



Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

Happy New Year! This year promises to be an exciting one for Ecoagriculture Partners. We have just officially registered as a non-profit organization. We have drafted a Strategic Plan for 2005-2007, which will be circulated next month to all partners for comments. Proposed programs respond directly to the recommendations made at the Ecoagriculture Conference in Nairobi and include developing an information clearinghouse on ecoagriculture, capacity-building for ecoagriculture innovators, measuring outcomes of ecoagriculture systems, and promoting policy, market and institutional frameworks that will support ecoagriculture. Working Groups are developing Concept Notes for each of the programs. We were delighted with the special issue from ILEIA which illustrates diverse ecoagriculture systems, most of them drawn from cases presented at the Conference.

We are also inspired and challenged by the Millennium Project Report, which was launched on January 17th. The report outlines how the world can work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—including to halve poverty and hunger, improve access to water and promote environmental sustainability. Achieving the MDGs is a central concern of Ecoagriculture Partners. I encourage all of you to take steps to incorporate the MDGs into your own action agendas.

We were deeply saddened by the grave suffering caused by December's tsunami in the coastal areas around the Indian Ocean. Thanks to those of you who kept us informed about its impacts. We honor so many of you who are actively involved in providing emergency relief and planning for long-term rehabilitation. Ironically, the authorities in Aceh, Indonesia have begun to restore the coastal mangroves as a result of widespread reports that loss of life was lower in areas of intact mangroves. Perhaps this tragic event will help raise awareness of the importance of conserving "natural infrastructure" even in fast-developing coastal areas.

Sara J. Scherr
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ECOAGRICULTURE PARTNERS UPDATE:

1. Ecoagriculture Partners Incorporates as a Non-Profit Organization

Ecoagriculture Partners is taking the last steps to become an independent non-profit organization, a process we hope will be complete before mid-2005. Last week, we incorporated as "Ecoagriculture International, Inc." For the time being, we will continue to use the name Ecoagriculture Partners. Thanks to Mira Inbar and Cinnamon Dornsife for their assistance with incorporation.

The existing Executive Committee—Jeffrey McNeely of IUCN, Dennis Garrity of the World Agroforestry Centre, Michael Jenkins of Forest Trends and I—are the founding members of the Board. This year, we will begin to expand the size and diversity of our Board, and the Board will also help to finalize and approve our Strategic Plan for 2005-2007.

Our NGO has not been set up as a membership-based organization. We will continue to seek diverse partners around the world who will play an active role as collaborators in the development of our programs and projects, although not in governance. We look forward to your active involvement.

2. Update from the Washington, D.C. Ecoagriculture Working Group

The Washington, D.C. area Ecoagriculture Partners Working Group began meeting in early 2004, with the goals of learning, exchanging information, networking, problem solving, strategizing, awareness-raising, and working on advocacy. The group, which includes 182 individuals from 59 different organizations based in the Washington, D.C., met every two months in 2004.

Programs included presentations by: Annette Meredith on pollinator research in Maryland; Shirlee Tan on a new project on pesticide misuse in Myanmar; Sarah Lynch on WWF's Agriculture and Biodiversity Initiative; Cyndi Janetzko and JD Doliner on financing organic agriculture in Latin America; Peter Freeman on mapping ecoagriculture experiences in sub-Saharan Africa; a USDA panel on ecoagriculture research, programs, and assistance; Dan Imhoff and Joanne Baumgartner on Wild Farm Alliance; and Jon Winsten on Performance-based Environmental Policies for Agriculture. We also conducted a field trip to Potomac Vegetable Farms and Blueberry Hill Housing Cooperative.

During 2005, the group intends to foster a stronger policy focus as well as an emphasis on our own consumption habits and their impact on regional landscapes, including the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Blue Ridge Mountains. New activities will include working group sessions to strategize on particular topics, meetings with interest groups, and presentations from a wider array of policymakers, extensionists, researchers, local farmers and farm advocates. Kirsten Spainhower and Elise deRiel have joined Julie Kunen as group co-coordinators. (*Article prepared by Julie Kunen.*)

3. Presentations from Nairobi Conference Now Available

Most of the presentations from the Ecoagriculture Conference in Nairobi last fall are now available on our website. They are packed with information and illustrations of ecoagriculture approaches. Please contact the presenters if you wish to

obtain copies of any of their PowerPoint slides or obtain more information. To download presentations or to obtain more information on the Conference, go to www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/Meetings/Nairobi_2004.htm. The Conference Proceedings will also be available soon. Because most of the commissioned papers for the Conference will be revised as chapters for our forthcoming book on the "State of the Art of Ecoagriculture," the full texts will not be posted.

4. Seeking Case Studies of Ecoagriculture

Over the next two months, Ecoagriculture Partners will be compiling a new set of case studies that demonstrate different approaches to ecoagriculture farm practices across the world. These case studies will be published as they are produced and will be categorized on our website by both geography and by method. Ecoagriculture Partners welcomes submissions of case studies during this two-month period to be included in our database. To review current ecoagriculture case studies, go to <http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/casestudies.htm>. Please submit case study proposals to Claire Rhodes at crhodes@ecoagriculturepartners.org.

PARTNERS' NEWS:

1. ILEIA: Special Issue of LEISA on Ecoagriculture—"Farming with Nature"

Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA), a monthly publication of ILEIA, focused its entire December issue on ecoagriculture. Ten articles, featuring cases from around the world, show how local communities have been able to develop different farming strategies that protect or improve natural biodiversity in their respective regions while also increasing or sustaining agricultural production and local livelihoods. The issue was edited by Anita Ingevall and Electra van Campen with support from Sara Scherr of Ecoagriculture Partners. Anita and Electra identified many of the cases presented in this issue at the Nairobi Ecoagriculture Conference. To download an electronic version of this magazine or to subscribe to this excellent magazine for practitioners, go to <http://www.leisa.org>. For a hard copy of the magazine, please contact Ecoagriculture Partners (info@ecoagriculturepartners.org). *LEISA* is available in a number of languages, including English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Bahasa (Indonesia).

2. Millennium Project: Launch of Report on Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Project, an independent advisory body commissioned by the UN Secretary-General, launched its official recommendations to the UN for achieving the Millennium Development Goals on January 17th—the start of a stream of launches held in locations all over the world later that month. The recommendations, "A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals", seek to guide the developed world in halving extreme poverty by 2015. To read the report or the 10 detailed reports of the Millennium Task Forces (including those on Hunger, Water and Sanitation and Environmental Sustainability) or to obtain more



information on the Millennium Project, go to www.unmillenniumproject.org. For details on the Millennium Development Goals, go to <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

There are many ways that you and your organization can get involved in promoting, supporting and implementing this plan. In future issues of the Newsletter, we will identify concrete ways for ecoagriculture to contribute to this process.

3. IUCN: World Conservation Congress in Bangkok

From 17th-25th November 2004, over 5,000 participants convened in Bangkok, Thailand for IUCN's World Conservation Congress: *'People and Nature' – only one world*. In the context of biodiversity conservation and rural development, the Congress reviewed IUCN's work programs and enabled knowledge exchange amongst its members. Ecoagriculture strategies were discussed, and at times hotly debated, in several workshops and plenary sessions. Key workshops and events included:

- **Mainstreaming Ecoagriculture for conservation (19th November 2004)**
Hosted by Ecoagriculture Partners, this workshop reviewed strategies to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services within agricultural landscapes. Presentations and discussion were combined with a poster session highlighting innovation from India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Colombia. Panelists include representatives from the World Agroforestry Centre, IUCN, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Germany), the Kalinga Mission for Indigenous Children and Youth Development (Philippines) and ICRISAT. Presentations and posters will shortly be available at www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/Meetings/IUCN_2004.htm.
- **Ecosystems for sale in an unequal world (19th November 2004)**
The Katoomba Group hosted this workshop on the potential of emerging markets for carbon sequestration, payments for habitat restoration and their implications for biodiversity conservation. It was followed by the launch of the [Ecosystem Marketplace](#), a web-based platform for information on emerging ecosystem markets. The press release can be accessed at: www.iucn.org/congress/documents/press/2004-11-19-markets.pdf
- **Balancing growth with conservation: Innovations & lessons from integrated natural resource management (20th November 2004)**
This session highlighted some of the Future Harvest International Research Centre's work on balancing agricultural productivity with conservation objectives. Case studies featured landscape-scale approaches to integrated resource management and trade-off analysis within rainforest margins.
- Ecoagriculture within dryland ecosystems was also addressed by the [Desertification, Drought, Poverty and Agriculture Challenge Programme's](#) consultative workshop.
- Grassroots leadership to conserve biodiversity and enhance rural livelihoods was a central theme of the Congress. The [Community Mubaan](#) hosted by the UNDP/Equator Initiative, provided space for thematic

discussions, training sessions and cultural events to highlight successes and challenges associated with local biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use.

- The Congress provided a platform to announce the twelve finalists of the first **Seed Awards** – “an international competition to find promising partnerships with outstanding potential to spur economic growth, promote social development and foster environmental stewardship at the local level”. The Awards have been developed by the [Seed Initiative](#), a partnership between IUCN, UNEP and UNDP, with Partnerships Central and the Global Public Policy Institute. Ecoagriculture innovation featured significantly amongst the work of the finalists, particularly with respect to developing and strengthening product markets. Further details on all finalists can be found on the Seed Initiative's website: <http://seedinit.org/>

4. Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group: Food Security and Wildlife Conservation Meeting

On October 29, 2004, the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group ([ABCG](#)) and the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force ([BCTF](#)) held a meeting to: 1) discuss the linkages between food security and biodiversity conservation; 2) learn about successful efforts to prevent poaching by addressing the hunger situation and farming practices of local communities; and 3) identify areas for possible field-level collaboration between the conservation community, agricultural and food security sectors and other stakeholders in Africa. Presenters highlighted the emerging role of [ecoagriculture](#), innovative efforts by the [Wildlife Conservation Society in Zambia](#) to link rural markets, food security, and natural resources management, linkages between food security and the [bushmeat crisis](#), and efforts by the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) on agricultural extension. See: http://www.frameweb.org/ev.php?ID=10397201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

5. ACICAFOC: GEF Grant for Community Ecosystem Management

The Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Central America Indigenous and Peasant Coordination Association for Community Agroforestry (ACICAFOC) and several other organizations are cooperating on a large-scale five-year joint program to promote sustainable development in Indigenous communities in Central America. The project will prevent land degradation that threatens environmental services, livelihoods and the economic well-being of approximately 558 indigenous communities while conserving the region's high, but increasingly threatened, biodiversity resources. For more information on the project please go to: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=104231&piPK=73230&theSite%20PK=40941&menuPK=228424&Projectid=P075219>.

6. The Nature Conservancy: Ecoagriculture Research in Central America

At the end of 2004, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a global environmental NGO and ally of Ecoagriculture Partners, launched a two-year research project on the impact of melon and pineapple production on biodiversity at the agri-forest



frontier in Central America. It is expected that the innovative, rigorous scientific knowledge to be generated by TNC and its partners will significantly contribute to the development of effective conservation strategies directed at reducing and mitigating the long-term impact that these crops currently have on biodiversity. The project's importance is evident in view of the implementation of the free trade agreement recently signed by the US and Central American countries (CAFTA). It is forecasted that the production of extensive, non-traditional, agroindustrial export commodities such as melon and pineapple will definitely rise over the next decade and put further pressure on the region's fragile ecosystems and species if no effective conservation action is undertaken. For more information go to <http://nature.org/wherework/centralamerica/>

ECOAGRICULTURE RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. New Tool: EPA Guidelines on Beneficial Landscaping

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promoting the concept of "beneficial landscaping" for urban and rural homeowners. Beneficial landscaping includes a variety of landscaping practices that yield environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits. These practices include "using native plants and appropriate non-natives for landscaping; minimizing clearing and construction's adverse effects on natural habitat; implementing water-efficient practices and plantings; using shade trees, windbreaks, natural hedgerows, buffers and screens; and preventing pollution of air, water, and land by decreasing or eliminating use of chemicals and power lawn maintenance equipment, reducing runoff, and recycling green waste." EPA recommendations for practicing "beneficial landscaping" can be found at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/>.

2. New Tool: Groundwater Flow Models

Envision Environmental Education, a manufacturer of modified-aquarium groundwater-flow simulation models, offers a variety of custom models to help researchers understand and predict influences of human activities on the groundwater at specific sites. It is an excellent research, outreach and education tool. For more information, including ordering details, go to <http://www.envisionenviroed.net/>

3. New CD: Bushmeat "Resources and Results"

The Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) recently publicly posted a comprehensive CD of their activities and findings, entitled "Resources & Results: BCTF 2000-2004". It contains the BCTF Phase I Report, a 155-page comprehensive review of administration, activities and results through September 2004. Accompanying the CD is a full color, six-panel folder designed to illustrate key bushmeat issues and the work of BCTF, its members and partners. See the BCTF's January newsletter, Bushmeat Bulletin: <http://www.bushmeat.org/bulletin/04January.html>.

4. New IDRC Program: "Cities Feeding People"

The International Development Research Centre recently began a new urban agriculture initiative, the "Cities Feeding People Program" (CFP). CFP is trying to develop policies that help integrate urban agriculture into sustainable urban management practices by supporting research and development activities that increase the food security and incomes of the poor while maintaining public health and a clean urban environment.

Through CFP projects, the Program Initiative is seeking to create a better understanding of the constraints faced by urban farmers, especially women, who are often hampered by unfavorable local policies and limited access to resources. CFP also supports research that examines the political economy of urban agriculture, including access to credit and investment schemes, the role of UA in the recycling chain, and links with rural agriculture. For more information on this program, go to http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-5911-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

CALL FOR PAPERS OR PARTNERS:

1. Call for Proposals: UNESCO's Small Grant Program

The UNESCO Small Grants Program will be providing individual project grants in the amount of \$10,000 (upper ceiling) to institutionally-based mid-career professionals at universities, specialized research centers, relevant government departments, NGOs, etc. Three grants will be earmarked for state-of-the-art reviews of the literature on poverty and human rights (one in each of the three regions) to be allocated on a competitive basis to qualifying members of the CROP [Comparative Research Programme on Poverty] network. For more information on these grants, go to our website at http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/pdfs/proposals/UNESCO_3-31-05.pdf. The deadline for proposals is March 31st, 2005.

2. Call for Applications: The Kinship Conservation Institute (KCI) Fellowship

The Kinship Conservation Institute (KCI) will be inviting 18 conservationists to participate in a month-long paid fellowship in Bozeman, Montana, from May 31 to June 30, 2005. KCI is a rare paid training opportunity for you to spend a month focusing on one environmental problem that your organization needs to resolve and come up with a market-based solution. For more information on this fellowship, go to <http://www.kinshipconservationinstitute.org>. The deadline to apply is February 1st, 2005.

3. Call for Applications: 2005-2006 Gordon and Betty Moore Graduate Scholarships for Tropical Forest Conservation in the Andes-Amazon Region

The Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program and the School for Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida (UF) announce a competition for the Gordon and Betty Moore Graduate Scholarships to support Master's and Doctoral level study in tropical forest



conservation of the Andes-Amazon region by residents of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. Applicants should demonstrate the relevance of their proposed research and course of study to one of the following themes: Protected area management; regional planning and policy; sustainable forest management and community-based natural resource management. For more information on this scholarship, go to www.latam.ufl.edu/tcd/prs.html. **The application deadline is in early February.**

4. Call for Applications: John D. Rockefeller 3rd Scholars Program – Payments for Ecosystem Services

In early 2005, the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Scholars Program will begin to explore the potential of payments for environment services (PES) to benefit poor, rural communities with a three-year research team. Preference will be given to research focusing on an ecological region that crosses the borders of China, Thailand and/or Vietnam. Go to Winrock International's website www.winrock.org/announcements for the official announcement and application instructions. **Proposal deadline to be announced.**

5. Seeking Support: Videography on Ecoagriculture

Prof. Subir Ghosh has been doing research on hydroponics and the cultivation of wetlands in Bangladesh. He is seeking someone to donate a video camera to his project to enable him to use videography in his research. For more information, contact Prof. Ghosh at wrds@btb.net.bd. More information on this project can be found at [http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=article-details.tpl&pf_id\]=70481](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=article-details.tpl&pf_id]=70481).

6. Seeking Support: The Moringa Proposal in DRC

Moringa oleifera is a wonderful tropical tree with a litany of potential. Indeed, leaves contain about 40% of proteins (dry weight), more calcium than milk, more vitamin A than carrots, more vitamin C than lemons/oranges, more potassium than bananas, etc. They also contain a lot of micronutrients such as selenium, zinc, etc. Seeds contain nutritious oil, powder from seeds wastes (tourteaux) after the extraction of oil is used to purify water (drinking water). Due to high content in nitrogen, Moringa restores soil fertility and is well used in agroforestry. Prof. Musibono has been working for several years with very poor communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo to introduce and develop small enterprises based on Moringa. The main objective of the project is to combat malnutrition and vitamin A deficiency, to develop integrated agroforestry and therefore to reduce pressure on wetlands and gallery/vestigial forests, and to reduce the poverty by increasing income sources. Prof. Musibono's, ERGS SOS Environment, Inc., is seeking collaborators and financial support to scale up this project to several hundred communities. For more information, contact Prof. Dieudonne Musibono (MUSIBONO@unhcr.ch), Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kinshasa, P.O.Box 190, KINSHASA XI, DRC.

CALENDAR OF RELATED UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. First Conference in the Framework of the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Soy

March 2005 - A coalition of NGOs and private sector soy-businesses are hosting the First Conference in the Framework of the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Soy. The Roundtable (RSS) is charged with addressing the ecological, social and economic impacts of the growing soy market, especially in South America. A first conference on March 17th and 18th, 2005 is planned to jointly start the process with all stakeholders involved in soy production and trade. For more information visit the RSS website: <http://www.sustainablesoy.org/>

2. Ninth North American Agroforestry Conference on "Moving Agroforestry into the Mainstream"

June 2005 - The Ninth North American Agroforestry Conference of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry (AFTA) will be held June 12 – 15, 2005 at the Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota. The theme for this conference, "Moving Agroforestry into the Mainstream," is intended to attract people interested in the production and environmental benefits of agroforestry. The intent of this conference is to provide a forum for practitioners, scientists, NGOs and agency representatives to share their experiences and discuss production and environmental benefits provided by different agroforestry systems. For more information on this conference, visit <http://cinram.umn.edu/afta2005/>

3. COHAB 2005 – First International Conference on the Importance of Biodiversity to Human Health

August 2005 - The First International Conference on the Importance of Biodiversity to Human Health will be held in Galway, Ireland from 23rd to 25th August 2005, at the Galway Radisson SAS Hotel. The Conference aims to highlight the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to global and human health; to further promote biodiversity as an essential component in achieving the MDGs; to highlight some of the major issues which have arisen in human societies as a result of anthropogenic ecological change; to highlight the risks which human impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity present to human health and welfare; to encourage further interdisciplinary and international communication on the issues; and to stimulate greater awareness among policy makers and the wider public. For more information on the conference, see their website: www.cohab2005.com.

4. WILD Foundation 8th World Wilderness Congress

October 2005 - The WILD Foundation will collaborate with partners such as the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Tropical Forests and other NGOs to identify case studies of Indigenous community forest management that can be shared and analyzed in a special "Future for Forests" session at the 8th World Wilderness Congress' Native Lands Wilderness Council. Entitled "Future for Forests: Community Management of Forest Systems", this session will present a coherent set of effective community-based models of local forest management, clarifying new and necessary

