



Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

When Ecoagriculture Partners had its first strategic planning meeting in February 2003, the group decided that our first steps should be to gather together leading innovators from around the world, to determine “the state of the art” of ecoagriculture; on that foundation, we would decide how to proceed. From the seed planted there came the first International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners’ Fair held in Nairobi, Kenya September 27-October 1. For me, it was both thrilling and humbling to see the creativity, dedication and achievements of the participants there. They included pastoralists from Mongolia, community activists from Nigeria and Zimbabwe, beekeepers from Nepal; researchers from some of the world’s top universities and think tanks; food industry leaders from multinational companies and small-scale entrepreneurs; conservationists from both large international and grassroots organizations, local organic agriculture leaders, and government policymakers.

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poverty to one of environmental stewardship and thriving rural economies? I left Nairobi with a clear sense of the challenges involved, but also highly optimistic that so much of the essential work is already underway.

The most critical work of the conference took place in group discussions. These resulted not only in the sharing of knowledge and experience, but in concrete, thoughtful and detailed recommendations for action. Ecoagriculture Partners is in the process of translating those recommendations into a draft Strategic Plan of Action 2005-2007. We will soon send this to all our partners through the listserv, for your input. Meanwhile, many of the Working Groups formed at the conference have continued to develop their ideas and are drafting Concept Notes for discussion over the next few months. We encourage you to join these Working Groups even if you were not in Nairobi, and we will send out guidelines for doing so after the New Year. Stay tuned—in 2005 we will begin turning those recommendations into action.

Sara J. Scherr  
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\*Employment Opportunities can be found on our website:  
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### Calendar of Related Upcoming Events

1. The First DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference
2. Conference on Farming Systems and Poverty: Making a Difference

\*For a full list, please see our Website’s events page  
[www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/events.htm](http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/events.htm)



## ECOAGRICULTURE PARTNERS UPDATE:

### 1. International Ecoagriculture Conference: Post-Conference Review

The International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair, held in Nairobi, Kenya, September 25-October 1, 2004, was a watershed event. The meeting was attended by more than 200 of the world's leading innovators in ecoagriculture from 46 countries, with an unusual mix of grassroots community group leaders, researchers in agriculture and ecosystem management, agriculture and rural development professionals, agribusiness and food industry leaders, conservation leaders and public agency officials. We debated the definition of 'ecoagriculture'—and concluded that it is best thought of as a framework to achieve joint production, conservation and livelihood outcomes, rather than a particular set of practices, and that its focus should lie on achieving those outcomes at landscape- or ecosystem scale.

More than 30 commissioned papers were presented, and many outstanding posters, which will be made publicly available soon on our website. There was also a rich array of resources contributed at the meeting, many of which will also go up on our website next year. The Community Shamba included a two-day pre-conference meeting with grassroots community leaders from around the world, who then participated fully in all other elements of the program (see website coverage at: <http://www.equatorinitiative.org>). The beautiful new bamboo hut ICRAF built especially for our meeting was the home of the Shamba group. The music, drums and dancing at our social events took place around this Bamboo Hut.

There were high-energy discussions about ecoagriculture approaches in different farming systems as well as working group discussions related to our major Themes:

- Understanding Ecoagriculture: Scientific Foundations
- Managing Ecoagriculture at a Landscape Scale
- Valuing Ecoagriculture for Livelihoods and Business and
- Mobilizing Community Ecoagriculture: Local to Global.

A panel of policy leaders discussed priority directions for policy action. We organized 12 one-day field trips to visit diverse ecoagriculture initiatives in various parts of Kenya. We are really grateful for the warmth and hospitality as well as the inspiration of these ecoagriculture innovators. We were also very appreciative of the outstanding organization and facilities at the World Agroforestry Centre, which hosted the conference. We warmly thank all of the participants, speakers, panelists, theme and working group leaders, and the conference secretariat staff (led by Claire Rhodes) for making the conference such a success and all our co-sponsors for their support. Various reports, as well as photographs and materials from the Conference, can be found on our website, <http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org>, and a detailed Conference report will be coming soon.

### 2. Nairobi Declaration on Ecoagriculture

An important outcome of the Ecoagriculture Conference in Nairobi was the crafting of the "Nairobi Declaration on

Ecoagriculture." While the group of people attending the conference was highly diverse and had differing opinions about strategies and priorities to achieve ecoagriculture, they were able to reach consensus about a framework of outcomes and to recommend a broad range of actions required to achieve those outcomes. To download a copy of the Declaration, go to: [http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/Meetings/Nairobi2004/nairobi\\_dec.php](http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/Meetings/Nairobi2004/nairobi_dec.php).

Versions in Spanish, French, and in Portuguese should be coming soon, and we hope that some of you will be willing to translate the Declaration into your own national or local language. We will post these translations, and hope that you will find them useful in raising awareness and excitement about ecoagriculture in your countries.

## PARTNERS' NEWS:

### 1. Launch of the Katoomba Group's Ecosystem Marketplace

Forest Trends, a Washington DC-based NGO and institutional host to Ecoagriculture Partners, launched a new initiative in mid-October: The Katoomba Group's Ecosystem Marketplace. The Marketplace serves as a place where providers and beneficiaries of ecosystem services can get together to capture the value associated with ecosystem services. It provides a coordinated and informative platform for providers and users of ecosystem services to meet and communicate. The Marketplace further provides up-to-date information, news, and expertise on ecosystem service markets. For more information go to <http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com>

### 2. IUCN-World Conservation Congress

The Third World Conservation Congress begins this week in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 5000 participants have registered! The Congress combines the business of the IUCN with technical conservation fora and provides an opportunity for the sharing of information and experience among IUCN's worldwide constituency of members, Commission members, stakeholders and partner organizations. Of particular note, the Congress will host several special sessions and exhibitions dealing specifically with the progress and practice of Ecoagriculture. For more information on this event, go to the WCC website at <http://www.iucn.org/congress/index.cfm>

### 3. UNEP Finance Initiative Launches New Website

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) recently released a completely redeveloped website to showcase the work of UNEP FI and its signatories. To view the website, go to <http://www.unepfi.org/>

### 4. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Expands International Conservation Website

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of International Conservation has recently made significant improvements to its website in an effort to provide a more efficient and informative resource for its partners to find information about conservation programs. Updated information on species



conservation grant programs for great apes, African elephants, and rhinos can also be found on this new site. Questions about programs, and other Wildlife Without Borders efforts, can be directed to Jeff Flocken, International Affairs Specialist, USFWS ([jeff\\_flocken@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_flocken@fws.gov)). The new site can be found at: <http://international.fws.gov/DICprograms/wwbp.htm>.

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## 5. Kyoto Protocol is Ratified! (the first baby steps to slow climate change)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has announced that the Kyoto Protocol was ratified by the State Duma of Russia (22 October) and the Federation Council (27 October). Russia's instrument of ratification must be received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York, then within 90 days the Kyoto Protocol will enter into force.

The Protocol creates obligations for developed countries to reduce or offset their greenhouse gas emissions, either through their own energy or land use initiatives, or by purchasing "credits" from developing countries. The Protocol could potentially support ecoagriculture by financing land and forest restoration and biodiversity conservation on a landscape scale, if the rules are written to encourage that. The Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (governing offsets in developing countries) is now working on a project design document about methodologies and projects for "afforestation and reforestation". They have also approved methods for CDM projects on greenhouse gases emissions from "manure management." For more information, see: [www.unfccc.org](http://www.unfccc.org). Check your own "carbon footprint" at <http://www.safeclimate.net/calculator/>

## ECOAGRICULTURE RESOURCE MATERIALS

### 1. New Report: "Who Conserves the World's Forests?"

Current approaches to conserving the world's forests and forest biodiversity face major problems of cost, sustainability, effectiveness and conflicts over rights. A study just published by Forest Trends and Ecoagriculture Partners has found that there is at least as much forest area under community conservation (370 million hectares) as is under conservation in forested public protected areas. The actual area could be double or triple this estimate if traditional agroforestry and agropastoral systems are included. Communities are currently spending a rough estimate of US\$1.2-2.6 billion per year on forest management and conservation—about the same amount developing countries allocate to their public protected area systems and 2-3 times the annual allocation for forest conservation of Overseas Development Assistance from all sources. *Who Conserves the World's Forests? Community-Driven Strategies to Protect Forests and Respect Rights*, by Augusta Molnar, Sara J. Scherr and Arvind Khare, analyzes these data and proposes strategies for more effective support of community forest conservation. The paper may be downloaded from: <http://www.forest-trends.org>, or [www.ecoagriculturepartners.org](http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org). A longer report by the same authors will soon be available as well.

### 2. New Article: Policies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development: A Time for Action

In August the GFAR (Global Forum for Agricultural Research) featured a new article, *Policies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development: A Time for Action*. The article identifies strategic policy priorities aimed at accelerating sustainable agriculture and rural development in developing countries. The full text of this article can be found at <http://www.egfar.org/tools/august2004/newssec.html#FA>.

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### 3. New Report: "Hydrological Functions of Tropical Forests: Not Seeing the Soil for the Trees"

Sampurno Bruijnzeel's new report *Hydrological Functions of Tropical Forests, Not Seeing the Soil for the Trees*, which deals with the myths, science, and consequences of soil conservation, is now available for download. For the full text, go to <http://www.asb.cgiar.org>.

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### 4. Newsletter: Global Forum on Agricultural Research

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) publishes a quarterly e-newsletter to disseminate information on GFAR activities, on events and meetings being organized by the various stakeholders, and on important inter-stakeholder initiatives that are being organized. For back-issues and sign-up information, go to <http://www.egfar.org/tools/newsletter.shtml>.

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### 5. Newsletter: ILEIA Quarterly E-Newsletter on Sustainable Agriculture

ILEIA invites interested parties to sign up for E-ILEISA, the quarterly news brief that brings you up to date with field-based experiences and developments on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA). This newsletter carries highlights from the global edition of the LEISA Magazine, published by ILEIA and its regional partners, that is available online at <http://www.leisa.info>.

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### 6. Newsletter: North American Farming Systems Association

The North American Farming Systems Association, one of six regional associations of the International Farming Systems Association, now releases a regular Listserv newsletter covering farmer participatory research, on-farm research, interdisciplinary agricultural and food systems research, rural development, and other information and innovations in agricultural production throughout the Americas. To subscribe to the listserv, contact Sue Ellen Johnson at [sejohnson@smallfarm.org](mailto:sejohnson@smallfarm.org) (telephone: 413-323-4531)



## CALL FOR PAPERS OR PARTNERS:

### 1. Call for Proposals: IFS-CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) are issuing a call for grant research proposals to young scientists. The purpose of the grants is to provide opportunities for young researchers to contribute to the generation of scientific knowledge relevant to achieving food security and poverty alleviation as expressed in the formulation of the Challenge Program on Water and Food. More details can be downloaded here <http://www.waterforfood.org/text/IFS-CPWF%20research%20call%20Oct04.doc>, or at the CPWF or IFS web pages (<http://www.waterforfood.org> or <http://www.ifs.se>).

Applications are due no later than December 31, 2004.

### 2. Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program – Summer Course

The Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) at the College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley is seeking applicants for the 2005 summer certificate course in Sustainable Environmental Management. The Beahrs ELP links the complex local and global environmental challenges of practitioners and decision-makers around the world with state-of-the-art knowledge and interdisciplinary perspectives in environmental and natural resource science, management, policy and leadership at U.C. Berkeley. The core component of the Beahrs ELP is an annual three-week summer course in Sustainable Environmental Management held on the Berkeley campus. In 2005, the Beahrs ELP will collaborate with the Haas School of Business to also offer an additional one-week course on Business Training for Environmental Professionals. Course graduates become members of the Beahrs ELP Berkeley Alumni Network that supports on-going learning, peer exchange and collaborative research and policy projects through the Small Grants Initiative.

The 2005 course brochure and application may be downloaded from the web site:

<http://cnr.berkeley.edu/BeahrsELP>. Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2005.

### 3. Request for Information: Winter Canola-Wheat Rotations

J.E. writes: "I am a student in the United States, at Oklahoma State University. I am wondering what anyone knows about the growing of winter canola in Oklahoma to rotate in with wheat crops. (Normally, canola is grown in the northern U.S. and in Canada.) Thanks."

Please send responses to [jessica.eissfeldt@okstate.edu](mailto:jessica.eissfeldt@okstate.edu)

## CALENDAR OF RELATED UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 1. The First DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference

The second call for the First DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference "Integrating biodiversity science for human well-being" is now out. The second call includes information on the science program, related activities and social events, as well as the call for abstracts and a special call for young scientists and developing country scientists. You can visit the conference website at <http://www.diversitas-osc1.org>.

More information can be found at [http://www.diversitas-international.org/second\\_call.pdf](http://www.diversitas-international.org/second_call.pdf). You may also contact DIVERSITAS directly with questions at [info@diversitas-osc1.org](mailto:info@diversitas-osc1.org).

### 2. Conference on Farming Systems and Poverty: Making a Difference

In an upcoming conference in September 2005, the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA), FAO and IFAD will bring together development practitioners, educators, researchers, representatives of farmer and producers organizations, civil society organizations, private businesses, and bilateral and multilateral organizations and development agencies. The purpose is to analyze and propose strategies and options – building on the IFSA inputs to the ECOSOC Summit on Integrated Rural Development – to capture promising opportunities to attain the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to rural poverty, food security, gender equity and environment sustainability. Through sharing relevant experiences, success stories and constraints, participants will focus on advancing development priorities, mobilizing resources, and forming alliances and partnerships. The Conference will be held in Rome between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2005. For more information go to:

<http://www.agecon.ucdavis.edu/graduateprogram/ourgradstuds/jobs/GLO-farming.pdf>