

March 2007, Number 3

Newsletter of the IMoSEB Consultation

This newsletter provides information on progress of the consultation on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). Additional information can be found at <http://www.imoseb.net/> or by contacting executive-secretariat@imoseb.net.

- A - Major Events for the Period Nov 2006 - March 2007
 - B - The Potsdam Initiative, Case Studies, and Needs & Options Document
 - C - Completed Regional Consultations
 - D - Upcoming Events
 - E - Media Coverage
 - F - Miscellaneous
-

A - Major Events for the Period Nov 2006 - March 2007

18th AETFAT Congress

(Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa)

26 February - 2 March 2007, Yaoundé, Cameroon

The Executive Secretariat was invited to participate in the AETFAT congress. Didier Babin, Executive Secretary, presented the latest achievements of the consultative process in the Congress's opening session.

<http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/aetfat/>

The Paris Conference for Global Ecological Governance

2-3 February 2007, Paris, France

Alfred Oteng-Yeboah and Michel Loreau, co-chairs of the Executive Committee, and Didier Babin were invited to participate at the workshop "Acting Together to Safeguard Biodiversity" and present the advancements of the consultative process.

<http://www.citoyensdelaterre.fr/conference/>

Executive Committee Meeting - Consultative Process towards an IMoSEB

5-6 December 2006, CIRAD Headquarters, Paris, France

Based on results from case studies and the web questionnaire, the Executive Committee provided several recommendations for an IMoSEB, which were released in the Needs & Options Document.

Presentation of the IMoSEB Consultation at the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) Conference "Global Environmental Change, Regional Challenges"

9-12 November 2006, Beijing, China

Michel Loreau and Keping Ma, members of the Executive Committee, and Anne Larigauderie (Executive Secretariat) attended the conference and presented the consultation during a symposium on scientific expertise.

Participation in the European Platform on Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS)

16-19 November 2006, Finland, Helsinki

Didier Babin participated in the EPBRS meeting and presented the advancements of the consultation.

Presentation at the French Academy of Sciences

14 November 2006

Didier Babin presented the consultative process to members of the Environmental Committee of the French Academy of Sciences.

B - The Potsdam Initiative, IMoSEB Case Studies, and Needs & Options Document

The Potsdam Initiative

The initiative, launched by the Ministries of Environment of the G8+5 (Italy, Germany, France, Canada, USA, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom + China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil), mentions and supports the consultative process in the second point of the *Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010*.

http://www.imoseb.net/information_center

<http://www.g-8.de/>

IMoSEB Case studies

The 7 case studies (4 released and 3 in progress) are available through the IMoSEB forum (registration required): <http://www.imoseb.net/forums/public/index.php?c=24>

- *Mobilizing Traditional Knowledge and Expertise*
Kelly Bannister (Victoria University, Canada) and **Preston Hardison** (Tulalip Tribes, USA) examine how traditional knowledge and expertise can assist decision-making in respectful and culturally appropriate ways.
- *Examples in the Use of Basic Scientific Information and its Application to Policies for the Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in Mexico*
Andrés Lira-Noriega and **José Sarukhán** (CONABIO, Mexico) describe how 'Bridging Institutions' and individual researchers have applied basic scientific information to the conservation and management of biodiversity in Mexico.
- *The Role and Contribution of Biodiversity Science Expertise to Understanding and Illuminating Decision-Making on the Emergence and Spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza*
Peter Daszak and **Aleksei Chmura** (Consortium for Conservation Medicine, USA) looked at the lessons for the International Communities as we face emerging diseases linked to biodiversity issues.
- *Science-Policy Interface: The Role of Scientific Assessments*
Robert Watson and **Habiba Gitai** (World Bank) apply lessons from the IPCC, MA and GBA for creating effective global environmental assessments.
- A study on fisheries, mechanisms of scientific expertise, and international regulatory bodies is being finalized by **Maurice Héral** (IFREMER).
- The case of alien invasive species management is underway by **Philippe Gouletquer** (IFREMER).
- *The decision making landscape affecting biodiversity*
Dave Raffaelli & Alison Holt (*bioSUSTAINABILITY* / DIVERSITAS)

The Needs & Options Document

Executive Committee drafted a document suggesting the possible needs and options for an IMoSEB at the committee meeting in Paris from Dec 5-6 2006. The recommendations were made in consultation with the case studies and were reviewed and commented on by the International Steering Committee. The document and comments may be downloaded from the IMoSEB website in English, French, and Spanish:

http://www.imoseb.net/information_center

C - Completed Regional Consultations

North America

30-31 January 2007

The North American Regional Consultation was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Over 60 experts and officials from Canada, Mexico, the United States, and international organizations were present. Chairman John Karau's overview, as well as the report of the working groups, and the list of participants are posted on the IMoSEB website:

http://www.imoseb.net/regional_consultations/north_america

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) coverage of the consultation is available in [French](#) and [English](#):

Africa

1-3 March 2007

The African regional consultation took place during the 18th AETFAT Congress in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In attendance were 94 participants from 28 countries and 10 regional and international organizations. The African consultation resulted in a set of recommendations, which, along with presentations and the participant list, can be downloaded from the IMoSEB website:

http://www.imoseb.net/regional_consultations/africa

IISD coverage of the consultation is available in [French](#) and [English](#):

D - Upcoming Events

European Regional Consultation

26-28 April 2007

The European regional consultation is to be hosted by IUCN and the RAMSAR Convention in Geneva, Switzerland.

Additional regional consultations will be held over the coming months, notably in Asia, Oceania and South America.

DIVERSITAS/SANBI South African Science-Policy Dialog on Biodiversity:

29-30 March 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

Setting the scene for the Science-Policy Dialog in the context of the consultation on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB).

E - Media coverage

BirdLife International

Greening Europe: Priorities of BirdLife International for the German Presidency, January-June 2007

http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Greening_Europe_German_Presidency_Jan-June_2007.pdf

CCN Mathews

Biological Diversity: Montreal Welcomes the International Experts

<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releasesuk/home.jsp>

IPCC Working Group I

Opening Discussion of the Plenary of IPCC Working Group I

http://www.brodhag.org/article.php3?id_article=92

The Information Network for Sustainable Development in Central Africa (RIDDAC)

The African Regional Consultation of the IMoSEB Process

<http://www.riddac.org/actualites/actualites-14.html>

Society for Conservation Biology

SCB Selects Initial Policy Priorities for 2007

<http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Policy/SCB-Brd-Policy-Decisions-2-25-07.pdf>

A Field Report from the IMoSEB Meeting in Montreal

<http://conbio.net/Publications/Newsletter/Archives/2007-2-February/v14n1013.cfm>

F - Miscellaneous

The Executive Secretariat welcomed in December 2006 – January 2007:

- Ms. Stephanie Guinard as IMoSEB deputy project manager.
- Mr. Chad Monfreda, MS Student, as part of an exchange program with the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

To contact the Executive Secretariat by mail, please now use the following postal address:

IMoSEB / Executive Secretariat
TA C-36 / D
Campus International de Baillarguet
34398 Montpellier Cedex 5
France

Executive-secretariat@imoseb.net