

Ecoagriculture Resources – December 2003

Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

I would like to bring to your attention a number of new ecoagriculture materials and activities recommended by other Partners that may be helpful in your work. In 2004, we plan to post these materials on the website, and will include an alert on Ecoagriculture Resources directly in “Ecoagriculture Partners Update”.

- 1) Publication: Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Approach, FAO
- 2) Publication: Spanish translation of “Common Ground, Common Future: Ecoagriculture to Feed the World and Save Wild Biodiversity” by Jeffrey McNeely and Sara J. Scherr
- 3) Free Publication: Conservation Handbook
- 4) Publication: Assessment of the World’s Efforts on Biodiversity
- 5) Marketing: Rainforest Alliance-certified Coffee
- 6) Training Course: Land Degradation, University of East Anglia
- 7) Website: Megadiverse Countries
- 8) Website: SciDev source on biodiversity
- 9) Website: Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Forestry

1) Publication: Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Approach, FAO

<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y4586E/Y4586E00.HTM>

Proceedings from 2002 meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization, may be downloaded from the FAO website:

“Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Approach in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries”.

2) Publication: Spanish translation of “Common Ground, Common Future”

Ecoagriculture Partners is most grateful to our colleague Enrique Beltran, for translating the IUCN-Future Harvest report by Jeffrey McNeely and Sara J. Scherr, “Common Ground, Common Future.”

The Spanish title is “Futura Comun: Estrategias de Ecoagricultura para ayudar a alimentar al mundo y salvar la biodiversidad Silvestre.” The paper may be downloaded from the Ecoagriculture Partners website: www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/reports.htm

3) Free Publication: Conservation Handbook

The Conservation Handbook: Research, Management and Policy, by
William J Sutherland

Textbooks on the principles of conservation biology abound, but how does one put this theoretical knowledge into practice? The aim of The Conservation Handbook is to provide clear guidance on the implementation of conservation techniques. The wide range of methods described includes those for ecological research, monitoring, planning, education, habitat management and combining conservation with development. 18 case studies illustrate how the methods have been applied.

The book is being sent free to those practicing conservationists outside Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan who are otherwise unlikely to obtain a copy. These copies are provided at cost price by Blackwell Scientific, the publisher, and paid for with the author's royalties. Each book sold means another one will be donated. Administration and distribution of gratis copies is handled free of charge by NHBS. The Christensen Fund has generously made a grant to cover the cost of postage.

We welcome names of people who live in the area outlined above and would benefit from this book. Please use our online Gratis Request Form [see link below] to send your name and address, the name of the suggested recipient, their address and a sentence or two explaining why they should be sent this book. For more information, link to:

www.nhbs.com/info/sutherland/conservation_handbook.html

Contents include: Introduction, Assessing biodiversity, Setting Conservation Priorities, Monitoring, Ecological Research Techniques, Diagnosis and Prediction, Conservation Planning, Organisational Management and Fund Raising, Bringing About Political and Policy Changes, Species Management, Habitat Management, Exploitation, Integrating Development and Conservation.

278 pages, b/w photos, illus, figs, tabs.
Blackwell Science, Price GBP 25.99 - 2000 -
Order Code: #101322W Paperback

4) Publication: Assessment of the World's Biodiversity

Posted on the Ecoagriculture Partners website is a recent paper by Jeffrey McNeely, based on a survey of world experts: "Assessment of the World's Efforts on Biodiversity," which was contributed to the Global Governance Initiative of the World Economic Forum. www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/reports.htm

5) Marketing: Rainforest Alliance-certified coffee

The world of coffee is changing and Rainforest Alliance-certified is gathering steam! We hope you will consider purchasing some of our coffee yourself -- Following is a link to our website which features the coffee of all our online providers, including Millstone as described below. Millstone is testing this product through on-line sales, so please encourage them to continue buying from conscientious coffee farmers by purchasing a pound or two. <http://www.rainforestalliance.com/marketplace/eco-ok/coffee-online.html>

(from Tensie Whelan, Executive Director, Rainforest Alliance)

6) Training Course: Land Degradation & Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Field Assessment, 20 April - 3 May 2004 (Univ. of East Anglia)

Announcing a new short professional Training Course, combining Land Degradation and Desertification and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, in a field setting. Course directed by Professor Michael Stocking in the United Kingdom and co-directed by Dr Juan Albaladejo Montoro in Spain. Language of instruction: English

Objective: to update your professional knowledge and field skills in these two important areas of global concern. As of October 2002, land degradation is a new focal area of the Global Environment Facility.

The first week of this two-week short course will be held at the University of East Anglia, covering current theory and perspectives on land degradation assessment in the context of projects to protect the environment and promote human welfare and livelihoods. The course continues for the second week in Spain at CEBAS (Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura -Centre for Soils and Applied Biology) in a drylands and partly degraded environment with field instruction and exercises. Simple visual and semi-quantitative techniques for land degradation assessment will be used, with all course participants gaining hands-on experience. The assessments will be placed within the context of sustainable rural livelihoods and participants will examine how far technologies and approaches to control land degradation can be applied to the real-life circumstances of land users.

£2,900 per person (including accommodation and return flights UK/Spain).

For further details please consult our web site at
http://www.odg.uea.ac.uk/pages/course_landdeg.html
or email odg.train@uea.ac.uk; fax +44 1603 591170 or tel +44 1603 592340.

7) Website: Megadiverse Countries

Please see a new website from the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries:
<http://www.megadiverse.org>

The Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, consisting of Bolivia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, South Africa and Venezuela, have a new website that updates visitors on the Group's activities. This resource is available in both Spanish and English.

8) Website: Guide to Biodiversity

SciDev.Net (www.scidev.net) - an organisation devoted to providing news and promoting debate on science and technology issues relevant to the needs of developing countries - is pleased to announce the launch of a new quick guide on biodiversity, which can be found at www.scidev.net/biodiversity

SciDev.Net has created a one-stop online guide where you can keep up to date with the biodiversity challenges facing developing countries. It looks at the issues surrounding the need to protect global biodiversity in developing countries and the need to promote social and economic growth. Steered by a panel of expert advisors, this quick guide is your way to keeping in touch with the latest developments in this topical and complex field. The biodiversity quick guide includes:

- * Up-to-date news stories from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East
- * Descriptions of key reports and the latest research findings
- * Essential links to the leading organisations in the field.
- * Comprehensive events section listing major conferences and workshops

You can also register for a weekly email alert to keep up to date with new developments including the future launch of our biodiversity dossier (www.scidev.net/register).

9) Website: Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Forestry

The website, <http://www.ruaf.org/> managed out of Leusden, covers issues of urban agriculture and forestry.

They recently hosted an e-conference on: “Optimising agricultural land use in the city area - Access to land and water, adequate norms and regulations, integration in land use planning,” on 3-22 Nov. 2003. The objectives of the conference were:

- To share and discuss local experiences on alternative strategies to enhance access of the urban poor to land within the City boundaries for food production (horticulture, livestock keeping, aquaculture, a/o)
- To share and discuss local experiences with the development and application of Municipal bylaws, norms and regulations regarding (access to land for) urban agriculture.

Results and other materials may be found on the website.