



### Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum India, 2012

The Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum brings together young adults from 18 to 29 to engage in biodiversity conservation. It has been carried out twice so far, in parallel to CBD-COP9 and 10 in Germany and Japan.

As pointed in our last Newsletter, **Go4BioDiv** will take place for the third time parallel to CBD-COP11 in Hyderabad, India, in October **2012**. In concordance with the CoP10 decisions, Nagoya Mandate / Aichi Targets, of giving more attention to conservation needs in oceans and on shorelines, this year's theme is '**Conserving marine and coastal biodiversity for sustaining lives and livelihoods**'. Therefore, the international participants will come from marine World Heritage sites and the first ten days of Go4BioDiv 2012 will take place on a boat in the Sundarbans, which is India's iconic and unique marine World Heritage site. Moreover, since India has many young inhabitants, and is particularly strong in information technologies and new media, Go4BioDiv 2012 will emphasize the importance of public outreach and communication. Hence, a strong virtual exchange amongst youth about the Forum's theme prior, during and post COP11 will be encouraged.

More info in the next Newsletters and soon on [www.go4biodiv.org](http://www.go4biodiv.org).



2011 was International Year of Forests and in 2012 the UN's focuses include, International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and International year of Cooperatives, "**Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World.**" The Go4BioDiv messengers hope to highlight how we and our partners around the world are meeting the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of increasing sustainable access to energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy at the local, national, regional and international levels. Energy services have a profound effect on productivity, health, education, climate change, food and water security, and communication services.

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*This newsletter is put together by the participants of Go4BioDiv 2010, Japan.*

### UNFCCC COP17/MOP 7 Working Together Saving Tomorrow Today

The seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7) was held from 28 November—11 December 2011, in Durban South Africa.

The conference agreed to a legally binding deal comprising all countries, which will be prepared by 2015, and to take effect in 2020. There was also progress regarding the creation of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) for which a management framework was adopted. The fund is to distribute US\$100 billion per year to help poor countries adapt to climate impacts.

After the conference concluded, Michael Jacobs of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment in London, said: "The agreement here has not in itself taken us off the 4 °C path we are on... But by forcing countries for the first time to admit that their current policies are inadequate and must be strengthened by 2015, it has snatched 2 °C from the jaws of impossibility. At the same time it has re-established the principle that climate change should be tackled through international law, not national, voluntarism." (Referenced: Wikipedia.com)



## News from OUR World Heritage sites !

### Discussion on Manas as a Transboundary Property

The Indo-Bhutan Manas transboundary meeting on Tiger Coordination held at Gelephu; included Bhutan and Park officials, NGOs from both sides of the Manas (i.e. Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan and Manas National Park, India), and discussed the rationale for a trans-boundary property in Manas highlighting the common biological values, management challenges, common socio-cultural and economic attributes, etc. Mr. Niraj Kakati, ATREE, shared the technical details of what constitutes a trans-boundary property and the procedures for the nomination of such a property as a World Heritage site as per the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention. The Field Director of Royal Manas National Park informed the participants that Bhutan has already initiated the process for such a nomination and is in contact with the Indian government on this issue. Mr. Dhritiman Das, participant of Go4BioDiv 2010 also participated in the transboundary coordination meeting as a part of UNESCO World Heritage Biodiversity Project, India.

**Dhritiman Das, Dhritiz(at)gmail.com (India).**



### German Beech Forests inscribed in the World Heritage List

At its 35th meeting in Paris the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the "Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" in the World Heritage List.

The new inscription represents the addition of five forests totaling 4,391 hectares that are added to the 29,278 hectares of Slovakian and Ukrainian beech forests inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007. The tri-national property is now to be known as the **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany** (Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany).

These forests are the largest remaining 'virgin' forests of the European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and hold the tallest and largest beech specimens in the world. They represent examples of on-going post-glacial biological and ecological evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and are indispensable to understanding the spread of the beech in the Northern Hemisphere across a variety of environments.

**Vladimira Lackova, vladimira.lackova(at)gmail.com.**



### Ogasawara Islands also new to the Natural World Heritage List

Ogasawara Islands (about 1000 km south of Tokyo) has also been inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Islands ecosystems reflect a wide range of evolutionary processes. The property numbers more than 30 islands clustered in three groups and covers surface area of 7,393 hectares. The islands offer a variety of landscapes and are home to a wealth of fauna, including the Bonin Flying Fox, a critically endangered bat, and 195 endangered bird species. 441 native plant taxa have been documented on the islands whose waters support numerous species of fish, cetaceans and corals. Ogasawara Islands' ecosystems reflect a range of evolutionary processes illustrated through its assemblage of plant species from both southeast and northwest Asia, alongside many endemic species. Invasive species (goats, cats and Green Anoles) have been a threat but effective efforts by conservation groups are successfully managing these species.

**Tagashira Naoki, misopura(at)hotmail.com (Japan).**



## Public Outreach of different WHS

### MEDECOS XII and IUCN Mediterranean Type Ecosystem Group



"Proportional to their area, the 5 Mediterranean climate regions have greater significance in protecting global biodiversity than do the Amazon basin and other tropical rain forests. Moreover, the five Mediterranean-climate regions face far greater immediate threats to their environments and biodiversity than rainforest areas."- Dr. Phillip Rundel (UCLA). The IUCN has formulated a Mediterranean-Type Ecosystem Thematic group recently, recognizing the importance of these hotspots and the dedicated attention they require in the face of Climate Change.

MEDECOS is a International Mediterranean Ecosystem Conference, which brings professionals and researchers from the different Mediterranean ecosystems around the world together to share research and lessons learnt. UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, in California (US) hosted the conference from 6-9 September, 2011. The theme was Linking Science and Resource Management - and Go4BioDiv Messenger, Candice Mostert, presented the Regional Ecological Support Teams (REST) structure, objectives and some examples, as a means in which CapeNature/South Africa attempts to bridge that gap in the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas WHS.

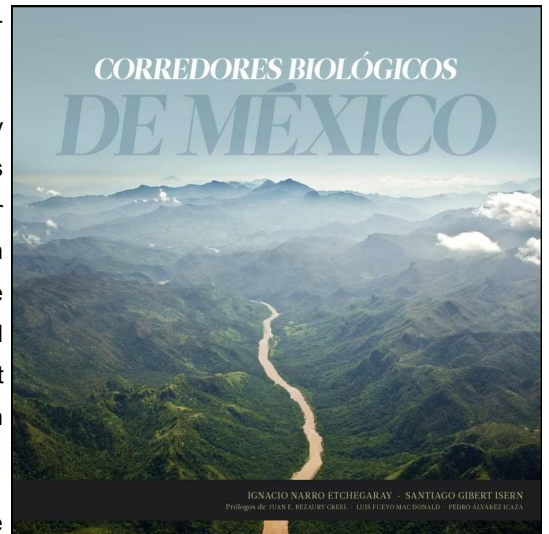
**Candice Mostert, candicemostert1982(at)gmail.com (South Africa/California).**

### Mexican Biological Corridors, a new book for conservation.

The role of national Protected Areas in biodiversity conservation is indisputable. However, the complexity and dynamism of the ecosystems, together with climate change effects, make us reconsider the value of biological corridors in their role of bridges and spaces for conservation.

For that reason the Mexican NGO Dimension Natural, where Go4BioDiv member Alan Monroy works, had produced and edited a book that details through beautiful photographs and illustrative texts the relevance of the four most important biological corridors of Mexico. One of them, the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, has even a continental transcendence, connecting the southern tropical ecosystems of Mexico together with all the seven Central American countries, including an area of 321,103 km<sup>2</sup>. It does not only connect big extensions of primary forests, but also several natural WHS, including Sian Ka'an in Mexico, Tikal in Guatemala, La Amistad in Costa Rica.

Dimension Natural observes an urgent need to share the beauty, importance and threats that our natural treasures face. This book is but one means in which they share this knowledge and conservation awareness of a Latin-American legacy. **Alan Monroy Ojeda, Alanmoroy\_ojeda(at)yahoo.com.mx (Mexico).**



### Footprint Fun

- Encourage Environmental Consciousness at a young age . Small actions over a lifetime accumulate to make a big difference. Having a baby is a life changing event. Why not incorporate sustainability as a way of life from day 1 ?
- Landscape with Native Plant species. You will conserve water, which is a limited resource! Plant a tree to capture carbon.
- Support local industry. Choose local restaurants over chains. Restaurants who source local, seasonal and organic foods. Support your local community and economy—it's not only about the environment but the people who live in and around it! That tomato does not need to catch a plane to get to your plate!
- Use Energy saving appliances. Be it the geyser blanket, compact fluorescents light bulbs, Energy Star appliances and/or installing solar panels.

**For more tips visit: [www.calacademy.org/sustainability](http://www.calacademy.org/sustainability)**



## Gaining new experience from a WHS Lake Baikal

After working in the German Bavarian Forest National Park in 2011 and representing German and Slovak beech forests during Go4BioDiv in 2010, Vladimira decided to broaden her experience in WHS. With the help of the European Volunteering Service, she recently volunteered in the Baikal Biosphere Reserve, one of the eight protected areas of the WHS Baikal Lake for six months. Lake Baikal is situated in south-east Siberia, the 3.15-million-ha Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (over 1,600 m) lake in the world. It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science. Probably, the most notable of fauna is the Baikal seal, a uniquely freshwater species. (*UNESCO World Heritage List*).

One of my main activities was to lead an international work camp, which was supported by UNESCO, Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the World Heritage Centre (WHC). The theme of the camp was 'Clean Baikal', because garbage pollution is a problem in this area. The volunteers didn't just clean the shore, but also engaged local people and students and promoted garbage recycling, which was initiated by Baikal Biosphere Reserve a year ago.

Vladimira, did a small research project on protected areas in the Baikal area, finding that despite the huge investment for "ecotourism" development on behalf of the Russian government, the tourism products were not always eco-friendly. 10 pilot areas, many of them being in the WHS have been identified for tourism ventures.. In the Baikal region, one national park and two nature reserves were picked up despite their historical objectives for research and conservation being in conflict with tourism . **Vladimira Lackova, vladimira.lackova(at)gmail.com (Slovakia).**



## Tourism, Economic Development and Culture : Collaboration needed



The area of Khumbu is a *beyul* (sacred valley) situated at the base of world's highest Peak, Mt. Everest 8848m and includes Sagarmatha National Park. The Sherpas, an indigenous peoples inhabiting this park believe Mt. Everest is a sacred mountain, requiring the god "Miolangsang's" permission to revere it. The Sherpas have their own "Di and Thim" (rules and regulations) and system of *Nawa* in which every year four to five families look after the forest, manage rotational grazing and cropping systems. These customary practices, values and beliefs have contributed to conserve the forests, wildlife and sacred sites. The scenic beauty, snow-capped mountains, tranquil lakes, unique flora and fauna attracts an average of 25,000 tourists to Khumbu and the growing tourism industry has contributed to local economic prosperity.

But there is concern as energy demands and exploitation of natural resources have increased, as well as associated pollution and waste. Increasing tourism has its affects on local culture, traditional practices and language. Sonam Futi, a Sherpa and Bsc student, studying Environmental Science at Kathmandu University had the following to share: "We as local Sherpas of Khumbu are very much concerned about the fact that tourism is bringing about changes in our culture and the entire area. We are giving our best efforts to save the integrity of our area and the national park because of our cultural norms, religious faith and our identity as Khumbu Sherpa." Protected Area Advisory committees are just one means of collaboration where all parties are heard and considered.

**Sonam Futi, sonamfuti.sherpa(at)gmail.com (Nepal).**

## Provincial Youth Network inaugurated in the Democratic Republic of Congo!



Friends of Nature Club (Club des Amis de la Nature) work to protect Kahuzi Biega National Park, through efforts in reforestation, purification and sensitization. Prudence and Pascal's involvement in Go4BioDiv and Kahuzi Biega National Park's Communal Conservation Program of public outreach have resulted in two workshops being held to share the Provincial Youth Network of Friends of Nature concept. On 21-22 November and 28 December, the Nature Club invited youth leaders of several nature conservation groups to a workshop to share conservation experiences and initiate

the Provincial Youth Network of Friends of Nature Club. The objectives of this network include: To promote the organization of associations, cooperatives and other groupings protecting the environment; to inform and hold the local, provincial and national authorities responsible for follow-up on conservation activities and natural resources protection; and to promote communal reforestation to preserve the exploitation of wood resources in the park.

**Pascal Murhula, murhulapascal(at)ymail.com (Democratic Republic of Congo).**

## Conciliate development and conservation: Kribi Marine National Park

Kribi is a pretty and unique town, with beautiful beaches, opened to the Atlantic ocean and home to a wide variety of marine and terrestrial life, many of which are endangered species. The calm and multicultural city is a tourism hotspot. During a tour of Africa in 2011 UNESCO recognized its potential, particularly the Lobe waterfalls. UNESCO planned to designate the waterfalls as a World Heritage site and mid process a seaport construction project was suggested!

The town of Kribi happens to be a unique site in Cameroon and even in Central Africa where a suitable deep seaport can be built. Cameroon was flattered by the gifts that new finance was promising to bring along with employment, valuation of underground resources and development potential. In the developing world the benefits of local economic development often outweigh the threats to the environment and associated loss of biodiversity. An environmentalist team exploring the area suggested a marine national park which will cover a section of that coastal band and safeguard a part of its natural wealth. Perhaps the UNESCO nomination can be revisited in 2012.

**Josiane Virginie, whollyvirginia(at)yahoo.fr (Cameroon).**

## Webcam at Ilulissat Ice Fjord

Now you can get a feel of what is going on at the mouth Ilulissat Icefjord -24/7. See what happens at Ilulissat Icefjord right now at [www.sermitsiaq.ag/icecam/](http://www.sermitsiaq.ag/icecam/). The webcam is owned by the Greenlandic newspaper Sermitsiaq and the telecommunication company Tele Greenland.

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"Go4BioDiv 2010 was jointly organized by CBD, BMZ / GIZ, IUCN, Tsukuba University or UNESCO."

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Convention on  
Biological Diversity



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



With the support of  
World Heritage  
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On behalf of  
Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development