

What's New

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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>.

UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ECOLOGY AND HEALTH 2ND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL FORUM ECOHEALTH 2008

The International Association of Ecology and Health (IAEH) is pleased to announce that the next biennial conference (<http://www.ecohealth2008.org>) will be held December 1–5, 2008, co-convened with Canada's International Development Research Centre. The conference will be held in Merida, Mexico, hosted by the Instituto Nacional Salud Publica (INSP) (<http://www.insp.mx>). IAEH members will receive discounted registration and receive updates of forthcoming deadlines. Details on Association activities, including the IAEH general meeting, Student Section events, and other aspects of conference events will be updated regularly at the *EcoHealth* website: <http://www.ecohealth.net/events.php>.

Several *EcoHealth* sponsored events will take place at the conference. One workshop is "How to Write an *EcoHealth* Article," designed to assist individuals planning to submit manuscripts for publication in the journal *EcoHealth*. Both experienced and relatively inexperienced authors interested in preparing manuscripts for professional scientific journals are invited to attend. The workshop will include an overview presentation of the types of articles the journal seeks to publish, the preferred formats and styles, and guidelines on how to most efficiently and effectively produce and revise a paper to increase its prospects for being accepted and published in a timely manner.

The workshop will include a section on research articles reporting on projects using an ecosystem approach to health. *EcoHealth* editors will be on hand to offer insights and provide feedback to prospective authors.

A symposium entitled "*EcoHealth* and its Transdisciplinary Mission" also is planned. This is a symposium sponsored by the journal *EcoHealth* with the assistance of a U.S. National Science Foundation (Integrative Graduate Research and Training) program that supports integrative, transdisciplinary research training. The Symposium's purpose is to address the topic of transdisciplinarity and progress being made by the journal toward its mission of fostering transdisciplinary research. It will include presentations from individuals and groups with expertise in transdisciplinary research. The symposium will also include presentations of projects as examples of different kinds of transdisciplinary Ecohealth research and practice. Finally, there will be a substantial period of time allowed for Q&A and discussion on the topic, particularly as it relates to how to stimulate and overcome obstacles to transdisciplinary research.

INTERNATIONAL BIOGEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MEETING JANUARY 2009

The fourth meeting of the International Biogeographic Society will be held in Merida, Mexico, January 8–12, 2009. Included is a symposium on the biogeography of disease, focusing on the processes that contribute to disease spread in our increasingly globalized world. Another symposium of interest is extinction biogeography, which will review the current state of knowledge about processes shaping the biogeographic patterns of extinction as well as current and proposed ways in which biogeographers and conservation

biologists can reduce the severity of current extinction processes. Additionally, a pre-conference workshop on basic and advanced spatial analysis in macroecology (SAM) software is scheduled. More information can be found at: <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2009/index.html>.

OIE DECLARES AMPHIBIAN DISEASE NOTIFIABLE

The OIE (Office Internationale des Epizooties) or World Organization for Animal Health has voted to make two amphibian diseases, chytridiomycosis and iridoviral disease, notifiable. This will require the 172 member countries of OIE to immediately (within 24 hours) notify them of first time detection in the country or a part of the country not previously found affected; follow-up reports must be submitted at approximately monthly intervals until the matter is resolved or it is accepted as endemic. Reports will include information such as how they have tested for the diseases, and what measures are in place to manage the diseases. This decision will likely push more countries to test for these diseases, help policy makers find ways to reduce the presence of these diseases in traded amphibians, and, in some cases, may encourage more captive breeding or alternative types of trade. The aim is to reduce the risk of diseases affecting these trades and the environment. This information is made public on the OIE website (http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm) in the WAHID database.

DIVERSITAS LAUNCHES ECOHEALTH NETWORK

DIVERSITAS promotes integrative biodiversity science—linking biological, ecological, and social disciplines—in an effort to produce socially relevant new knowledge and provide the scientific basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. DIVERSITAS has recently established the ecoHEALTH Cross-cutting Network with the goal of exploring the relationships between biodiversity and health in order to inform policy makers on the underlying mechanisms involved, the impacts of biodiversity loss on health, and the potential consequences of health-related management decisions. The outputs of the ecoHEALTH activities will also be used to design future priorities of research as well as new research projects on this topic, given that the debate over how we deal with an increasing number of emerging zoonoses with wildlife origins is likely to grow as a conservation issue and raise the question of potential conflicts between biodiversity conservation and public health.

For more information, please visit: http://www.diversitas-international.org/index.php?page=cross_ecohealth_response.

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