protected. Seafood provides almost 20% of the world’s total animal protein intake, with this figure much higher in many coastal communities. But over-fishing is threatening the sustainable supply of this valuable resource and wreaking havoc on fish populations and ecosystems alike. Modern fishing gear now allows more intensive fishing in areas of the oceans that were previously inaccessible. Bycatch—the accidental catch of non target species such as sharks, turtles and seabirds is pushing many of them to the brink of extinction.



*Divers admire groupers and sharks in a Caribbean Marine Protected Area. Photo: Craig Dahlgren*

## [français] La biodiversité, moteur d'intégration régionale en Afrique Centrale

En Afrique Centrale, la mise en œuvre de la convention sur la diversité biologique figure au rang des priorités des institutions régionales. A la demande de la COMIFAC l'UICN a réuni quelques partenaires autour du Groupe de Travail sur la Diversité Biologique pour envisager l'avenir au delà de la prochaine convention des parties.



Photo de famille de l'atelier. Photo: Camille JEPANG



## June Conservation Volunteers e-News

Conservation Volunteers e-News is the monthly email newsletter that is filled with information about upcoming conservation projects, nature holidays, opportunities to volunteer overseas and special offers.

## IUCN signs agreement with Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation

Celebrations around International Biodiversity Day in Tokyo started early in the morning on Friday 22 May with a ceremony to plant trees at Shinjuku Gyoen park organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. A small group of school children heard about the value of nature conservation from Mr. Masayoshi Yoshino, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment, Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and Jeff McNeely, IUCN's Chief Scientist, then helped plant some trees and made their own commitments to protect and respect Japan's natural resources.



Jeff McNeely signs the agreement. Photo: IUCN

## An Action Agenda for Europe's Remaining Wild Areas (IUCN NEWS RELEASE)



Wild Europe initiative. Photo: Wild Europe

*"Europe should be proud and treasure the wilderness it still has, but it needs to do more"* said Ladislav Miko, Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic. Wilderness and wild areas form less than one percent of Europe's surface but are a vital part of its natural heritage. Many of them are facing imminent threats that require a rapid and effective response.

**Vaclav Havel**, former President of the Czech Republic, commenting on the social and ethical aspects of the issue noted that *"We are blurring natural boundaries: forests are no longer forests, meadows are no longer meadows. We have lost sight of eternity and infinity and are destroying nature for future generations."*

**Pavan Sukhdev**, study leader of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report, noted that *"We are prisoners of a system which favors manmade capital over national capital and human capital and favor private goods over public goods... that is the problem"*. Wild areas are the shock absorbers and a connector for isolated protected sites. They are the insurance for our future and investing in them remains critical. Protected areas today produce USD 4,500 to 5,200 billion in services and we currently invest only USD 6 billion.

## 22 new Biosphere Reserves selected by UNESCO



© Fraser Coast South Burnett Tourism Great Sandy, Australia

The 21st session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) is taking place from 25 to 29 May on the Island of Jeju, Republic of Korea. Today the MAB-ICC decided to add 22 new sites from 17 countries to the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) which now counts 553 sites in 107 countries.

The new sites are:

**Great Sandy**, Australia, a terrestrial, coastal, marine area, features the largest rainforest stand on sand in the world. It includes the natural site of Fraser Island with its freshwater dune lakes, which was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage

List in 1992. The local community Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resources Management has promoted the designation of the area as a biosphere reserve fostering ecotourism and niche organic agriculture.

**Mount Myohyang**, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is a sacred site as, according to legend, it was the home of King Tangun, forefather of the Korean people. The scenic mountainous area rises nearly 2,000 metres above sea level. Its spectacular rocks and cliffs provide a habitat for 30 endemic plant species; 16 plant species that are globally threatened and 12 animal species that are also endangered. A wide variety of medicinal herbs also grows in the site.

**Biosphäre Bliesgau**, Germany, is applying the concept of the "in-between-city" approach to link two very contrasting landscapes, densely populated and urbanized in the north in the town of St Ingbert, and sparsely populated and rural in the south. It supports extensive ongoing research on ecological changes in its urban, suburban and rural areas in the context of global climate change. The range of activities demonstrating sustainable development, including educational and environmental awareness initiatives, is a source of inspiration for the region. A special Biosphere Association has been established for the site.

**Swabian Alb**, Germany, is located in the European Jura, with beech forests and extensive orchards as well as pine and spruce forest, grassland and extensive meadows. Close to Stuttgart, it covers a total area of 84,500 ha and has a population of 150,000. Programmes for sustainable development for the biosphere reserve include agriculture and forestry, green businesses and ecotourism, as well as the promotion of local products and cottage industries and there are plans to bolster renewable energy use, notably for transportation. The biosphere reserve includes the Münsingen Military Training Area in the Hilly Alb, an area that was closed to the public for 110 years, until 2005. It remained undisturbed, retaining the characteristics of 18th and 19th century cultural landscapes, and is one of the largest noise-free areas in Baden-Württemberg.

**Nokrek**, India, is a biological hotspot in the state of Meghalaya featuring undisturbed natural ecosystems and landscapes. Besides harbouring elephants, tigers, leopards and hollock gibbons, the area is also noted for its wild varieties of citrus fruit which may come to serve as a genepool for commercially produced citrus.

**Pachmarhi**, India, is located in the heart of India, in Madhya Pradesh State, and includes tiger and other wildlife reserves. At the interface of several types of forest - tropical, moist and dry as well as sub-tropical hill forests - the area is considered a botanist's paradise. Through their social and cultural traditions, local tribes contribute to conservation of the forest while drawing on a variety of resources for nutrition, agriculture and income generation.

**Similipal**, India, is a tiger reserve in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, which used to be the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Mayurbhanj. This tropical environment abounds with tigers, elephants, panthers, deer and

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numerous plant species, making it a living laboratory for environmental scientists. The area's tribal inhabitants depend on agriculture, hunting and collection of forest products for their livelihoods but additional sources of income are badly needed to alleviate their poverty.

**Giam Siak Kecil – Bukit Batu**, Indonesia, is a peatland area in Sumatra featuring sustainable timber production and two wildlife reserves, which are home to the Sumatran tiger, elephant, tapir, and sun bear. Research activities in the biosphere include the monitoring of flagship species and in-depth study on peatland ecology. Initial studies indicate good potential for sustainable economic development using flora and fauna for the inhabitants' economic welfare. The site is also an interesting experimental area regarding carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the context of carbon trade mechanisms.

**Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve**, Lebanon, is located on the shoulders of the western slopes of the northern Mount Lebanon Chain facing the Mediterranean Sea to the west. It is a relatively large (6,500 ha), wild and unspoiled area protected by municipal laws that aim to conserve its ecological integrity, natural systems and species. Jabal Moussa is renowned for the unspoiled historic Adonis Valley with its ancient agricultural terraces and trails that date back to Roman times. The valley features rivers and streams, rangeland with landraces, mixed forests with oak, pine and olive groves and many economically important plant species, as well as undisturbed wildlife habitats that are home to wolves, hyenas, hyraxes, birds and reptiles.

**Tasik Chini**, Malaysia, is the country's first site as a UNESCO designated biosphere reserve. Located in the southern part of the Malaysian peninsula, the site is the water catchment area of Tasik Chini Lake situated in the centre of the biosphere reserve. The lake is a sanctuary for many endemic freshwater species on which intensive research and monitoring is carried out by various research institutions. Handicraft production (such as textiles) around the lake and its tributary rivers are seen to have great development potential for the larger area.

**Lagunas de Montebello**, Mexico, is set in a hydrological region of high biological diversity. Its location - in the area that connects the Highland region of Chiapas and the coastal plain of the Gulf of Mexico, which corresponds to the central massif - makes it particularly important. The karst landscape and more than 50 lagoons of varying sizes give the area its scenic beauty. The site is critically important for water harvesting and climate regulation. Local communities are involved in the management of the site's ecological resources. They practice a range of agricultural activities increasingly focusing on practices compatible with conservation. For example the traditional coffee production has shifted to organic production with organic conversion of the grain. These activities, together with reforestation and tourism, have emerged as alternatives that support the sustainable development of the area.

**Flores Island**, Portugal, part of the western group of the Azores archipelago, represents the surface part of a seamount close to the Mid Atlantic Rift. It was created by volcanic activity which started less than 10 million years ago. The biosphere reserve includes the whole emerged area of Flores Island and some adjacent marine areas with significant landscape, geological, environmental and cultural assets. High cliffs dominate most of the coastline, which is dotted with islets. The area supports traditional fishing and attracts valuable tourism, specifically for diving, whale and dolphin watching and shore walking.

**Geres/Xures** is a transboundary biosphere reserve situated between Portugal and Spain and established on the basis of the biogeographical continuity of the Sierras Galaico-Miñotas and associated valleys shared by both countries. The ecological importance of the site is due to the richness of forest and peatland ecosystems and a high level of endemic species, developed under both oceanic and Mediterranean climatic influences. With local communities forming an integral part of the regional landscape, sustainable development centres have been established in the biosphere reserve. A joint management plan will enable both countries to benefit from each other's experience and cooperate in the sustainable management of ecosystems.

**Shinan Dadohae**, Republic of Korea, comprises an island archipelago in the southwest of the country. It includes terrestrial and marine areas as well as large tidal flats, which are home to a great diversity of species and serve as resting places for rare migratory birds. Traditional forms of fishing (e.g. hand-fishing) and salt production are still practiced in this area.

**Altaiisky**, Russian Federation, is located in the North-Eastern and Eastern Altaï along major mountain ranges. Noteworthy for its biodiversity and cultural heritage, it covers 3,532,234 ha and is home to 15,000 inhabitants.

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The core area is a part of the Golden Mountains of the natural UNESCO World Heritage site of Altaï. The site, which cooperates with Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve and the Khakassky national reserve, is important for tourism, including the development of green tourism. Established as a reserve in 1932, it is among the areas of the world least affected by human intervention and has rich flora and fauna. Indigenous populations living in the biosphere's transitional area include Tubalars, Chelkants, Telengits, Kumandins and Teleuts.

**Vhembe**, South Africa, is world renowned for its rich cultural and biological diversity. It includes the northern part of the Kruger National Park, the Makuleke Wetlands Ramsar Site, the Soutpansberg and Blouberg biodiversity hot spots, as well as the Mapungube Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site and the Makgabeng Plateau with more than 1000 rock art sites. Human activities in the site are predominantly agricultural, including production of subtropical fruits and vegetables, cattle and game farming and hunting. The Venda, Shangaan and Sepedi people, who are the main population group in the area, have a rich history of traditional indigenous knowledge ranging from wood carving and drum making to traditional healing.

**Fuerteventura**, Spain, is the second biggest island of the Canaries archipelago, close to the West African Coast. It includes a wide range of ecosystems from desert or semi-desert areas to coastal and marine habitats. While the island is characterized by a rich diversity of marine species, including dolphins and cachalots, as well as marine turtles that reproduce on its beaches, the biosphere reserve also represents one of the world's major geopalentological observatories. Development of sustainable ecotourism is the major focus of the population living on the island. The island is also investing in the increase of its renewable energy capacity, mainly through wind-based and solar energy production, and is representing itself as one of the models for the implementation of the European Union's Directive on Renewable Energy.

**Lajat Biosphere Reserve**, Syria, is located in the southernmost point of Syria on the border with Jordan. The site, known for its extremely diverse biological richness, encompasses some of the most striking landscapes in the region. It offers significant opportunities for developing ecologically sustainable human activity, through existing rotation grazing schemes, landscape restoration and excavations, and development of the Lajat archaeological ruins. Lajat also provides educational opportunities to illustrate the importance of fauna and flora in local life and economy as well as the interdependence of cultural and biological diversity.

**Desnianskyi**, Ukraine, is located in Eastern Polesie, along the Desna River. With a total surface of 58,000 ha, the site covers a mosaic of ecosystems, with forests, rivers, lakes, flood plains and bogs. It is an important site for environmental research, e.g. monitoring of rare species such as bears and lynx. The main human activities focus on agriculture, forestry, fishery and sport hunting. Main sustainable development activities include organic agriculture and green tourism on the Desna river as well the "Desnianski Zori" ecological camp for schoolchildren. Transfrontier sustainable tourism is being developed with the Russian Federation with efforts to establish a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve between the two countries.

**Delta del Orinoco**, Venezuela, is characterized by great biological diversity in its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, home to more than 2,000 plant species and a wide array of land and water fauna. The biosphere reserve's biodiversity is complemented by the cultural wealth of the Warao people. Promoting productive activities within the site creates opportunities to strengthen the Warao communities, secure their settlements and improve their living conditions.

**Cu Lao Cham – Hoi An**, Viet Nam, is a coastal/island/marine site in the central part of the country, which is particularly known for its marine species - corals, molluscs, crustaceans and seaweed. The biosphere reserve also contains Hoi An, a cultural world heritage site, which is an ancient trading port evidencing the fusion of Vietnamese and European cultures. Linking cultural assets and natural values in terms of biodiversity, Cu Lao Cham – Hoi An is well positioned for promoting sustainable ecotourism.

**Mui Ca Mau**, Viet Nam, on the southern tip of the country, demonstrates ecological succession systems on new alluvial lands. Its conservation value is further marked by its role as the boundary between mangrove and Melaleuca forests, and as a reproduction and breeding area of marine species. Plans for the sustainable development of the site focus on ecotourism and cultural tourism to showcase the inhabitants' rich heritage. Training is also planned to improve agriculture and fishing.

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The MAB ICC also approved extensions to four already existing biosphere reserves, namely:

Mata Atlantica (Brazil); La Campana-Penuelas (Chile); North Karelia (Finland); and Dyfi - now renamed to Biosffer Dyfi Biosphere (United Kingdom).

Biosphere Reserves are areas designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to serve as places to test different approaches to integrated management of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine resources and biodiversity. Biosphere Reserves are thus sites for experimenting with and learning about sustainable development, particularly during the on-going UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

Launched in the early 1970s, the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building, aimed at improving people's relationship with their environment. It notably targets the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss. It uses its World Network of Biosphere Reserves as vehicles for knowledge-sharing, research and monitoring, education and training, and participatory decision-making.

## New Biosphere Reserves is the News

Latest **news and media** coverage on the designation of the 22 new sites for UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

- [ABC News](#)
- [Actu environnement](#)
- [Afrique en ligne](#)
- [\(The\) Daily Star](#)
- [El mundo](#)
- [Environment News Service](#)
- [El Universal](#)
- [Express buzz](#)
- [\(The\) Gympie Times](#)
- [\(The\) Hindu](#)
- [JoongAng Daily](#)
- [\(The\) Local](#)
- [Luana](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [Sustainable Business](#)
- [Typically Spanish](#)
- [Thaindian News](#)
- [Thanhniem News](#)
- [Toulouse 7 news](#)
- [UN News Service](#)
- [VHeadline](#)

## Exhibition: Evolving landscapes, biosphere reserves, goods and services



© UNESCO/P. Chiang-Joo

*From 15 May to 12 June 2009. Palazzo Zorzi. Venice, Italy*

This installation by Karl-Heinz Gaudry of photographs taken by 23 professionals, including the Mexican National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP), covers seven countries: Austria, Bolivia, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Romania and Serbia. The team of artists uses images to portray different landscapes. Whether this is conveyed by photos, paintings, graffiti (or street art), posters or poetry, the aim is to stress, through the lens of biosphere reserves, the diversity and complexity of relations between goods and services as the basis for human well-being.

## Launch of The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

UNESCO is launching the first global report uncovering how disaster risk is intensively concentrated in a very small portion of the earth's surface and unevenly distributed. Based on more than 30 years of disaster data, the report highlights three main risk drivers that will be magnified by climate change and proposes 20 recommendations to help make the world safer. The launch will aim to focus global media and political attention on the problem of disaster risk and to strengthen countries' commitment to reduce the loss of life, livelihoods and economic assets through natural disasters.



*Global Assessment Report 2009 Risk and Poverty in a changing climate*

## World Environment Day 2009



*Photo credit: Luo Hong. <http://luohong.holiland.com.cn/>*

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on **5 June**, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

This year's theme for World Environment Day (WED) is **Your Planet Needs You! UNite to Combat Climate Change**. But too often we are presented with environmental problems without being given the tools to act. WED is about taking action to be a part of the solution. And the Daily do something Tips are a great start.

We can all do our part to protect the planet by using less and acting more. Going green is not as difficult as you might think. Here we walk you through 30 easy ways to green your daily routine, from the moment you hit snooze on your solar-powered alarm clock to the point when you crawl into your eco-washed, organic cotton sheets.

Make your WED commitment today. But don't stop at today and don't stop here. Try to incorporate all of these into your life as a matter of routine. Get others to do so the same. And get involved!

### IN GENERAL:

- Plant a tree! Help achieve UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign target of planting seven billion trees – one for every person on the planet – by the end of this year! Three billion are planted. Five billion are pledged. On every continent in the world trees can be planted in June, so start your efforts on WED.
- Find needy homes or charitable organizations for things that you no longer need or want rather than throwing it away.

### DAILY ROUTINE:

#### AT HOME...

- It would seem to go without saying, but many of us forget that we can save water in simple ways like not letting the tap run while shaving, washing your face, or brushing your teeth.
- Insulating your water heater will help save valuable energy, and you can go the extra mile by installing

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showerheads with a low flow in your bathrooms for bathing purposes to help save water. You can also put a timer on your heaters to save power.

- Using an electric razor or hand razor with replaceable blades instead of disposable razors goes a long way to cutting back on waste. And plant a tree.
- Use towels for drying your face and hands instead of tissues that are used and thrown away. Also, hang your towels to dry so that they can be reused several times. You are after all clean when you use them!
- Juice or yoghurt lovers can do their bit by buying juice in concentrates and yoghurt in reusable containers instead of single serving packages.
- Many of us like to leaf through the paper as we munch on breakfast, but consider reading the dailies in communal spaces like the office or coffee shops. However, if you prefer to have your own copy, make sure you recycle!
- When packing your lunch, opt for reusable containers for food storage instead of wrapping the food with aluminum foil or plastic wrap.
- As you leave the house, don't forget to switch off all the lights and appliances at the wall unit (if you have this feature) and unplug chargers as they continue to consume even if they are not charging; saving energy helps reduce air pollution.

### GETTING TO WORK:

- Don't go anywhere without your cloth bag so you can just say no to plastic whenever you shop.
- Radical as it may seem, in today's "the easier the better" society, the easiest way to reduce your carbon footprint is by avoiding driving altogether. Power down and Instead try biking, walking, carpooling, public transport or an occasional telecommute.
- If you have no other choice than to drive to work, look for the most fuel- efficient car model for your next purchase and keep your tyres inflated to the correct pressure.
- If you're one of the lucky few blessed with clear stretches of road on your way to work, use cruise control, as it saves fuel and also helps you maintain a constant speed.
- If you're among the majority of drivers who spend their mornings stuck in traffic, consider turning your engine off if you will be idling for long periods of time. And plant a tree.
- For those who suffer from road rage, remember that aggressive driving lowers your mileage, so if you want to save on fuel and save the planet while you're at it, accelerate gradually-- something to keep that in mind the next time that bad driver cuts you off! Just count to 10 and say the planet needs me!

### AT WORK:

- Do you have a morning hot drink routine? Using a washable mug is an environmentally-friendly alternative to non-biodegradable styrofoam or plastic cups.
- Leave a cup and reusable bottle for water at work to eliminate buying drinks, which get served in plastic cups, or bottled water. 80% of plastic bottles are recyclable but only 20% are actually recycled.
- When you need a pad for lists and messages, turn over an old document and write on the back of that instead.
- If there isn't an office recycling system, start one yourself! Recycling our trash actually contributes to reducing global warming emissions. And it is estimated that 75% of what is thrown in the trash could actually be recycled, though currently only 25% is.
- When you must have a paper copy, make sure you default your printer option to use both sides. This is an easy tree-saver!
- Most computer accessories like ink cartridges and CDs and DVDs are made of materials that could be reused. Computer cords and speakers are fairly standardized, meaning they can be used for a variety of computer models and makes.
- Lower your office's carbon footprint by seeing computers, monitors, printers, copiers, speakers and other

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business equipment to their energy saving feature and turning them off at the end of the day. And plant a tree!

- Turning off all unnecessary lights, especially in unused offices and conference rooms is an easy way to save energy.
- If you're in search of something to personalize your workspace, look no further than the humble houseplant. Houseplants are good for the environment because they remove quantities of pollutants present in the air.

### AFTER A LONG DAY:

- In the summer/warmer months, consider using an interior fan in conjunction with your window air-conditioner to spread the cooled air more effectively through your home. While you're at it, in winter, lower your thermostat and put on a jumper. In summer, increase it and wear lighter clothes, you will also save money!
- Don't place lamps or TV sets near your air-conditioning thermostat as it senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air-conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- When cooking dinner, match the size of the pan to the size of the heating element to lower energy wastage.
- When you are feeling at your laziest, don't throw clean clothes in the hamper to avoid hanging them up! Wear jeans more than once...
- When you wash, use only eco-friendly products in your home. It's best for you and the environment! And did we mention plant a tree!

## AGENDA

### 21st Session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

*25 - 29 May 2009. Jeju, Republic of Korea*

Organizers: UNESCO

Contact: [mab@unesco.org](mailto:mab@unesco.org)

More info: <http://www.mab-jeju.org/>

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### World Not Standing Still on Climate Change Session

*1 - 12 June 2009. Bonn, Germany*

Organizers: UNFCCC Head

Contact: <mailto:t.gross@unesco.org>

More info: [http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=7677&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7677&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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### World Oceans Day on "One ocean, one climate, one future»

*8 June 2009. Monaco, Principality of Monaco*

Organizers: The Principality Gouvernement and the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco

Contact: [environnement@gouv.mc](mailto:environnement@gouv.mc)

More info: <http://www.lepetitjournal.com/content/view/41843/99999999/>

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### International Training Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development in MAB Biosphere Reserves

*22 - 24 June 2009. Lavrion, Greece*

Organizers: UNESCO Office in Venice-Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (UNESCOBRESCE), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) through the MEDIES Secretariat, University of Athens/Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry and the Centre of Environmental Education of Lavrio, Greece

Contact: [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org)

More info: [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=45421&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=45421&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **Le Directeur général reçoit le Ministre de l'Environnement de Slovénie et participe au lancement de l'ouvrage "The Alps – A Bird's Eye View"**

Le 28 mai 2009, le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, M. Koïchiro Matsuura, s'est entretenu avec M. Karl Erjavec, Ministre de l'environnement et de l'aménagement d territoire de Slovénie avant de procéder au lancement de la publication "The Alps – A Bird's Eye View", (les Alpes vues par les oiseaux) projet international qui a bénéficié du patronage de l'UNESCO. Au cours de cet entretien, le Ministre a rappelé que son pays assurait la présidence de la Convention Alpine et que l'ouvrage présenté ce jour à l'UNESCO avait été réalisé dans ce cadre. Il a souligné les enjeux de la protection des écosystèmes alpins, de leur richesse et de leur diversité, notamment face au changement climatique.



### **Online publication: Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) Biogeographic classification**

*Edited by: Marjo Vierros (UNU-IAS), Ian Cresswell (Australia), Elva Escobar Briones (Mexico), Jake Rice (Canada), and Jeff Ardron (Germany). UNESCO 2009*

This report presents a biogeographic classification for global open ocean and deep sea areas (GOODS). It has been compiled by an international expert group initiated at a workshop held in Mexico City, Mexico, in January 2007, and is based on the input of many scientists and managers. It has been made available to meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the UN Working Group).



### **Atlas of wader birds published**

"More than half the populations of waders in Europe, West Asia and Africa are declining at an accelerating rate." That is the conclusion of the Wetlands International's Wader Atlas, the first comprehensive overview of key site networks for waders in Europe, West-Asia and Africa, launched in London 20 May 2009 at a conference in London called "Global Biodiversity Mechanisms", hosted by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The Wader Atlas (An Atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia) identifies 876 key sites – such as lakes, coastal areas, floodplains - for 59 of the 90 wader species in those countries covered by the UN African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Amongst these, the book identifies 68 sites at which more than five wader species occur in internationally important numbers (using the Ramsar criterion of more than 1% of global population). There are 112 sites where more than 40,000 waders have been counted. Ramsar STRP member David Stroud served as one of the editors of the new work, and Nick Davidson,

Deputy Secretary General, was one of the assistant editors. See press releases from [JNCC](#) and [Wetlands International](#) for more information.