

## *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 *Eco-Health* website: <http://www.ecohealth.net>.

### **BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY SPRING MEETING: FOCUS ON ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION**

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The British Society for Parasitology will hold its Spring Meeting March 30–April 1, 2010 at Cardiff University, Wales. In addition to special seminars on malaria, trypanosomiasis, and leishmaniasis, this year's meeting will also have a special focus on ecological and evolutionary parasitology. This multidisciplinary meeting theme will include topics such as wildlife disease, parasite community ecology, host–parasite coevolution, and molecular epidemiology. Conference details are available on the web at: <http://www.bsp.uk.net/events.php?id=6>.

### **GLOBAL SYSTEM NEEDED FOR ZOOONOTIC DISEASES**

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The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies has issued a new report that calls for a better global system for the prevention, detection, and response to zoonotic infectious diseases. Because more than 65% of infectious disease outbreaks in the past 60 years have been caused by species-jumping pathogens, the report urges increased collaboration between workers in the areas of human health, veterinary medicine, and ecology. In particular, emphasis is needed on surveillance, as well as better understanding and prevention of the conditions that can lead to the emergence of zoonotic agents. The full report is available online at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12625](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12625).

### **INTERNATIONAL HEALTHY PARKS HEALTHY PEOPLE CONGRESS**

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The first International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress will be held April 11–16, 2010 at Australia's new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The congress will explore the many ways in which nature and parks significantly contribute to human health. Attracting over 1000 delegates, it is expected that a great diversity of expertise and perspective will enable greater understanding of the benefits of nature. Many of the congress sessions will be held in outdoor settings, with innovative activities planned for delegate participation. Additional information is available at the congress website: <http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/>.

### **2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE—BIODIVERSITY IS OUR LIFE**

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The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. This proclamation recognizes that human health and nature are linked, with ecosystems providing many invaluable and life-sustaining services. Many different celebration events are planned worldwide and throughout the year, to highlight the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining all life on Earth. These celebrations are designed to encourage removal of the perception that people are disconnected from biodiversity. Further information is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>.

### **EMERGING ISSUES: ALONG URBAN–RURAL INTERFACES**

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What are the ecological and social challenges and opportunities driven by the interactions between urbanization,

land-use change, and natural resources? To explore these issues, Auburn University and the USDA Forest Service Interface South invite participation in a conference to be held April 11–14, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. The conference will focus on links between ecology and the human aspects of land-use change along urban–rural interfaces. Topics will include human influences on ecosystems, application of ecological research in land-use planning, and ecosystem impacts on human communities. Complete information about the conference is available online at: <http://emergingissues.interfacesouth.org/>.

### ALDO LEOPOLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP

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The American ecologist Aldo Leopold (1887–1948) was a true transdisciplinary and ardent conservation advocate who laid the groundwork for modern conservation science, as well as for the overall environmental movement. In addition, many of the ideas from his book, *A Sound County Almanac* (1949), such as trophic cascades and the need for a “land ethic” involving an “ecological conscience,” also contributed to the emergence of the concept of ecosystem health. The Aldo Leopold Leadership Program at Stanford University embraces his legacy with the conviction that academic environmental researchers have an essential role to play in communicating conservation science. Applications are now being accepted for the Leopold Leadership Program (deadline April 12, 2010), which provides environmental scientists with intensive training in public outreach, media interaction, and policy leadership. Details about this program and its application process are available at: <http://leopoldleadership.stanford.edu/fellowship-information>.

### JOHNS HOPKINS INSTITUTE FOR NANOBIO TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF ENGINEERED NANOMATERIALS

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Nanomaterials have many beneficial industrial and medical applications. However, at the size of just a few atoms, it is currently unknown what interactions and effects they may have within ecosystems. As such, nanomaterials represent an emerging area of Ecohealth investigation. The Fourth Annual Johns Hopkins Institute for NanoBioTechnology

(INBT) Symposium, held April 29, 2010 in Baltimore, MD, will begin to explore the environmental and health impacts of engineered nanomaterials. Topics will include neurotoxicity, exposure assessment, policy implications, and more. Additional information about the symposium is available from the INBT website: <http://inbt.jhu.edu/>.

### MANAGING ECOSYSTEMS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

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The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has issued a new position statement that outlines strategies for mitigating and managing the effects that climate change will have on ecosystems and ecosystem services. Specifically, four approaches are recommended: prioritize low-alteration strategies, critically evaluate management-intensive strategies, acknowledge the ecological implications of geoengineering, and address long-term risks. To help ecosystems withstand climate change impacts, the ESA also recommends emphasis on the following actions: protect water quality and quantity, enable natural species migrations, improve capacity to predict extreme events, and conduct collaborative management at the ecosystem level. The complete ESA statement is available online at: [www.esa.org/pao/policyStatements/pdfDocuments/Ecosystem%20Management%20in%20a%20Changing%20Climate.pdf](http://www.esa.org/pao/policyStatements/pdfDocuments/Ecosystem%20Management%20in%20a%20Changing%20Climate.pdf).

### ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCES CONFERENCE: MANY SHADES OF GREEN

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The next conference of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) will be held June 17–20, 2010, at the Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR, and is sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Environmental Studies Program. This year's conference theme, “Many Shades of Green,” reflects the growing diversity and changes in today's environmental movement. In order to encourage creativity, inclusivity, and flexibility, the conference sessions are being organized in a two-step process that more fully engages input from the environmental sciences community. In addition, the AESS conference seeks to facilitate communication across boundaries that too often divide the traditional academic disciplines. Conference details are available at: <http://www.aess.info/>.

## 2010 ASIA-PACIFIC GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMER INSTITUTE

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An inaugural Asia–Pacific Global Health Summer Institute (SI) will be held June 20–July 2, 2010, in Honolulu, HI, to provide instruction and an exciting new forum focused on critical global health issues of the Asia–Pacific Region. With the theme of “New Perspectives in Global Health: Integrating Ecological, Social, and Biological Sciences,” the SI aims to combine expertise and resources for fostering integrative systems-level approaches to global health research and practice. Co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) Office of Public Health Studies, and the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, the SI will especially focus on four pressing global health challenges of the Asia–Pacific Region: indigenous health

disparities, linkages between healthy ecosystems and public health, the socio-ecology of emerging infectious diseases, and public health leadership. Four 1-week graduate-level courses will be team-taught at the UHM campus, by outstanding faculty from UHM, UC Berkeley, Mae Fah Luong University, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The UHM campus, on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, provides an ideal setting for instruction as Hawaii represents a microcosm of the Asia–Pacific Region, with its mix of Polynesian, Asian, and Western cultures, along with its fragile ecosystems that are increasingly threatened by global changes. More information is available at the SI website: <http://www.hawaii.edu/publichealth/ecohealth/si>.

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