



The International Centre for Underutilised Crops

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Dear colleagues,

This issue is very slim – it has been a quiet week at ICUC. Please see below an interesting call for nominations for a science into practice award, an article about the importance of local biodiversity knowledge and information about the 5th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity. As ICUC is currently studying the effect of promotion of underutilised plants on biodiversity these are very topical pieces of information.

With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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- No entry -

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

The fifth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity will be held 29 October - 2 November 2007, and will be hosted by the Norwegian government in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This year's conference is entitled 'Ecosystems and people - biodiversity for development'. The conference will provide input to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and its preparations for the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP-9) in Germany in 2008. It will focus on the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystems in providing goods and services that are necessary for human well-being and security and for economic development. Key objectives will be to: illustrate and highlight the role of biodiversity in poverty alleviation and in reaching the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG), consider progress on the goal to achieve by 2010 "a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth" , and provide insights and inspiration for enhanced implementation of CBD's Strategic Plan. See link to full text for more details: Web: <http://www.trondheimconference.org/>

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 The Science and practice of ecology and society award

The Science and Practice of Ecology & Society Award is an annual award given to the individual or organization that is the most effective in bringing transdisciplinary science of the interactions of ecology and society into practice. An article about the winner, Gloria Gaia, of the inaugural edition of 2006 can be found at <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss2/art28/>. Examples of possible nominees include, a high school teacher who develops a special curriculum, a mayor with initiatives and actions

for her/his town based on scientific concepts, a journalist who brings scientific insights to a broader audience, or a NGO group who facilitates local knowledge production in rural communities.

The purpose of this award is to recognize the importance of practitioners who translate the scientific findings and insights of the scholarly community to practical applications. We want to identify innovative practitioners so that their story can be an example for others.

The Award

The award consists of 1000 Euro and an article in Ecology and Society devoted to this person or organization. This article will be written by those who send in the nomination.

Who can be nominated?

A person or organization that has succeeded in translating transdisciplinary science theory into practice.

Who nominates?

Any academic scholar or group of academic scholars can nominate a person or organization. An accompanying letter will argue why this person or organization is an exemplary example of the interface of practice and science in the domain of ecology and society.

Where to submit nominations?

The deadline for nominations will be July 1, 2007. Nomination letters can be sent, preferably electronically, to Dr. Marco Janssen, Email: Marco.Janssen@asu.edu. School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, Box 872402, Tempe, AZ 85287-2402.

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3.2 Cultural Erosion and Biodiversity: Canoe-Making Knowledge in Pohnpei, Micronesia

From Tevita Kete

Abstract:

Erosion of traditional knowledge and practice is a serious and accelerating problem, but quantitative work on traditional knowledge loss and its importance to biodiversity conservation is lacking. We investigated traditional knowledge of canoe making, a skill heavily dependent on plant biodiversity, on Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, through a survey of 180 island residents.

Our results showed that there has been an intergenerational erosion of canoe-making skills. Given current trends, the present generation of Pohnpeians may be the last to retain any knowledge of this traditional craft.

We also identified several correlates of knowledge loss—including Western educational level and occupation—that highlight potential avenues for skill conservation via governments, traditional leadership, and schools. These institutions could intervene to emphasize traditional knowledge, which would reinforce institutional contexts in which traditional knowledge and practice is valued.

The heightened awareness of the value of biodiversity that is linked to traditional knowledge is key to biological conservation on Pohnpei and can help support local conservation programs.

Brosi, B.J., Balick, M.J., Wolkow, R., Lee, R., Kostka, M., Raynor, A., Raynor, W., Gallen, R., Raynor, P., and Ling, D.L. (2007). "Cultural Erosion and Biodiversity: Canoe-Making Knowledge in Pohnpei, Micronesia." *Conservation Biology* 21(3): 875 -

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4. ICUC-related information

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- No entry -

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development