

What's New?

Keep up to date with new initiatives and activities in the Ecohealth field. Regular updates are available at the *EcoHealth* website: <http://www.ecohealth.net>.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE DISEASES

Central Science Laboratory, in conjunction with the European Wildlife Disease Association, will be holding a conference on the ecology and management of wildlife diseases on 12–16 November 2007 in York, UK. The conference aims to present new developments and best practice in wildlife disease ecology from theory to applied ecological solutions, as well as bring together leading practitioners in the fields of disease research, socio-economics, risk assessment, and policy. Despite increased understanding of disease epidemiology and risk assessment, scientists and policy-makers still face challenges in creating workable strategies for the sustainable management of wildlife diseases. Some of the themes planned for plenary sessions include disease management and control; socio-economics and ethics; surveillance, risk assessment, and contingency planning; epidemiology; field evidence and experiments; conservation; and ecosystem health and climate change.

More information can be found at <http://www.ewda.org/WDEM%20conference%20York%20v1.pdf>.

MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT—A TOOLKIT FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION: PROTECTING NATURE'S SERVICES, PROTECTING OURSELVES

Recently released by Island Press, this Millennium Ecosystem Assessment publication provides a framework for

practitioners to apply the MA methods to their communities and organizations. This toolkit describes the MA ecosystem services, how to value these services, and lessons learned from effective policies and practices to increase human well-being and to solve environmental and development problems. Many examples of successful strategies in different locations and situations are included, such as researching the connections between ecosystems and human well-being in Minnesota and making the links between poverty and ecosystem services in Kenya and Uganda. The summary of successful strategies includes information on topics such as institutions and governance, economic incentives, social and behavioral changes, and technological responses.

The toolkit can be found at <http://www.islandpress.org/matoolkit/MAToolkit.pdf>.

MARINE CONSERVATION AND HEALTH MEETING

In an effort to promote an interdisciplinary approach to tackle the concept of marine ecosystem health and the links to human health, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's project NSF IGERT: Integrating Ecology, Conservation, and Pathogen Biology (funded by the National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program) held a Marine Conservation and Health meeting on 7–9 March 2007. The agenda included a minisymposium series on topics ranging from marine conservation and protection to land-sea interaction and on exploring approaches to understanding the public health connection to coral reef health. The meeting yielded new research collaborations to address unanswered questions, for example, concerning the etiology of coral diseases. It also launched a collaborative research initiative on coral

reef health and human health in the Pacific involving natural and social scientists whose experience spans the Pacific from the Hawaiian Islands coral reef ecosystem to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Those present were hopeful that this spark of interdisciplinary integration will produce a larger marine ecology and health movement.

More information can be found at <http://www.jabsom.hawaii.edu/igert/>.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY WORKSHOP

A Wildlife Toxicology Workshop was held by the Smithsonian Institution on 13–15 March 2007 to identify, define, and prioritize the most pressing issues in this field.

Participants from a number of disciplines were asked to submit issues they deemed to be of highest concern and which shaped four thematic groups for discussion: Wildlife Toxicology in Education, Risk Assessment, Multiple Stressors/Complex Mixtures, and Sub-Lethal to Population-Level Effects. Within each theme, problem statements describing gaps in scientific knowledge and regulatory concerns were developed, solutions were considered, and next steps were determined to facilitate interdisciplinary, science-based approaches to studying and understanding complex contaminants issues in wildlife. A final report is currently being drafted and will be available in the next two to three months.

Published online: May 9, 2007