

INTECOL - Bulletin

International Association for Ecology

INTECOL Expresses Condolences

1

Meeting Report

2

Lake 2010: Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, 22-24 December 2010

Meetings & Congresses

4

1. The 8th World Congress of International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE)
2. The 12th European Ecological Federation Congress
3. The 14th World Lake Conference
4. The 54th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)
5. The 8th Air Pollution Global Change (APGC) Symposium
6. The 55th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)
7. EcoSummit 2012

INTECOL Expresses Condolences

On behalf of the INTECOL Board, I would like to send our deepest condolences to those who lost family, friends and colleagues by the Tsunami and Sendai Earthquake on Friday, 11th March 2011 in Japan. We also extend our deepest condolences to those who lost their family, friends and colleagues during the earthquake on Tuesday, 22nd February 2011 in New Zealand. The earlier extensive floods in Australia in January and February were other disasters affecting our many friends in the Pacific. We sincerely hope that all who are affected by these tragic events will soon recover from their terrible losses and eventually overcome these hardships. The continued environmental concerns created by these catastrophic losses will challenge all of us to assist in resolving the many related and complex issues that lie ahead. The radiation contamination will require long-term efforts to restore ecological integrity. These tragic events remind us of the need to help each other cope with such terrible losses and to continue our close communications. The media reports by survivors who were somehow able to live through these events underscore their resilience and bravery. Our thoughts are with everyone who is affected by the consequences of these events. We welcome any suggestions on how INTECOL and our member societies can help in these times of tragedy and great uncertainty.

Professor Alan P. Covich
President, INTECOL





Meeting Report

Lake 2010: Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India 22-24 December 2010

Geethanjali Monto and Richa Malhotra
S. Ramaseshan Fellows, Current Science Association, Bangalore
E-mail: geethum@hotmail.com



A school student from Uttara Kannada district presenting her work in documenting the biodiversity in her region, as part of the competition 'My village biodiversity'. Seated nearby are three young 'Johnny Biospheres'.

The lake symposia began in 1998, as an initiative by the Energy & Wetlands Research Group at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Subsequent biennial lake conferences focused on broader themes, with Lake 2010 concentrating on 'Wetlands, biodiversity and climate change'.

A unique feature of these symposia is the participation of school students, who typically constitute about 10–20 % of the audience. Lake 2010 had presentations by students selected from various parts of Uttara Kannada district. From about 150 villages, 18 students were elected

to list the biodiversity that they had documented in their villages under the theme 'My village biodiversity'. These were children from remote villages and most of them spoke in their regional language, but the amount of work they are doing in identifying biodiversity is commendable. Their effort forms a part of the project, initiated by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board and handled by CES, on estimating the ecological carrying capacity of Uttara Kannada district.

Some students carried globes on their backs during the conference, like 'Johnny Biosphere' – J. R. Vallentyne,



who attracted public attention by carrying a globe on his back to quietly represent the relationship between humans and ecosystems. Vallentyne was an active participant in the Lake 2000 and 2002 symposia. Students from Bangalore participated in a competition on 'Ecology, biodiversity and environment'; a competition for undergraduate students was also held. School teachers spoke on their contributions towards biodiversity conservation and their role in guiding students. Prizes were awarded to the students and teachers on the last day of the conference. In addition, select schools were presented with globes as a symbol to carry on the work of conservation.

The technical session consisted of expert lectures and presentations under 13 topics, covering terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, coastal ecosystems, sacred groves, impact of climate change, effect of urbanization on ecosystems, alternative energy sources, solid waste management, application of geo informatics in conservation and management, environment education, and conservation, restoration and management of ecosystems. Highlights of a few lectures are given below:

- The need for creating awareness of ecosystem services in Bangalore, given that the environmental literacy is just 3.5 % as compared to the general literacy rate of 83.9 %.
- A criticism of city infrastructure wherein glass buildings keep the interiors too warm leading to the need for air conditioners!

- Use of spatial metrics and remote sensing to monitor rates and impacts of urban growth with enhanced image detection and higher resolution techniques.
- Need for alternate, efficient and decentralized technologies and resource use to fulfill energy requirements by using bioengineering solutions whenever possible.
- Monitoring pollution with bio-indicators such as benthic diatoms and water birds.
- The application of bio-fertilizers to improve production in medicinally important plants.
- Use of natural systems such as mangroves and soils for carbon sequestration, and use of algae for CO₂ mitigation.
- Importance of locating, studying and preserving relic forests (primary forests originally from the Gondwanaland) in southern Western Ghats and sacred groves (relic forest patches preserved by rural communities).

The Lake 2010 conference generated recommendations on many issues such as environment education, waste management, rainwater harvesting, restoration of lakes and linkages between water bodies, regulation of boating, documentation of biodiversity, protection of riparian and buffer zone vegetation, and valuation of ecosystem goods and services. These recommendations were submitted to the representatives of the Western Ghats Task Force and the Karnataka Biodiversity Board for consideration.





Meetings & Congresses

1. The 8th World Congress of International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE)

18-23 August 2011, Beijing, China

Theme: Landscape Ecology for Sustainable Environment and Culture



Important Dates:

- 1 April 2011: Deadline for abstract submission
- 31 May 2011: Deadline for early registration

Venue

China National Convention Center (CNCC)
(<http://www.cnccchina.com/en/default.aspx> for more information.)

Accommodations

Near the CNCC, several hotels promised to offer a certain amount of special discounts to the participants of IALE Congress, on a “first come, first served” basis:

- Crowne Plaza Parkview Wuzhou Beijing (5 stars)
- China National Convention Center Grand Hotel (CNCC Grand Hotel, 4 stars, also the Congress Venue)
- Best Western OL Stadium Hotel (4 stars)
- Huiyuan International Apartment-Media Village (3 stars)
- Asian Olympics Hotel (3 stars)

Please check <http://www.iale2011.org/page.asp?id=105> for more information.

Abstracts and symposiums

The deadline for abstract submission is the end of **April 2011**. Please refer to the abstract template for the format at the upper-right corner of the congress webpage. You can send the abstract directly to iale2011@sina.com.

Website: <http://www.iale2011.org>

E-mail: iale2011@sina.com

We have 37 organized symposiums (<http://www.iale2011.org/page.asp?id=99>), most of which are also open for contributed oral presentations and posters. Please indicate if you wish to put your presentation in one of these symposiums. Open sessions and Posters will also be arranged in the congress. Accepted abstracts will be published in the congress proceedings.

Pre-Congress Training courses

- Megacity Shanghai - Development of Sustainable Urban Environment
- Research Methods and Career Development in Landscape Ecology: Towards A New Synthesis (I & II)
- GUIDOS: Landscape pattern and connectivity analysis
- Spatial Modeling of Forest Landscape Dynamics under Climate Change: Introductions to LANIDIS-II with hands-on training

Please check <http://www.iale2011.org/page.asp?id=113> for more information.

Excursions

A number of Mid- and Post-congress excursions have been planned, with highlights of Chinese natural and cultural landscapes, such as the Great Wall, Guilin and the Three Gorges.

<http://www.iale2011.org/page.asp?id=102> for more details.



2. The 12th European Ecological Federation (EEF) Congress

25-29 September 2011, Ávila

Theme: Responding to Rapid Environmental Change

A theme “*Responding to Rapid Environmental Change*” is the main topic of the 12th EEF Congress. The topic highlights the profound commitment of our scientific community to contribute with essential information about the global change process and, especially, to propose and test strategies to mitigate its negative effects. European ecology is concerned with this global crisis and it is leading the research effort at the world level. This Congress will give all of the participants an opportunity to share the work and to propose global models and strategies for our society. This Congress also aims to be a milestone in the definition of sustainable models and tools to minimize the effect of the global change and to fight against the loss of biodiversity. Invited plenary speakers will give a

comprehensive overview of their work, presenting information on the latest progress and challenges in their field of interest. The scientific agenda will also include a selection of keynote sessions coordinated by researchers from different European countries to provide exceptional overviews on hot ecological topics of broad interest. Numerous oral communications will combine with posters to stimulate exchange of information and ideas on the many fields of ecological research, and conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems. The official language of the Congress is English. On-line registration for delegates and Abstract submission is now open at the website of the Congress in: <http://www.eefcongress2011.eu/>.



European Ecological Federation



3. The 14th World Lake Conference

31 October - 4 November 2011, Austin, Texas

Theme: River, Groundwater, and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages



The International Lake Environment Committee and the River Systems Institute are co-sponsoring the 14th World Lake Conference, to be held in Austin, Texas, from the 31 October - 4 November 2011.

The focus of the conference, titled *Lakes, Rivers,*

Groundwater, and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages, is on lake and reservoir systems and their hydrological linkages to upstream and downstream river systems. Organizers have designed the conference to provide an interactive international forum for the



exchange of knowledge and experiences related to lakes and the water systems that support them. Presentations consistent with the theme and objectives are welcomed and invited. The authors of selected presentations also will be invited to submit for possible publication in the ILEC Journal, *Lakes and Reservoirs: Research and Management*.

Contact Conference: River Systems Institute
Texas State University - San Marcos
San Marcos, Texas 78666, USA

Website: www.rivers.txstate.edu

E-mail: rivers@txstate.edu

The anticipated conference participants include international, national and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic organizations, representatives of the private sector, and other water stakeholders from both developed and developing countries.

4. The 54th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

20-24 June 2011, Lyon, France

Theme: Vegetation in and around water- patterns, processes and threats

The International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) is a worldwide union of scientists and others interested in theoretical and practical studies of vegetation: its composition and structure, history, classification, distribution, ecology, dynamics, management and uses in the landscape. The main goals of the IAVS are to facilitate personal contacts among vegetation scientists all over the world and to promote research in all aspects of vegetation science and its applications. The 2011 Edition of the Symposium will be held in Lyon, France. All aspects of plant ecology

are welcome, and the special encouraged theme will be: vegetation in and around water-patterns, processes and threats. The Symposium will offer the opportunity for contacts and exchange of knowledge about all aspects of vegetation science through lectures, workshops, poster sessions and excursions. Participants are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster sessions, and are encouraged to propose new topics and sessions!

The special theme is motivated by the particularly high vulnerability of vegetation communities in wetlands and aquatic ecosystems in the framework of global change. We hope this symposium will promote and reinforce discussions and international collaborations about all aspects of vegetation science, but most particularly about these threatened communities. This symposium will also offer the opportunity to present to a large international community the exceptional ecological heritage of the Rhône-Alpes Region. Several mid symposium excursions are planned for the area around the city of Lyon, which will present several aspects of the biodiversity: wetlands, peatlands, calcareous grasslands, lakes and mountainous-forested ecosystems.





A visit to the City of Lyon and the Botanical garden Parc de la Tête d'Or will also be available for the symposium participants. Please, continue to check the

symposium website for up-to-date information, and join us 20 – 24 June, 2011 in Lyon for this exciting event!

Conference office: Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1
Formation Continue et Alternance - IAVS 2011
43, bd du 11 Novembre 1918
69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, FRANCE

Tel: +33 (0) 4 72 43 10 11

Fax: +33 (0) 4 72 43 12 61

E-mail: iavs2011@univ-lyon1.fr

Website: <http://www.iavs.org/>

5. *The 8th Air Pollution Global Change (APGC) Symposium*

5-9 June 2011, Groningen, The Netherlands

Theme: Plant Functioning in a Changing Global and Polluted Environment

The Symposium will be hosted by Laboratory of Plant Physiology, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies, University of Groningen, The Netherlands. The aim of the APGC Symposium Series is to bring together scientists of various disciplines, who are actively involved in research on responses of plant metabolism and functioning to air, soil and water pollution and global change. The 8th APGC Symposium will be focused on the impact of a changing global and

polluted environment on plant functioning in agro-, terrestrial- and aquatic ecosystems. The previous symposia in the Series were held in Oxford, UK 1982; Munich, Germany, 1987; Blacksburg, USA, 1992; Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands, 1997; Pulawy, Poland, 2001; Tsukuba, Japan, 2004; and Creswick, Australia, 2008.

More information at: www.agpc.eu

Contact: Luit J. De Kok, University of Groningen, Laboratory of Plant Physiology
Centre for Life Sciences, P.O. Box 11103, 9700 CC, Groningen, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 503632277

E-mail: apgc2011@rug.nl

Website: www.apgc.eu



6. *The 55th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)*

23-28 July 2012, Jeollanam-do Province, Korea

Theme: Vegetation Science in Climate Changes - Response and Challenge



The 55th IAVS symposium will be held in Jeollanam-do Province located in Southwestern Korea. Major theme is “*Vegetation Science in Climate Change - Response and Challenge*”, and it is covering a range of topics in plant ecology and related disciplines. Vegetation change, ecosystem monitoring and forest restoration, ecological function of forest, urban and rural forests, and vegetation classification and diversity,

biocultural issues in forested landscape are possible topics for organizing symposium. Local organizing committee is also welcoming vegetation scientists dealing with island and coastal landscapes. Excursion programs on ecological-cultural diversity from islands to high mountains are prepared before and after the symposium. The preliminary announcement is now available in website of IAVS (<http://www.iavs.org/>).

Contact person: Prof. Sun-Kee Hong (Chair, Local Organizing Committee)

Institution for Marine and Island Cultures, Mokpo National University, 534-729 Korea.

E-mail: landskhong@gmail.com



7. EcoSummit 2012



4TH INTERNATIONAL ECOSUMMIT
ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
RESTORING THE PLANET'S ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Ecosystems such as streams, rivers, inland and coastal wetlands, grasslands, and forests provide numerous services that fundamentally support human health and well-being. **EcoSummit 2012** will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring and protecting the planet's ecosystem services.

Come hear Nobel Prize laureate *Elinor Ostrom*, Pulitzer Prize winners *E.O. Wilson* and *Jared Diamond*, Kyoto Prize winner *Si Levin*, Stockholm Water Prize laureates *Sven Jørgensen* and *Bill Mitsch*, and many others in the first conference ever linking the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the International

Association for Ecology (INTECOL) and the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SER).

Our aim is to provide a high-profile platform for dialogue among researchers, planners and decision-makers to develop a better understanding of the complex nature of ecological systems and the means to protect and enhance their services. The EcoSummit 2012 website is now up and running. For more information and to sign up for email updates visit www.ecosummit2012.org. Feel free to contact me for scientific program opportunities.

William J. Mitsch
EcoSummit 2012 Chair

Topics:

- Sustainability and Resilience
- Ecosystem Creation and Restoration/ Ecological Engineering
- Global Change
- Ecosystem Services
- Ecological Indicators
- Biodiversity and Biological Conservation
- Climate Change
- Ecological Complexity
- Ecotoxicology
- Ecological Economics
- Ecological Modelling
- Biological Invasions
- Ecological Health
- Environmental Policy
- Ecological Knowledge
- Coastal Problems Caused by Upland Pollution Sources
- Watershed/River Catchment Management

Call for Symposia/Workshops

If you are interested in organizing a symposia or workshop that fits with the theme of "Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services" and is international in its scope, please fill out the appropriate form by 1 September 2011.

Call for Abstracts

Abstract submission is now open on the topics listed above. Submit your abstract using the online abstract submission system by 20 January 2012.





INTECOL, International Association for Ecology

INTECOL is affiliated with the ICSU family of scientific organizations as the section responsible for general ecology within the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The association will assist and/or support the development of the science of ecology and the application of ecological principles to global problems, especially by assisting international cooperation; the collection, evaluation and distribution of information about ecology; national, regional and international actions which will serve ecological research, training of personal, coordination of general publications of ecological principles and the recognition of the importance of ecology for economy and society; the organization of conferences, meetings, symposia, programs and projects, conduct of speaking-series, publication of manuscripts, and measures which are deemed necessary to reach the goals of the association.

Officers and Executive Board Members

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