

NATURAL HERITAGE

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AGENDA

Nepal Conservation in Crisis - seminar
24 November 2009. London, United Kingdom

4th International Congress Geo Tunisia 2009 on “Survey of the hydraulic resources and of desertification by using the geographic information systems, remote detection and numeric designing “
16 - 20 December 2009. Tunis, Tunisia

IFPRA World Congress
15 - 18 November 2010. Hong Kong, China

NEWS



Emerald Network

The Emerald Network is an ecological network made up of “*areas of special conservation interest*”, which was launched by the Council of Europe as part of its work under the Bern Convention. It is to be set up in each Contracting Party or observer state to the Convention. It involves all the European Union states, some non-Community states and a number of African states (Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal and Burkina Faso are Contracting Parties; Algeria, Cape Verde, and Mauritania have been invited to accede). The European Community, as such, is also a Contracting Party to the Bern

Convention. In order to fulfil its obligations arising from the Convention, particularly in respect of habitat protection, it produced the Habitats Directive in 1992, and subsequently set up the Natura 2000 network. The Emerald Network is based on the same principles as Natura 2000, and represents its de facto extension to non-Community countries.

[More information: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/econetworks/default_EN.asp?](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/econetworks/default_EN.asp?)

Results of Damocles program in Brussels

The Damocles program and the DG Research of the European Commission invite all Arctic experts interested in participating to a Symposium in Brussels November 10-12-13 2009. This symposium is intended to describe near future scientific and technological challenges for a better understanding of the Climate system at a time of human-induced rapid environmental changes. This description will be based on current results from Damocles and other International Polar Year projects.

[More information: http://www.damocles-eu.org](http://www.damocles-eu.org)

Extinction crisis continues apace

The latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ shows that 17,291 species out of the 47,677 assessed species are threatened with extinction. The results confirm that 21% of all known mammals, 30% of all known amphibians, 12 per cent of all known birds and 32% of all known gymnosperms (conifers and cycads) are threatened with extinction. Results for other species-groups that have not yet been comprehensively assessed such as freshwater fishes and dragonflies, indicate similar high levels of threat.

[More information: http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/extinctioncrisiscontinuesnovember09launch](http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/extinctioncrisiscontinuesnovember09launch)

Leopards still hanging on in Yemen

Two field trips were made to Yemen to look for signs of remaining Arabian leopards, to train local scientists, and to develop a national leopard survey strategy. Yemen is a key site for conservation of the Arabian leopard because it contains a large part of the species' former range. The main obstacle to an effective conservation programme is the lack of information on its current status.

[More information: http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/leopards-in-yemen](http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/leopards-in-yemen)

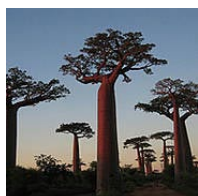
Custom seized seahorses at ZSL London Zoo

A herd of seahorses confiscated by customs are now seeking sanctuary at ZSL London Zoo. The 22 juvenile longsnout seahorses (*Hippocampus reidi*) were confiscated by the UK Border Agency two weeks ago. Rachel

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Jones, Deputy Team Leader of ZSL London Zoo's Aquarium, said: "People usually try to smuggle seahorses because they think that they will look good in their own personal aquariums. Seahorses are notoriously difficult to keep and should not be used as a trendy fashion accessory." Longsnout seahorses are found in the Caribbean and down onto the coast of Brazil in the wild and grow to an adult size of up to 17cm. They will be held in quarantine at the Zoo for the next 30 days until a home is found for them.

[More information: http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/news/custom-seized-seahorses-at-zsl-london-zoo_660_NS.html](http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/news/custom-seized-seahorses-at-zsl-london-zoo_660_NS.html)



Our Planet Reviewed

On the eve of 2010, International Year of Biodiversity, the National Museum of Natural History and Pro-Natura International are working in partnership with IUCN to launch "Our Planet Reviewed", an unprecedented programme of naturalist expeditions. The expeditions will span ten years to conduct a massive inventory of biodiversity in geographical areas which, up until now, have been little explored. The objective is to accelerate the scientific discovery of new species, by focusing our efforts on the regions of the planet which are considered a priority in terms of nature conservation.

[More information: http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/our-planet-reviewed](http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/our-planet-reviewed)

The world's species are slipping away

The latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ shows that 17,291 species out of the 47,677 assessed species are threatened with extinction. The results reveal 21 percent of all known mammals, 30 percent of all known amphibians, 12 percent of all known birds, and 28 percent of reptiles, 37 percent of freshwater fishes, 70 percent of plants, 35 percent of invertebrates assessed so far are under threat. ZSL scientists from the Institute of Zoology coordinated projects which assessed 2050 of the 2839 species that have been recently added to the IUCN Red List which include freshwater fish, damselflies and dragonflies.

[More information: http://www.zsl.org/science/news/the-worlds-species-are-slipping-away_658_NS.html](http://www.zsl.org/science/news/the-worlds-species-are-slipping-away_658_NS.html)



Deep-sea trawler at sunset. Photo: © SIODFA

Mysteries of deep-water life in the Indian Ocean to be revealed

A new project led by IUCN will unveil the mysteries of southern Indian Ocean seamounts and help improve conservation and management of resources. Two research expeditions will survey seamounts, underwater mountains of volcanic origin that are hotspots of marine biodiversity. The aim is to determine priority areas for the establishment of future marine Protected Areas, and improve the management and conservation of the fragile species and ecosystems on oceans.

[More information: http://www.iucn.org/?4205/Mysteries-of-deep-water-life-in-the-Indian-Ocean-to-be-revealed](http://www.iucn.org/?4205/Mysteries-of-deep-water-life-in-the-Indian-Ocean-to-be-revealed)

Don't shun the ocean – IUCN tells climate leaders

Failure to recognize the ocean in climate change discussions will have profound consequences for humanity, according to IUCN. A month before world leaders meet in Copenhagen to strike a climate deal, IUCN releases The Ocean and Climate Change – Tools and Guidelines for Action, to help decision-makers understand the

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importance of the ocean in the global climate debate – and the cost of not taking action. The report provides a comprehensive view of the mitigation and adaptation strategies available, as well as a clear set of action recommendations.

More information: <http://www.iucn.org/?4197/Dont-shun-the-ocean--IUCN-tells-climate-leaders>



Alaska. Photo: © Octavio Aburto-Oropeza

Defending against climate change – just down the road from UN meeting



Boy replanting mangroves, Thailand
Photo: IUCN Thailand

It's hard to believe that just a few hours' drive from Bangkok, where a key UN meeting on climate change recently took place, the impacts of climate change on coastal communities can be seen so clearly. One place that is doing all it can to build up resilience to increasing sea levels and other natural disasters is the Srinart Rajini Mangrove Ecosystem Learning Centre in Pranburi. Fifteen years after successfully converting abandoned shrimp farms in the Pranburi Estuary back into flourishing mangroves there is clear evidence that you can make a difference in protecting coastal areas and the livelihoods of local people.

More information: <http://www.iucn.org/?3989/Defending-against-climate-change--just-down-the-road-from-UN-meeting>

(in French) Comment les coraux adaptent-ils les lois de la cristallographie?

Le squelette du corail rouge, qui prend des formes arborescentes variées, est constitué de briques élémentaires qui ne sont rien d'autres que des microcristaux de calcite magnésienne. Comment ces animaux gèrent-ils les lois de la cristallographie pour élaborer des formes aussi complexes ? Cette question qui relève du domaine de la biominéralisation connaît depuis quelques années un intérêt croissant du fait de nouveaux outils d'investigation, et du développement des recherches sur les matériaux biomimétiques et les nanoparticules. L'étude par microscopie électronique à balayage (MEB), diffraction d'électrons retrodiffusés (EBSD) et microscopie électronique à transmission (MET) du squelette du corail rouge de Méditerranée menée par une équipe du Centre Interdisciplinaire de Nanoscience de Marseille (CNRS, Universités d'aix marseille) associée à des chercheurs de l'Insitut de Ciencies del mar (Barcelone) et du California Institute of Technology (EU) permet de comprendre l'agencement des cristaux de calcite qui aboutit aux formes libres du corail. De nouveaux concepts de structures cristallines sont discutés dans cet article à paraître dans l'American Mineralogist.

More info in French: <http://www.insu.cnrs.fr/a3261,comment-coraux-adaptent-ils-lois-cristallographie.html>

WWF-Canon Polar Bear Tracker

The polar bear is under threat from climate change. There are more than 20,000-25,000 polar bears in the Arctic, but this could change if the Arctic continues to warm at twice the rate as the rest of the world. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) lists the status of the polar bear as “vulnerable” on its Red List of Threatened Species. If our great-grandchildren are to live in a world with polar bears in it, we must all take action now to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide.

More info: http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/arctic/area/species/polarbear/polar_bear/

Dramatic videos shows how climate change threatens walrus

Animation of the 2009 Arctic ice cap melt season (NASA)

The retreat of sea ice caused by climate change forces walrus ashore, with deadly consequences. As arctic sea ice recedes far from the Russian and Alaskan coasts due to warmer temperatures caused by climate change, walrus – including females and their babies – are forced to take refuge on land. The animals congregate in large groups, known as “haul outs”. These mass congregations are dangerous and can lead to violent stampedes that are often deadly, specially to young walrus. As WWF’s Nick Sundt reported on his climate blog: “just a couple days after Arctic sea ice receded to it’s third lowest extent on record, forcing thousands of walrus ashore, a few researchers flying along the Alaska coast stumbled upon this grisly scene”.

[More information: http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/walrus/footage_video_walrus_climate_change/](http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/walrus/footage_video_walrus_climate_change/)

Rapid ice loss found in survey supports trend to summer ice free Arctic within decade

New data, released today by the Catlin Arctic Survey and WWF, provides further evidence of thinning Arctic Ocean sea ice, supporting the emerging thinking that the Ocean will be largely ice-free in summer within a decade. The Catlin Arctic Survey, completed earlier this year, provides the latest ice thickness record, drawn from the only survey capturing surface measurements in the last winter and spring. The data collected by manual drilling and observations on a 450 kilometre route across the northern part of the Beaufort Sea suggests the survey area is comprised almost exclusively of first year ice.



© Martin Hartley / WWF-Canon

[More information: http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/climate_deal/news/?176661/Rapid-ice-loss-found-in-survey-supports-trend-to-summer-ice-free-Arctic-within-decade](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/climate_deal/news/?176661/Rapid-ice-loss-found-in-survey-supports-trend-to-summer-ice-free-Arctic-within-decade)

H.R.H. Prince Albert II: “Find perennial solutions for a fair and sustainable development of our planet”

Invited by SHS Views to appreciate the important meeting on the future of the Arctic before the challenges of climate change, that took place from 3 to 6 March 2009 in the Principality of Monaco, H.R.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco states his conviction that “the collective interest will be a more and more frequent component in our daily choices”.

[More information: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001834/183490E.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001834/183490E.pdf)

“The challenges of biodiversity - beyond the international year 2010”

All over the planet, biodiversity – the diversity of life, from bacteria to plants and animals, from genes to species and ecosystems – is declining. In a matter of decades, the human alterations and destructions of natural ecosystems – in particular primary forests, tropical forests, wetlands, mangroves, lakes, rivers, seas and oceans – have reached a daunting pace. According to estimates, the number of known species – and we do not know all of them – has declined by



UNESCO Future Lecture. © UNESCO/Inès Forbes. Orakei Koraki/ New Zealand

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40% since the 1970s. Since 2000, primary forests have been losing 6 million hectares each year. Around 20% of coral reefs have been destroyed notably through pollution and overfishing. 25% of all known species could be extinct by 2050. Many scientists believe life on Earth is on the verge of a massive extinction phase.

More information: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=46227&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Eden, hidden jewels of European tourism

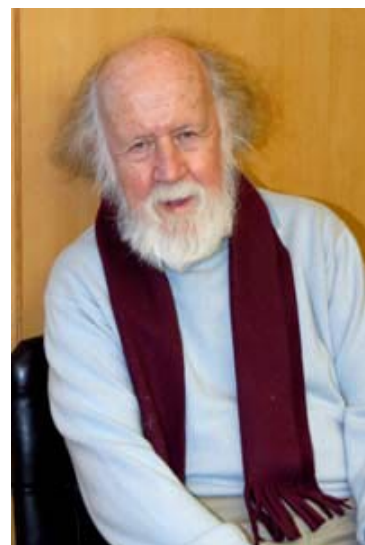
Eden designates the network of the European destinations of excellence. This innovating project focuses on sustainability for the European tourist approach. It aims at valuing the good environmental, social and cultural practices of emergent tourist destinations. The objective also consists in creating a European platform of exchange, in promoting the setting up of a network of the recognized destinations and encouraging that other destinations adopt models of sustainable tourism development. Every year the Commission selects a topic: in 2007 rural tourism, tourism and local intangible heritage in 2008, and in 2009, tourism and protected areas. National competitions are organized with the purpose of designating a destination in each country participating in the project.

More information in French: http://www.tourisme-autrement.be/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=136&Itemid=133#eden

Astrophysicist Hubert Reeves to give lecture on the decline of biodiversity

L'astrophysicist Hubert ReevesAstrophysicist Hubert Reeves will speak on 3 November at UNESCO Headquarters (Room II, 5-6.30 p.m.), in the framework of the UNESCO Future Lectures, on the topic: "The challenges of biodiversity - beyond the international year 2010". A Canadian astrophysicist who is an Associate Professor in the Physics Department of the University of Montreal, a former adviser to NASA and a renowned author of scientific books for the general public, Mr Reeves will discuss how the current decline of biodiversity is threatening humanity.

More information: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=46800&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html



© UNESCO/Michel Ravassard. Astrophysicist Hubert Reeves

November 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. This month:

- Volunteer Now
- Naturewise Conservation Holidays
- World Conservation Programs
- Volunteer At Tidbinbilla, ACT
- Christmas Giving Cards
- Special Offer #1: Save Water When Planting Trees...And Save Your Trees!*
- Special Offer #2: Save The Planet While You Save Your Lunch!*
- 2010 Young Conservationist Award - Applications Open
- Planet Ark - Do The Big Aussie Swap!

- Volunteer Research - Can You Help?
- Conservation Projects

[More information: http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/)



UN casts Disney's Tinker Bell to raise environmental awareness among children

The United Nations today named the Disney animated character Tinker Bell an “Honorary Ambassador of Green” to help promote environmental awareness among children. The announcement came just prior to a screening at UN Headquarters in New York of the world premiere of the Walt Disney animated film, “Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure.” “We’re delighted Tinker Bell has agreed to be our Honorary Ambassador of Green,” said Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-

Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. “This beloved animated character can help us inspire kids and their parents to nurture nature and do what they can to take care of the environment.”

[More information: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32706&Cr=green&Cr1=&Kw1=Ambassador&Kw2=&Kw3=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32706&Cr=green&Cr1=&Kw1=Ambassador&Kw2=&Kw3=)

SEAL THE DEAL: Climate change could stem global tourism, UN cautions

Rising sea levels could inundate coastal holiday spots while melting snow caps could spell an end to ski resorts, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has warned, as climate change threatens tourism, a lucrative industry for the world’s poorest nations. Tourism is what “fuels the economy and drives people” in poor countries, Geoffrey Lipman, Assistant Secretary-General of the UNWTO, told the UN News Centre. Nearly one third of the \$735 billion generated by tourism in 2006 went to developing nations, with the industry serving as one of the major export sectors for poor countries. From 2000-2007, international tourism, the main source of foreign exchange in nearly all of the States classed as least developed countries (LDCs), recorded 110 per cent growth in these nations.

[More information: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32655&Cr=climate+change&Cr1](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32655&Cr=climate+change&Cr1)

Healthy oceans new key to combating climate change, UN agencies stress

Healthy oceans play a key role in combating climate change, a group of United Nations agencies said today, calling on governments to consider a ‘Blue Carbon’ fund able to invest in the maintenance and rehabilitation of key marine ecosystems. In a new report released today, the agencies estimate that carbon emissions – equal to half the annual emissions of the global transport sector – are being captured and stored by marine ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses.

[More information: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32535&Cr=climate+change&Cr1](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32535&Cr=climate+change&Cr1)

Save the forests, help save the planet

With deforestation accounting for over 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, a senior United Nations agricultural official today called for preservation of an ecosystem that can play a major role in fighting global warming. “Damage to forest ecosystems is affecting everyone in the world through climate change, water

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scarcity and the loss of biological diversity,” UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Assistant Director General of Forestry Jan Heino said ahead of a meeting later this month of World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He called on the 4,500 participants, including delegates of governments, the private sector and environmental organizations from more than 120 countries, expected to attend the 18-23 October meeting to adopt more effective land, crop and livestock management practices...

More information: <http://www.un-foodsecurity.org/node/95>

Climate: Launching of a monitoring system for the emissions due to deforestation

For the first time at a global level, high resolution satellite data are available free and ready to use to supervise forests and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions due to deforestation and the degradation of the forests, announced the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Tuesday. The FAO has just released, in partnership with the State University of South Dakota and the EU-USA Joint Research Centre, an improved monitoring system within the framework of the Global Evaluation of Forest Resources.

More info in French: <http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20393&Cr=climatique&Cr1=>

AGENDA

Nepal Conservation in Crisis - seminar

24 November 2009. London, United Kingdom

Organizers: Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) are jointly observing 2009 as “Nepal Nature Conservation Year”.

Contact: jane.loveless@zsl.org

More info:

<http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/whats-on/nepal-conservation-crisis-seminar,365,EV.html>

4th International Congress Geo Tunisia 2009 on “Survey of the hydraulic resources and of desertification by using the geographic information systems, remote detection and numeric designing “

16 - 20 December 2009. Tunis, Tunisia

Organizers: The Tunisian Association of Digital Geographic Information

Contact: atigeo_num@yahoo.fr

More info: <http://www.geotunis.org/>

2010

IFPRA World Congress

15 - 18 November 2010. Hong Kong, China

Organizers: International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration

Deadline for abstract submission is 1 January 2010

Contact: ifpra2010@lcsd.gov.hk

More info: <http://www.ifpra2010.lcsd.gov.hk>

PUBLICATIONS



Proceedings of the Joint Regional Seminar of the Ecotone-SeaBRnet 2007 and the 9th Conference of the China Biosphere Reserves Network (CBRN): Cultural diversity: a foundation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, Maolan Biosphere Reserve, Libo County, Guizhou Province, P.R. China, 7-12 November 2007

UNESCO Office Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science in Asia and the Pacific; MAB National Committee (China)

Original Language: English

There has been a growing recognition in recent years of the roles of culture and cultural diversity in nature conservation and sustainable development; more particularly regarding the roles and responsibilities indigenous peoples can play in managing and conserving the often complex ecosystems they inhabit.

The relationship between indigenous cultures and their natural environment involves a complex series of interactive adaptations over time. This inter-relationship makes it almost impossible to describe most ecosystems in Asia with popular environmental terms such as “pristine” and “virgin”. Even if these ecosystems sometimes appear to be in their original state, it is perhaps more accurate to describe them as ‘optimized ecosystems’ or ‘cultural ecosystems’. This is the case for many of the natural reserves, national parks and restricted protected areas today.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001829/182996e.pdf>



The Global Ocean Observing System: a summary for policy makers

Original Language: English

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is the international observational system that ensures long term sustained ocean observations. Since 1990, IOC has been tasked by the international community to co-ordinate the planning, implementation, and on-going development of GOOS.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001856/185696e.pdf>



African oceans and coasts

Author: Odido, Mika; Mazzilli, Stefano

UNESCO Office Nairobi and Regional Bureau for Science in Africa; IOC

ISBN ISSN: 92-9158-017-1

Coastal and marine resources provide the basis for a substantial proportion of economic and social activities in Africa. These include fishing, tourism, offshore mining (including oil and gas), navigation and other industries. Africa, like the rest of the world is experiencing a steady migration of populations to the coastal areas, in search of improved livelihoods and economic opportunities. This has led to intense competition for the use of coastal areas and resources by different sectors of the society. Science-based approaches to sustainable management will ensure equitable solutions.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001850/185095e.pdf>