

Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

The last few months have been a dynamic period for Ecoagriculture Partners, as we set up the new arrangements as an NGO. We have just begun the process of updating our website to reflect our organizational changes. Let me take this opportunity to once again thank Forest Trends, IUCN and ICRAF, for their vital early sponsorship of this initiative. They remain closely involved in our activities and well-represented on our board and project steering committees. Forest Trends continues to be our “host” and will provide key management services in this early period of growth. (I remain active in FT’s Ecosystem Services program.)

Indeed, our commitment to Partnership remains core to our identity. Our status as an NGO should give us even more flexibility to pursue and promote new and unconventional partnerships. I am delighted to announce that to help guide this work, Minu Hemmati, an international leader in development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, has just joined our Board of Directors. Other good news: our “Ecoagriculture Outcome Measures” project was launched last month with a Steering Committee meeting of six institutional partners – and others joining soon. The report from the Nairobi Ecoagriculture Conference, just published electronically, clearly illustrates the learning and networking opportunities created by bringing together such a diversity of actors (see below).

We have also been refining our “Vision” and “Mission” statements to more clearly communicate our work. Write and let us know what you think of this draft:

*“Ecoagriculture Partners’ **Vision** is that agricultural communities in ecologically-important and -sensitive areas around the world will actively manage their landscapes as ecoagriculture—enhancing rural livelihoods and sustainable production of crops, livestock, fish and forests, while also conserving or restoring biodiversity, watersheds and other ecosystem services. Ecoagriculture Partners’ **Mission** is to catalyze dialogue, strategic connections and joint action among the diverse actors, at local, national and international levels, needed to support community efforts to create and sustain ecoagriculture landscapes.”*

Sara J. Scherr
Director, Ecoagriculture Partners

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ECOAGRICULTURE PARTNERS UPDATE:

1. Launching the Ecoagriculture Outcome Measures Project

A major goal of Ecoagriculture Partners' Strategic Plan for 2005-2008 is to make a convincing case—credible to communities, scientists and policymakers—for the benefits of ecoagriculture through a systematic analysis of outcomes at a landscape scale of diverse types of ecoagriculture systems. Participants at the Nairobi Ecoagriculture Conference last year identified the difficulties of making such assessments as a major barrier and recommended action to address it. The objective of our new Ecoagriculture Measures Project is to identify and field-test practical indicators and methods for ecoagriculture initiatives (of both conservation and agricultural agencies as well as local ecoagriculture practitioners) to use in monitoring and evaluating ecoagriculture outcomes at a landscape scale. Anticipated outputs are:

- 1) Development of an Ecoagriculture Outcome Measures Toolkit that can be disseminated to encourage widespread documentation of ecoagriculture systems, with integrated analysis of progress achieved on the "three pillars" of ecoagriculture outcomes;
- 2) Measurement of ecoagriculture outcomes in at least 12 landscapes;
- 3) A learning network established for ongoing discussion and refining of the indicators and methodologies among practitioners and researchers.

A first meeting of the International Steering Committee in March included participants from the Alternatives to Slash and Burn Project, CATIE, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and World Agroforestry Centre. Conservation International, the Swaminathan Research Foundation and Winrock International are also contributing, and technical experts from diverse organizations are advising the group. Our thanks to The Nature Conservancy, The World Bank and Forest Trends for financial support for the planning phase of this project.

2. Minu Hemmati joins Ecoagriculture Board

We welcome the newest member of our Board – Minu Hemmati. Holding a doctorate in organizational and environmental psychology, Minu was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Saarbrücken, Germany, 1992-1998. Since 1998, she has been working as advisor and program coordinator with NGOs, governments, international agencies and corporations, and presently is Coordinator of the SEED Initiative. Minu has regularly participated at United Nations Summits and Commission meetings since 1996, covering sustainable development, urbanization and gender issues. Minu was closely involved in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (South Africa, August 2002), contributing to deliberations on 'WSSD Partnerships', and coordinating the 'Implementation Conference: Stakeholder Action for Our Common Future', held immediately prior to the Summit in Johannesburg. This multi-stakeholder process resulted in over 20 partnership initiatives in the areas of freshwater, energy, food security and health. Her book "*Multi-stakeholder Processes for Governance and Sustainability - Beyond Deadlock and Conflict*" was published by Earthscan, London, in January 2002. Minu was actively involved in the International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair in Nairobi, supporting partnership development.

The Board of Directors of Ecoagriculture Partners will be growing further over the next year to ensure the diverse perspectives and critical skills needed to shape our policies and work program. The individuals who earlier served on EP's Executive Committee became the founding members of our Board: Jeffrey McNeely (Chief Scientist of IUCN-World Conservation Union) as Chair; Michael Jenkins (President, Forest Trends) as Vice-Chair; Dennis Garrity (Director-General of the World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF), as Treasurer; Sara J. Scherr (Ecoagriculture Partners) as President. Minu Hemmati (SEED Initiative) will serve as Secretary.



3. Ecoagriculture Photo Competition Results

Ecoagriculture Partners is pleased to announce the final results from September's ecoagriculture photo competition. We received 35 entries (28 in electronic form), with a diversity of subjects and geography ranging from Sri Lankan tea fields to African honey farms to indigenous Amazonian rubber harvesting. We would like to congratulate everyone who participated – all the pictures were beautiful – and especially Vanaja Ramprasad of the Green Foundation, who took the grand prize for her photo of an indigenous woman adorned with a crown of millet. Vanaja also won for best photo illustrating Valuing Ecoagriculture for her photograph of “Seeds of Diversity” and for Mobilizing Ecoagriculture for “Participatory Seed Selection.”

Martina Galang of the Philippines won best photo on Understanding Ecoagriculture for “Dananao Indigenous Community Rice Terraces.” Luke Simmons of the Philippines best illustrated Managing Ecoagriculture with his picture of “Shade Trees in Tea.” To see these and other participants' photographs and descriptions, go to www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/photos.htm. Many thanks to the talented photographers who served as contest judges, Conrad Mudibo and Neil Thomas.

4. Nairobi Ecoagriculture Conference Report Published

We are pleased to announce the on-line publication of the main report from last September's International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair in Nairobi: ***Ecoagriculture Innovation: Assessment and Recommendations from Global Innovators***, edited by Claire Rhodes and Sara J. Scherr. Separate volumes with all of the Abstracts, Discussion Group Notes, Annexes and Conference Evaluations will be posted shortly on our website: www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/Meetings/EP_2004_Nairobi.htm. Thanks to Claire Rhodes for her dedicated work on these publications and to Erin Hale for her assistance.

PARTNERS' NEWS:

1. Paris Biodiversity Conference: Workshop on Agriculture and Biodiversity

An international conference on “Biodiversity Science and Governance” was held in Paris, January 24-28, 2005, organized by the French Ministry for Research under the patronage of President Jacques Chirac of France and Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. Over 1000 people participated. The objectives were to assess current knowledge and needs for research and scientific expertise and to examine public and private approaches to biodiversity preservation and management. In addition to plenary sessions on challenges, status, trends and benefits of biodiversity, 14 topic workshops were offered.

The workshop drawing the greatest participation—more than 200 people—was on “Agriculture and Biodiversity: Policies, Institutions and Practices”. Moderator of the workshop

was Harison E. Randriarimanana, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Madagascar. Rapporteurs included Sara Scherr, President of Ecoagriculture Partners; Emile Frison, Director-General of IPGRI, and Jacques Baudry, of the National Institute for Agricultural Research-INRA of France. Henri Buller of the University of Exeter, Emile Frison and Bernard Hubert of INRA coordinated the session. The workshop included 17 presentations (among them Jeff McNeely of IUCN and other EP partners), plus discussion, and produced a set of recommendations for action that highlighted the need to: recognize biodiversity as an integral part of agricultural systems; strengthen multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary planning, research and implementation; reshape markets and institutions; and recognize the dependence of biodiversity conservation on agriculture. For more information, check the conference website: <http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/>. A video of Bob Watson's report of recommendations to the final plenary is available on the site. An IISD Summary may be found at <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/icb/sdvol100num5e.html>.

2. 10th Meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD SBSTTA-10)

From 7-11 February 2005 approximately 400 delegates convened in Bangkok, Thailand for CBD SBSTTA-10. SBSTTA represents the scientific body formed to provide implementation advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Key issues discussed during SBSTTA-10 included: developing an island biodiversity work program; indicators for assessing progress towards reducing biodiversity loss; outcomes of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA); implementing a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition; and reviewing progress of the ‘Global Taxonomy Initiative’ (GTI). Other discussions of particular relevance to ecoagriculture addressed: perverse incentives, including agricultural subsidies; the ‘International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity’; and the potential impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) on biodiversity.

Key points raised included the role of the ‘Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition initiative’ in highlighting the importance of sustainable biodiversity use in delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the removal of perverse incentives, including agricultural subsidies, being crucial to biodiversity conservation; the uncertainty surrounding environmental and socioeconomic impacts of GURTs; and the need for strict risk assessment on a case-by-case basis, as well as further action to protect traditional knowledge and farmers' rights to seeds.

Recommendations from the meeting will be used to support preparations for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, to be held in Brazil during 2006. Overall, the meeting was considered to reflect the growing political momentum and commitment to achieving the internationally-agreed target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. In-depth coverage of discussions and outcomes can be found on the Earth Negotiations Bulletin website: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/asc/enb09306e.txt>



3. Meeting of Global Design Team of IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development)

Nearly 100 experts from around the world and spanning the full range of disciplines and institutions met in Bangkok on 30 January – 3 February 2005 to discuss the question: “How can we reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology?” The discussion was of considerable relevance to Ecoagriculture, about the “Plausible Scenarios” that should be used in the analysis of tropical agriculture and future paradigms for agricultural science and technology. It was also very encouraging that the overall focus of much of the discussion about the Fundamental Question was how to make sure that future approaches to agricultural science and technology were based on the local knowledge of small-scale farmers, as well as the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the land. An overall assessment – a book made up of about 20 multi-authored papers – is pending and will be announced in a future newsletter.

This note was provided by Roger Leakey of James Cook University, He, Karen Luz of the World Bank, Jeff McNeely of IUCN and other EP partners participated in the Design meeting.

4. Launch of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report:

A landmark study begun in 2001—the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment \(MA\) Synthesis Report](#)—was released March 30, 2005. It is the product of the work of more than 1,300 scientists and other experts from 95 countries, including many EP partners. The study found that approximately 60 percent of the ecosystem services that support life on Earth—such as fresh water, capture fisheries, air and water regulation, and the regulation of regional climate, natural hazards and pests—are being degraded or used unsustainably. Scientists warn that the harmful consequences of this degradation could grow significantly worse in the next 50 years and that any progress achieved in addressing the goals of poverty and hunger eradication, improved health, and environmental protection is unlikely to be sustained if most of the ecosystem services on which humanity relies continue to be degraded.

Although evidence remains incomplete, there is enough for the experts to warn that the ongoing degradation of 15 of the 24 ecosystem services examined is increasing the likelihood of potentially abrupt changes that will seriously affect human well-being. This includes the emergence of new diseases, sudden changes in water quality, creation of “dead zones” along the coasts, the collapse of fisheries and shifts in regional climate. The full report is available on www.MAWeb.org. A popularized, easily accessible version of the MA General Synthesis may be found at <http://www.greenfacts.org/ecosystems/>.

5. Integrated Silvopastoral Approaches to Ecosystem Management in Central America

This project on integrated silvo-pastoral approaches in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Colombia was launched in mid-2002. The project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Livestock, Environment and Development (LEAD) Initiative. Other partners include CATIE, CIPAV, NITLAPAN, American Bird Conservancy, FAO, and the World Bank. Goals include: sustainable silvopastoral systems established in the three countries (35,000 ha), increased habitat for at least 50 bird species, stable carbon sequestered in the soil and in commercial wood under silvopastoral systems (490,000 tons/year), increased water quality in three important watersheds in Latin America and improved resource monitoring methodologies developed for measuring carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, water quality in watersheds and socio economic aspects. The project is setting up a new benefit-sharing mechanism at farm and community level for biodiversity and carbon sequestration services as incentives for integrated ecosystem management, with payment from an Eco-Services Fund set up by project funders. For more information on the project, see: <http://www.virtualcentre.org/en/frame.htm>.

ECOAGRICULTURE RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. Online Database: Traditional Knowledge Digital Libraries

South Asian countries will create a digital library of the region’s traditional knowledge—including much agricultural knowledge—and develop laws to prevent such knowledge being misappropriated through commercial patents. The plan was announced at a Conference in New Delhi by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Participants at the workshop have begun drawing up a technical framework for classifying the region’s traditional knowledge to create a digital library comprising individual Traditional Knowledge Digital Libraries (TKDL) from each country in South Asia. Although a launch-date has not been announced, the database will be accessible by internet. More information about the TKDL can be found at <http://www.patentmatics.org/pub2002/pub69.htm> and elsewhere on the internet.

2. Online Newsletter: People, Land Management and Ecosystem Conservation (PLEC) News and Views

The March issue of PLEC News and Views is now available with articles that include ‘Working towards community-based ecosystem management in the Lower Amazon floodplain’; ‘Agrobiodiversity and the economic cost of agrochemical use among smallholder farmers in the Rio Grande Valley, Jamaica’; and ‘Land, women and opportunity in Northern Ghana.’

The webpage can be found at <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/anthropology/plec.php>, and PLECServ summaries, Numbers 49-53, can be downloaded from our site:

[No. 49: Market-led agrarian reform: a low-cost way of](#)



[achieving true redistribution?](#)

[No. 50: Planting like your neighbours: maize diversity in southern Mexico](#)

[No. 51: Popularizing hometown rural tourism in Japan: an uphill road](#)

[No. 52: Working beyond the gene giants](#)

[No. 53: Interplanting of different rices can lead to gene flow. What are the consequences?](#)

3. Network Support: Linking Local Learners Network

The networking group for farmers and agricultural scientists, Linking Local Learners (LLL), invites guests to review and join its website. LLL, which has large participant groups in East Africa, North America, Latin America and South Asia, provides a communication forum for agricultural actors to discuss best-practices, market behavior, experiences and experiments. LLL's website can be found at <http://www.linkinglearners.net>.

4. Network for Community Action: Inter-institutional Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture in Hillside (CIPASLA)

CIPASLA is a nonprofit consortium, formed by 15 institutions that include entities from the public sector, NGOs and international bodies. Their mission is to work together to develop and improve the standards of living of the inhabitants of the Ovejas River Watershed, Department of Cauca, Colombia. Their work is carried out through organized activities that are based on the principles of the logical chain of sustainability, while respecting local values and culture: organization, training, research, production, conservation of natural resources, processing and marketing.

The Consortium interacts with the community through the Association of Beneficiaries of the River Cabuyal Watershed (ASOBESURCA). This brings together the different organizational levels existing in the region and counts on community representation through the Governing Board and the General Assembly of CIPASLA Members. All participate in the definition and approval of plans to be carried out in the area and perform citizen vigilance in project implementation. For more information, see their website: <http://www.cipasla.org/>

5. New Book: *Landcare in the Philippines: Stories of People and Places*

Landcare in the Philippines: Stories of People and Places, by J. Metcalfe, contains a wide perspective of individual stories about the development of landcare in the Philippines. The book is a compilation of stories told by forty Pilipino storytellers from diverse perspectives, including landcare pioneers, farmers, facilitators, government representatives and community groups. The book is available for download or purchase at <http://www.aciar.gov.au/web.nsf/doc/ACIA-66CW4P>.

6. New Book: *The Pesticide Detox*

The Pesticide Detox: Towards a More Sustainable Agriculture, by Jules Pretty, investigates the hidden costs (in terms of health and environmental impacts) of extensive pesticide use and presents an array of currently-employed alternatives that help improve yields while avoiding these hazardous chemicals. This book can be ordered by going to <http://styluspub.com/books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=100395>.

7. New Book: *Life after Logging: Reconciling Wildlife Conservation and Production Forestry in Indonesian Borneo*

Logging – especially in Indonesia's tropical rainforests – has a profound negative impact on biodiversity. While halting such human activities is not an option in regions where so many people rely on these industries for their livelihoods, there are ways to mitigate the damage. In their new book, *Life after Logging: Reconciling Wildlife Conservation and Production Forestry in Indonesian Borneo*, Erik Meijaard and his colleagues provide some simple guidelines for reducing the impact of logging in Indonesia. To protect fauna, the authors make a number of specific recommendations to logging companies: designing their roads and trails to avoid dividing the forest into too many fragments; keeping out hunters; making smaller gaps in the forest; reducing unnecessary damage to vines and groundcover; sparing hollow trees and fruit trees; trying not to disturb the soil etc. While the authors do not claim these strategies as ideal, they seem as a starting point in slowing the destruction of Indonesia's wildlife. This text can be downloaded at http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BMeijaard0501E0.pdf

8. New Report: *Counting on the Environment--Forest Incomes and the Rural Poor*

Twenty or thirty years ago people thought most poor rural families earned their living by farming. Then studies showed that off-farm income from wage labor, craft work, small-scale trading and money sent by relatives were actually more important. These findings cast rural poverty in a rather different light. Now a new World Bank report called "Counting on the Environment: Forest Incomes and the Rural Poor" has highlighted a third major source of income: collecting fuelwood, wild foods, and other forest products – activities that on average provide more than one fifth of poor rural families' income.

The report, by P. Vedeld, A. Angelsen, E. Sjaastad, and G. Kobugabe Berg from the Norwegian Agricultural University, synthesizes data from 54 household income studies from 17 countries, mostly in East and Southern Africa and South Asia. Wet, semi-humid, and dry forest areas were about equally represented among the studies, although most humid forest cases involved indigenous peoples in Latin America. The report can be downloaded or ordered at <http://www.eldis.org/static/DOC15122.htm>.



9. New Report: Food Standards Can Increase Market Access

A new World Bank report, "Food Safety and Agricultural Health Requirements: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Country Exports," suggests that developing countries facing the challenges of rising health and food safety standards can improve market access and position their industries for long-term competitiveness by adopting a strategic approach to meeting these challenges. The authors state that rich nations should increase aid flows to help plan and undertake the necessary strategies. Furthermore, they argue that food safety issues such as those related to E. Coli breakouts, "mad cow" disease, tainted animal feed products and the contamination of berries and olive oil have contributed to more stringent food safety and agricultural health standards in high-income countries, thus placing new demands on developing country producers and exporters of high-value food products, such as fruit, vegetables, fish, meat, nuts and spices. The press-release and full report can be found at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20339396~menuPK:34463~pagePK:64003015~piPK:64003012~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS OR PARTNERS:

1. Call For Papers: *The International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*

The new journal, *The International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* (IJAS), is currently looking for authors to submit papers for future issues. The IJAS publishes both theoretical developments and critical appraisals of evidence addressing what is not sustainable about current or past agricultural and food systems, as well as research on transitions towards agricultural and rural sustainability at farm, community, regional, national and international levels, and through food supply chains. Topics of interest include: Applications in applied agricultural research for technology design in a variety of disciplines, such as plant breeding, soils, integrated pest-management, agro-forestry etc; applications of participatory learning approaches; innovations in methodology development; experiences with institutionalization; experiences that combine inter-sectoral or multidimensional applications, e.g. agriculture and health; production and marketing; microfinance and agriculture; experiences with scaling out and up participatory approaches to research and/or learning; studies of the impact of different approaches to participatory research and learning on adoption and welfare; studies of costs or cost-benefit analyses of an approach or comparisons among approaches; applications that have benefited special interest groups such as rural women, ethnic minorities; failures with important lessons for the future. The first two issues are available free of charge at <http://www.channelviewpublications.net/ijas/default.htm>.

Address queries to Jacqueline Ashby (j.ashby@cgjar.org) or Jules Pretty (jpretty@essex.ac.uk) and submit papers for consideration to IJAS any time but no later than September 30th, 2005. Guidelines can be consulted at Channel View Publications: <http://www.multilinguallmatters.com/multi/>

[guidelines/guidelines_ijas.asp?TAG =B1RT9X698899X7774XK2LI&CID](http://www.multilinguallmatters.com/multi/guidelines/guidelines_ijas.asp?TAG =B1RT9X698899X7774XK2LI&CID)

2. for Papers: STORMA International Symposium on the Stability of Tropical Rainforest Margins

Stability of Rainforest Margins (STORMA) is asking for paper submissions for its upcoming symposium in Germany (for more information on the symposium, see the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter). The papers should contribute to an improved understanding of the processes that have stabilizing or destabilizing effects on ecological and socio-economic systems of tropical rainforest margins. Interdisciplinary papers that strive to integrate environmental, technological and socio-economic issues are especially welcome. STORMA will invite some of the excellent papers for a synthesis book (Springer) and a special issue of an international journal. For more information on this call for papers, go to www.storma.de/symp2005/ or email symp2005@gwdg.de.

3. Call for Posters and Presentations: Mapping for Change Conference

The organizing committee for the upcoming International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management (being held in Nairobi this September) is asking for presentation and poster abstracts to be considered for inclusion. The conference will bring together people with practical experience in Participatory GIS (PGIS) and community mapping in Developing Countries and First Nations and will focus on sharing experiences and defining good practices for making geographic information technologies and systems (GIT&S) available to less-favored groups in society in order to enhance their capacity in managing and communicating spatial information. Abstracts are being solicited in the following presentation topics: (i) Enabling and disabling environments for PGIS and community-mapping practices to work; (ii) Methodological issues in practicing PGIS and community mapping; and (iii) Implementation issues in practicing PGIS and community mapping. More details on topics and sub-topics are available at http://pgis2005.cta.int/docs/1st_call_for_presentations.pdf. Abstracts should be submitted electronically to the Organizing Committee before April 15th, 2005 and should contain the paper title, authors names and affiliations, the contact address of the corresponding author, the relevant conference theme and should not exceed 250 words in length. More information on how to submit is available on the conference web site at <http://pgis2005.cta.int/announcement.htm>

4. Call for Partners: The One Campaign

The One Campaign, a new American crusade to have an additional one percent of the American federal budget allocated to combating AIDS and poverty, is asking for partners, signatures and volunteers. The group is committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To sign their petition, you can go to <http://www.theonecampaign.org>. If you want to get your organization more deeply involved, call Larry



Goodwin, ONE Campaign Organizing Coordinator at Bread for the World, at 202-639-9400, extension 218.

CALENDAR OF RELATED UPCOMING EVENTS:

The First International Conference on the Multifunctionality of Landscapes, Giessen, Germany, May 18-19, 2005

SFB 299 will be hosting a conference, "Multifunctionality of landscapes – Analysis, Evaluation, and Decision Support." This conference will attempt to encourage discussion about current developments across academic borders surrounding topics of: The implications of the multifunctionality of many landscapes; Monitoring, modeling and evaluating landscape services; Biodiversity on the landscape scale; and Landscape ecosystem management. Invited participants include researchers, policy makers, planners and other experts from the environmental sciences (physical and human geography, physical planning, GIS technologies, resources management, public administration and law), thus providing an excellent setting for the exchange of recent findings. More information on this conference can be found at <http://www.sfb299.de/conference/general.htm>.

14th International Scientific Congress CNIC 2005: 40 Years at the Service of Science and Technology, Havana, Cuba, June 27-30, 2005

The National Center for Scientific Research is holding its International Scientific Congress, a conference that is held every five years. The meeting aims to allow a scientific-technical exchange among an important number of national and international specialists in a large number of research fields. Moreover, it offers an opportunity for showing new products and technologies from the medical, pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries. The meeting will be held in Havana, Cuba, June 27-30, 2005. For more information visit the meeting website, <http://www.cnic.edu.cu/14Congreso/Bienvenida.htm>, or contact them at seminario@cnic.edu.cu.

The 6th Annual International Seminar on Protected Area Management, August 3-20, 2005, University of Montana, USA

Organized by the USDA Forest Service Office of International Programs and the Universities of Montana, Idaho and Colorado, this seminar is a technical and professional course designed for mid-career planners and managers of nationally significant protected areas worldwide. Participants will evaluate policies and develop action plans tailored to the interests and demands within their own countries. Enrollment in the Seminar is limited. The course is offered in English language, so English-speaking proficiency is a requirement. Applications are due May 1, 2005 and should include a short (one or two page) resume, a brief description of job responsibilities, and reasons for interest in the Seminar program. A form is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/>

ispam/welcome.htm or by emailing pam@cfc.umd.edu

Training Course: 7th annual international training course Economic Tools for Ecosystem Conservation, August 14-27, 2005, Stanford University, California, USA

Conservation Strategy Fund is now accepting applications for a new training session, Economic Tools for Ecosystem Conservation. The two-week course is designed to teach participants how to use economics to be more strategic and successful in their conservation work. The course is generally designed for managers of conservation programs and protected areas, directors of non-governmental organizations, and representatives of public environmental agencies, as well as scientists, economists, and foresters. For more information visit the course's website http://www.conservation-strategy.org/Training/int_2005_announcement.htm. If there are any problems with the online application or the attachments, please contact Kristin Schmelz at training@conservation-strategy.org

Mapping for Change: International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication, Nairobi, Kenya, September 7-10, 2005

This conference aims to bring together people with extensive practical experience in Participatory GIS (PGIS) and community mapping in Developing Countries and First Nations. The focus of the event will be on sharing experiences and defining good practices for making geographic information technologies and systems available to less-favored groups in society in order to enhance their capacity in managing and communicating spatial information in the contexts of: (i) asserting ancestral land and resource rights and entitlements; (ii) supporting collaborative planning and management of lands and natural resources; (iii) promoting equity in terms of ethnicity, culture, gender, environmental justice, hazard mitigation etc.; (iv) managing and ameliorating conflicts amongst and between local community groups, and between communities and higher-level authorities or economic forces; and (v) supporting cultural heritage preservation and identity-building among indigenous peoples and rural communities. The event will lay the foundations for the development of regional networks and resource centers. For more information on this conference, go to <http://pgis2005.cta.int/>

STORMA International Symposium on the Stability of Tropical Rainforest Margins: Linking Ecological, Economic and Social Constraints of Land Use and Conservation, Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany, September 19-23 2005

This international symposium provides an open platform for all leading scientists from socio-economic and natural sciences interested in the use and conservation of tropical rainforest resources. The research papers presented at the symposium will contribute to an improved understanding of the processes that have stabilizing or destabilizing effects on ecological and socio-economic systems of tropical rainforest margins. The symposium will feature the following three interconnected



thematic foci of interdisciplinary research: Integrated spatial modeling of land use in tropical forest margins; sustainable management of agroforestry systems; and ecological and socio-economic impacts of different forest-use intensities. The symposium is also asking for paper submissions for presentation and eventual compilation in a synthesis book. More information on this call for papers can be found in the "Call for Papers and Participants" section of this newsletter. For more information on the symposium itself, go to <http://www.storma.de/symp2005/introduction.htm>.

The 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community: "Global Environmental Change, Globalization and International Security: New Challenges for the 21st Century", University of Bonn, Germany, 9-13 October 2005

The 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community is set up to promote a better understanding of global transformations, to identify the resulting opportunities and challenges and to develop appropriate responses. The central goal of the conference is to fashion a research agenda that is specific and relevant to current global realities and scenarios of future trends in global transformations. The meeting also seeks to examine the ways in which interdisciplinary research is carried out and to engage in a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches as well as the advocacy outreach and policy relevance of such research. The event will be composed of more than one hundred seminars, training sessions and roundtable discussions as well as a central open meeting. For more information on this event, go to <http://openmeeting.homelinux.org/index.asp>.

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If you have any news, accomplishments or events to announce in the Ecoagriculture Partners Newsletter, please send them to Ben Dappen (BDappen@ecoagriculturepartners.org). You can find previous issues of the Newsletter posted on our website at: <http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/reports.htm#updates>. Employment notices related to Ecoagriculture are posted at www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/employment.htm.