



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #73

26 August 2008

Dear colleagues,

This issue contains the usual eclectic mix of announcements and news, including an interesting collection of newspaper stories relating to specific underutilized species in the Publications and information section. There are also two articles relating to climate change, a topic of increasing significance. There were a number on new pest and disease outbreaks in staple crops such as wheat and maize that I chose not to include, even though they noted that in severe infestations, local people had fallen back on using indigenous crops. I would be interested in hearing from subscribers regarding the value of underutilized crops as a buffer against (invasive) pest and disease outbreaks.

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With best wishes,  
Nick

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## 1. Funding & Job opportunities

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### 1.1. African Climate Change Fellowships

Applications are invited for the inaugural round of African Climate Change Fellowships. The African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP) aims to support African professionals, researchers and graduate students to undertake activities that will enhance their capacities for advancing and applying knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa. The program is jointly administered by the global change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), with financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

This Call for Applications is extended to researchers, scientists, and academics working in fields related to climate change and climate change adaptation as well as professionals and practitioners with experience and responsibilities related to policy, planning or management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods.

A variety of Fellowship types are offered to support projects, research, and other activities that advance adaptation in Africa. The Fellowships range in duration from 2- 18 months, and award amounts range from USD \$5,000 - \$36,000, depending on Fellowship type. Eligibility is limited to citizens of member states of the African Union who are 40 years of age or younger.

A description of each Fellowship type and instructions and guidelines for preparing and submitting an application to be an ACCFP Fellow are provided in the 2008 Call for Applications. The 2008 Call for Applications and other required application materials are available on the Pan-African START Secretariat's website at: <http://accfp.pass-africa.org>.

All application materials must be received no later than 17 September 2008.

Applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

If you have questions about the ACCFP and this Call for Applications, or if you have trouble accessing the ACCFP website and application materials, please contact the Pan-African START Secretariat at [pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz)<<mailto:pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz>>.

We ask that you please help us spread the word about this exciting opportunity to other colleagues and friends. Forward this email to qualified individuals that might be interested to apply!

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### 1.2. Vacancy Announcement - Senior Programme Officer, Ecosystem Assessment Programme

Required to support the delivery and expansion of UNEP-WCMC's work on biodiversity indicators and ecosystem assessment, and play a driving role in a range of international biodiversity-related initiatives. Key duties will include taking a central role in developing and implementing, to the highest possible scientific standards, the Centre's activities in biodiversity indicators and assessment, including in support of the 2010 biodiversity target and other indicator initiatives, and various international assessment activities.

This enthusiastic, experienced self-starter will take a leading role in planning, development and fundraising for a portfolio of research and assessment projects. The successful applicant will also represent UNEP-WCMC and the EAP at relevant conferences, workshops and other specialist meetings both in the UK and internationally. Duties will also include deputising for the Head of Programme, as required.

The salary is negotiable within the Centre's existing bands. Applicants who meet the requirements are invited to send by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 their CV including full publications list, a short letter of motivation containing current salary, the names and contact details of two referees, and whether they can be contacted prior to interview, to: [recruitment@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:recruitment@unep-wcmc.org). Interviews will be held w/c 8/9/08.

Who We Are: The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), based in Cambridge UK, is the specialist biodiversity information and assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), run cooperatively with WCMC 2000, a UK charity. UNEP-WCMC's mission is to

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evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making. Since its establishment in the 1970s, it has been at the forefront of the compilation, management, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity information, and has an outstanding record of achievement.

Prospective candidates should note that this is not a UN post. For more information on UNEP-WCMC see vacancies at [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)

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### **1.3. New senior post at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi**

UNEP is looking for someone with a global perspective and good at networking and working in a team to pull together their new ecosystem management programme across UNEP. Though the position will at first be a one year project post, it will most likely convert into a more permanent post within UNEP as ecosystems management is one of the six new priority areas for UNEP for the future and well funded.

#### Terms of Reference

Senior Programme Officer (L-5), UNEP Ecosystems Management Task Manager, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

Under the general guidance of the UNEP Senior Management Team and the Direct supervision of the Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), the incumbent will be responsible for the UNEP-wide coordination of the Ecosystem Management Programme. Ecosystem management is one of six new strategic priorities of UNEP established under its Medium Term Strategy. The Ecosystem Management Programme (EMP) is an agency-wide programme, coordinated through DEPI and designed to provide a programmatic framework for this strategic priority area. The EMP is centered on the functioning and resilience of the ecosystems to maintain equitable access to the ecosystem services towards human well-being and to incorporate this approach into national development planning processes.

#### Responsibilities:

Organize and coordinate the UNEP EMP across the six UNEP divisions to ensure integration of UNEP disciplines and capacities towards the objectives of the EMP.

- a. Provide intellectual input for the day-to-day coordination of the EMP;
- b. Develop workplans and budgets for the implementation of the EMP within the context of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy and biennial programmes of work and coordinate their implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- c. Prepare reports on programme status, resources, and other related results-based reporting to UNEP Senior Managers, member states and UN Headquarters;
- d. Network with other organizations to design and promote linkages and partnerships in UNEP's environment and health activities and representing UNEP at various environment fora;
- e. Develop project proposals and funding strategies for the Unit;
- f. Coordinate within UNEP to ensure integration with other strategic priorities of UNEP and implementation modalities of the Medium Term Strategy (e.g., Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity Building); and
- g. Lead interdivisional working group to implement the EMP and represent EMP in other relevant agency working groups.

Develop EMP implementation approaches taking advantage of existing ecosystem management tools of UNEP and partner organizations. Identify additional tools needed for EMP implementation and facilitate their development by the respective UNEP divisions.

- a. Initiate and develop strategies for the effective implementation of the EMP;
- b. Lead analysis of EMP needs at the global, regional and national levels to guide UNEP's efforts;
- c. Identify knowledge management systems needed for EMP implementation, where gaps are found, develop concepts for EMP knowledge management systems and work with divisional staff for their establishment;
- d. Oversee the design, implementation and coordination of capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the ability of Member States to benefit from the ecosystem management approach;
- e. Develop country level activities in cooperation with UNEP Regional Offices and UN Country Teams, maximizing cooperation with sister UN agencies; and
- f. Support countries to develop national policies and action plans on ecosystems management, in consultation with other Divisions in UNEP and external partners.

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Represent UNEP and present and promote the EMP to member states, UN agencies, partners, other stakeholders and donors to promote implementation at the regional and national levels as well as to promote overall understanding at the global level and raise funding for its implementation:

- a. Lead cooperative efforts for the participation and contribution of relevant partners and stakeholders, including UN agencies and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and other related organizations involved in EMP; and
- b. Develop proposals for funding and present them to donors and partners.

Qualifications: Advanced university degree in natural resources management, environmental sciences or related field, or first degree in a similar discipline combined with relevant experience.

Additional Qualifications: Proven ability to coordinate with and enhance cooperation between professionals of diverse disciplines toward a common goal. Experience with national level environment and development planning and implementation desired. Strong oral and written communication skills required. Previous UN experience an asset. English proficiency required. Working knowledge of one or more other UN languages an asset.

CVs to arrive no later than 5 September at which time we will begin a short list for interviews.

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#### **1.4. Invitation to Pacific Islands Private Sector Enterprises wanting to expand their Trade in Agriculture and Forest Products**

The Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is launching a new European Union-funded pilot project FACT (Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade) to support the development of agriculture, agroforestry and forestry export-orientated enterprises in 14 Pacific Island ACP Countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). FACT will work with private sector enterprises that want to expand their operations to develop new products or improve existing products or production systems. FACT will provide technical and material assistance to selected enterprises. This will include a joint analysis of their business and supply chain to identify and document problems with the current chain, and areas needing support and new export opportunities. It is envisaged that project support will include areas such as training of operators (producers, handlers, processors), provision of necessary post-harvest processing equipment, storage facilities, certification (organic/fair trade/eco), new product development, evaluation and supply of germplasm of new species and varieties, and training in marketing skills such as pricing promotion, distribution, and negotiating. Interested enterprises, associations and individuals are invited to provide a 1-2 page expression of interest to FACT Project Office, to be received by 15th September 2008 including name, type of business/association, contact details, types of product(s) exported and markets, turnover in 2007, number of stakeholders, and approximate number of farmers or suppliers and proposed new export business directions.

Fact Project Officer  
SPC Private Mail Bag Suva, Fiji  
Ph: 679 3370733 ext 295  
Fax: 679 3370021  
E-mail: lext@spc.int

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## **2. Workshops & Training Courses**

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### **2.1. Food and Nutrition Security training programme**

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This training programme focuses on knowledge and insights on the interrelationship between food and nutrition security and development and how to design projects for vulnerable groups to address problems in the field of food and nutrition security from a multi-sectoral perspective. It aims to provide course participants with knowledge, skills and motivation to identify, plan and implement effective action on food and nutrition security at various levels, ranging from (national) policy level to regional, community, household and even individual level programmes. The programme is a combination of various courses, which can also be followed as 'stand alone' certificate courses. Following the complete programme of 11 weeks leads to a diploma at post graduate level. The programme runs from 30 Mar 2009 to 12 Jun 2009, and will take place at Wageningen International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

For specific course details and costs, contact: [training.wi@wur.nl](mailto:training.wi@wur.nl), or see the website: [http://www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Food\\_and\\_nutrition\\_security.htm](http://www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Food_and_nutrition_security.htm)

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## **2.2. IUFRO Conference on Gender and Forestry. Gender issues in natural resources management –perception and experiences in different parts of the world**

16-19 November- 2008, DehraDun, India

On behalf of the IUFRO units Gender Research in Forestry and Education, and Gender and Forestry, the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, India, will host this conference. The conference will explore experiences with gender sensitivity and gender analysis in forest management and organisations in the forestry sector as well as challenges to the sustainable livelihoods of forest dwellers and users all over the world. Conference days are planned for November 17 and 18, followed by a field trip on November 19. The conference invites papers and posters to explore the significance of these shifts on forest resources and its gendered environments. These include how forest users, national and international forestry departments and organizations respond to these changes and align themselves in different ways in an increasingly connected world. Challenges to sustainable livelihoods of forest dwellers, the politics of gender, class and ethnicity in forest communities and beyond are important themes that will be investigated at the conference. The programme will comprise key notes, paper and poster sessions and short workshops as well as a visit of the education and research institutions in Dehradun. Please pre-register as soon as possible by simple e-mail to Ernst Kürsten, copy to Siegfried Lewark. Registration will be through the conference website open in August 2008, where you will also find information about cost for participation and accommodation. Information about fees and transport as well as more details on the programme will come out in August 2008 on the conference website and directly by e-mail to those who have pre-registered.

More information from the Organisation Committee, please contact:

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[www.iufrogenderindia.info](http://www.iufrogenderindia.info)

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## **3. Publications & Information**

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### **3.1. Wild fruit helps farmers cope with climate change**

Zimbabwean researchers have investigated the effect of harvesting methods on the qualities of the wild ber fruit (*Ziziphus maritiana*), used in many parts of southern Africa, including Zambia, to prevent famine during drought. The scientists from Africa University in Mutare and the Agronomy Research Institute in Harare, working with the World Agroforestry Centre in Malawi define how qualities like colour and speed of drying correspond to how ripe the fruit is.

<http://www.academicjournals.org/AJB/PDF/pdf2008/18Jul/Tembo%20et%20al.pdf>

Tembo L, Chiteka ZA, Kadzere I, Akinnifesi FK, Tagwira F, 2008. Ripening stage and drying method affecting colour and quality attributes of *Ziziphus mauritiana* fruits in Zimbabwe. African Journal of Biotechnology, 9: 2509-2513.

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### 3.2. Climate cropland changes 'raising temperatures' in East Africa

Research predicts that vast amounts of land in East Africa will be converted from grasslands to ploughed fields over the next 40 years, as wetter conditions caused by climate change attract crop farmers to grazing grounds. "The transformation of natural ecosystems into croplands will be the biggest contributor to global warming in East Africa," says Pius Yanda, director of the Institute of Resource Assessment at Dar es Salaam University in Tanzania. Yanda took part in the Climate Land Interaction Project (CLIP), a collaboration between Kenyan and US scientists, which combined meteorology modelling with studies of land-use changes and high-resolution satellite imagery to make the forecasts. According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, most climate models predict East Africa to be the only tropical region in the world that will have a wetter climate by the end of the century. Wetter and warmer conditions are likely to cause a drop in existing agricultural productivity. The CLIP study, released last month (22 July), warns that some agricultural land will get drier while arid land in the remote northeast gets wetter, causing dramatic changes in land use. By 2050, nomadic cattle and goat grazers in the Wajir region of northeast Kenya will be affected by increased rainfall, which encourages scrub growth instead of existing grassy ground cover. Differences in soil moisture can alter the type of grass grown, which will adversely affect livestock feed. Furthermore, increased bush growth can encourage mosquitoes and other vectors that spread diseases such as highland malaria, sleeping sickness and Rift Valley fever. This could lead to displaced livestock and their keepers, concentrating them in areas with less rainfall and plant growth. The resulting increased land pressure could lead to soil degradation. The process may trigger land disputes over limited usable land as drought strikes other semi-arid regions and pastoralists abandon some regions, says Joseph Mworio Maitima, a CLIP researcher from the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi. "Unmitigated climate change will undermine Kenya's economy, with significant negative impacts on human livelihoods, health, water resources, agricultural production and food security as well as nature-based tourism", Emily Massawa of the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, told SciDev.Net.

Originally posted to Sci.Dev, 13 August

[www.scidev.net/en/sub-suharan-africa/news/climate-cropland-changes-raising-temperatures-in-e.html](http://www.scidev.net/en/sub-suharan-africa/news/climate-cropland-changes-raising-temperatures-in-e.html)

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### 3.3. Seabuckthorn: Cosmetic giants run into a Himalayan challenge

[from NWFP-Digest-L No. 6/08]

Ahmedabad, India. A dozen women are busy plucking seabuckthorn berries in Leh-Ladakh and Kargil for supplying them to their local Nundum Cooperative Society (NCS). The society will further their produce to All-India Aromatic Plants Growers Association (AIAPGA). By supplying such special fruits with medicinal values, these women will earn Rs 85-90/kg, higher than what they were getting earlier. "Our members have started earning more than 50% by growing such plants," says Mohammed Zaffar, president, NCS, which has 40 members. And the buck doesn't stop here. In fact, it starts from here. In a way, the hill people of India are coming together to take on foreign FMCG biggies such as Amway, K-Link, DXN and Tenzxi, who have been dominating the Indian cosmetics market, by launching a slew of herbal cosmetic products. The 6,000-member-strong AIAPGA, including herbal society, will launch herbal products under its common brand across the country by next week through self-marketing. And it is confident of outdoing the foreign competition. "We will break them completely. Our prices are quite nominal than these biggies and high in quality," says AIAPGA president and Kangra Herb Society director Randhir Singh Guleria. The growers are expected to get more than 40% margins on their produce once the mechanism falls in place. The association has got patent approval for launching 35 products initially, and a few more will join after approval. What's more, the Rs 300-crore industry is confident of touching the Rs 1,000-crore mark in the next five years with their in-house business model. Until now, the Indian consumer didn't have the right choice of organised herbal-care products. "This will wipe out the existing cosmetic players and create a new market for us," says Mr Guleria. Right from planting till the packaging, branding and marketing of the final product, the association has strategically built an in-house model for its members. This model will be more cost-effective than the one followed by foreign biggies, they claim. Interestingly, the growers will get returns as per their subscription period with the association. That means the longer the period, the higher the margins. "Our 40-hectare land was a complete wastage as we didn't know how to utilise it. Now, we have decided to supply medicinal plants for two years," says Dharamshala-based grower Manish Mahajan. A large number of growers come from regions like Leh, Kargil, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and areas covered under the Himalayan range.

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Economic Times, India, 1 August 2008

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News\\_By\\_Industry/Cons\\_Products/Cosmetic\\_giants\\_run\\_int\\_o\\_a\\_Himalayan\\_challenge/articleshow/3312164.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News_By_Industry/Cons_Products/Cosmetic_giants_run_int_o_a_Himalayan_challenge/articleshow/3312164.cms)

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### 3.4. Ghana: Local shea butter industry to be enhanced

[from NWFP-Digest-L No. 6/08]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with Africa 2000 Network on Friday held a stakeholders' workshop to empower rural women in northern Ghana to boost the local shea butter industry. The project beneficiaries would be trained under the Local Level Integrated Information System (LIIS), a component of the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Project (SRLP) of the UNDP. Mr Shigeki Komatsubara, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ghana, said LIIS was the model for providing information services to local shea butter producers. "Information services are critical especially for communities which are taking control of their own development using an assets-based approach to achieve sustainable livelihoods." Mr Komatsubara said the LIIS was a framework that aimed at addressing development information, knowledge access and communication needs within the context of efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the community level. He said Ghana's LIIS model also considered the development of an information exchange platform using the Development Information Portal. "The portal is expected to provide a one-stop shop for obtaining development information packaged to enhance rural development implementation of Community Action Plans (CAPs)." Mrs Christy Ahenkora-Banya, head of SRLP unit UNDP, Ghana, said the project would identify the marketable quality of shea butter and set up the ideal production environment for local women's producer groups. It would explore new markets for shea butter sales promotion, provide business management skills for local women's producer groups and transmit production skills among local women processors in a coordinated way. Mrs Ahenkora-Banya said the ultimate outcome was to empower women and alleviate their acute poverty in northern Ghana through enhancing the viability of the local shea butter industry as sustainable business. The Africa 2000 Network, the implementing partner, would be responsible for the transmission of skills and knowledge in shea butter production among local processors when the project is rolled out.

Modern Ghana, Ghana, 16 August 2008

[www.modernghana.com/news/179061/1/local-shea-butter-industry-to-be-enhanced.html](http://www.modernghana.com/news/179061/1/local-shea-butter-industry-to-be-enhanced.html)

Also, on the topic of shea butter, there is another article in French from Senegal "Le karité, l'or des femmes" or Shea, womens' gold (Sud Quotidien, Senegal, 16 July 2008).

[www.sudonline.sn/spip.php?article12511](http://www.sudonline.sn/spip.php?article12511)

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### 3.5. *Moringa oleifera* ("malunggay") in the Philippines: Malunggay planting in Santiago intensified

[from NWFP-Digest-L No. 6/08]

Santiago City – This city in the fourth district of Isabela may soon become the malunggay capital of northeastern Luzon (Cagayan Valley). Dr. Solomon Maylem, Santiago City agriculture officer, said malunggay has been highly endorsed as a food crop by experts because it is rich in nutrients. Santiago City Mayor Amelita Navarro, a nurse by profession and a doctor's wife, echoed Maylem's observation in an executive order directing all City Hall employees and village officials to step up the planting of malunggay seedlings or cuttings in their backyards and in idle lots in the city. The employees and officials were asked to plant each at three malunggay seedlings or cuttings. "Back in the United States, where my children and grandchildren stay, an apple a day keeps the doctors away, but here in the Philippines, we have the more powerful and miraculous malunggay that can keep the doctors away. So, we regularly send them preserved malunggay leaves which are taken like green tea," said the lady. Scientifically called *Moringa oleifera* Lamk, malunggay is versatile as food. The leaves, pods, and flowers can be cooked and eaten. In the country, recipes for malunggay range from *tinolang manok*, *pinakbet* and mungbean stew to corn-mushroom soup and "inabraw," the popular Ilocano dish. Studies show that an ounce of malunggay contains Vitamin C seven times found in oranges, three times the iron of spinach, three times the potassium of bananas, four times the calcium content of milk, and four times the Vitamin A of carrots. Research also shows that people who consume malunggay regularly have controlled blood pressure, strengthened immune system, manageable sugar level, and reduced arthritic pain. "Based on my own experience, I strongly advise lactating mothers to eat malunggay because it enhances the production of milk," Navarro said. It was also discovered that school children

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who eat malunggay excel in class. Maylem said his department is initially growing 16,000 seedlings to be dispersed all over the city.

Manila Bulletin, Philippines, 31 July 2008

<http://www.mb.com.ph/issues/2008/07/31/PROV20080731131238.html>

Or search [www.mb.com.ph](http://www.mb.com.ph) for "malunggay" for a range of related news articles on *Moringa oleifera* use in the Philippines.

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### **3.6. Palms: Environmental services of the aguajales and the opportunities for a global business for the Loreto Region, Peru**

[from NWFP-Digest-L No. 6/08]

Angel Salazar of the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (Iquitos) has written an article on aguajales, palm tree forests that occupy 5.3 million hectares in the Peruvian Amazon and sequester large amounts of carbon. They play a role in the local economy through providing employment opportunities for local communities and by satisfying the high consumer demand for their fruit. Salazar's article describes the potential benefits offered by aguajales harvesting and calls for increased efforts for improved management of aguajales as well as for linking these ecosystems to environmental services payment schemes. The fruits from the aguajales, the aguaje, are in great demand by the inhabitants of Iquitos. Fruits are consumed directly, or processed as refreshments, the aguajina, or as ice creams and popsicles. The demand generated by that way of consumption is satisfied by approximately 20 t of fruits per day. The marketing of the fruits generates a chain of value that creates employment in both rural and urban areas. In Iquitos alone, close to five thousand jobs are generated by the selling of aguaje fruits. Most of those employed are women who generate their own employment. The benefits that can be obtained by the harvesting of the aguajales are much more diverse than the ones that are traditionally obtained. These are the so-called strategic products, those obtained by providing added value to the aguaje pulp. These products include antioxidants, solar protectors, and high-quality oils for the cosmetics industry. An additional benefit that could be obtained is the added value of the ecosystem through the possibility of obtaining payments for the environmental services that the aguajales provide.

Ecosystem Marketplace, August 2008

[http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.opinion.php?component\\_id=6019&component\\_version\\_id=8909&language\\_id=12](http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.opinion.php?component_id=6019&component_version_id=8909&language_id=12)

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### **3.7. Baobab blogspot**

Now including a video on how to prepare a baobab drink, and links to many other Youtube video clips on the tree, along with much other valuable information on its nutritional aspect, recent change in the law restricting imports into the EU, etc.

[http://eatbaobab.blogspot.com/2008\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html](http://eatbaobab.blogspot.com/2008_08_01_archive.html)

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### **3.8. Call for Papers - Bentham Open Publications**

Bentham Open is one of the leading international publishers for Open Access journals devoted to various disciplines in science and technology. Please refer to Bentham Open's website at <http://www.oa-biological-sci.org/AllOpenTitles> for a current list of publications. Open access journals are freely available via the Internet for immediate worldwide open access to the full text of articles serving the best interests of the international research community. There are no subscription fees for open access journals. The modest open access publication costs are usually covered by the author's institution or research funds. Open access journals are no different from traditional subscription-based journals; they undergo the same peer-review and quality control as any other scholarly journal.

Bentham Open publishes the following open access journals in **Biological Sciences** (<http://www.oa-biological-sci.org>). Please visit the journals websites at below links provided in the titles. Please note that the word "FREE" stated after the journal title below signifies that there will no publication fees to authors for these titles until 31 December 2008. Contact [editorial@tombj.org](mailto:editorial@tombj.org)

[The Open Evolution Journal](#)

[The Open Conservation Biology Journal](#) FREE

[The Open Biology Journal](#) FREE

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[The Open Structural Biology Journal](#) **FREE**  
[The Open Plant Science Journal](#) **FREE**

These journals aim to provide the most complete and reliable source of information on current developments in the field. The emphasis will be on publishing quality articles rapidly and making them freely available to researchers worldwide. All articles are deposited immediately upon publication in at least one widely and internationally recognized open access repository, such as PubMed Central. Moreover, all articles are indexed by PubMed, Google and Google Scholar, therefore providing the maximum exposure to the articles.

All published open access articles will receive massive international exposure and as is usually the case for open access publications, articles will also receive high citations. The journals are essential reading for scientists and researchers who wish to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in the field. The publishers are confident of their journals rapid success. We would like to invite you to submit research articles, reviews and letters to the above mentioned journals, and if you are interested in submitting an article to a Bentham Open journal(s), then please upload it at [www.oa-biological-sci.org/open-ftp](http://www.oa-biological-sci.org/open-ftp) or refer to the journal Instructions for Authors (the journal website is stated above) or alternatively contact us by e-mail at [editorial@oa-biological-sci.org](mailto:editorial@oa-biological-sci.org) for submission guidelines.

Any queries therein should be addressed to [info@oa-biological-sci.org](mailto:info@oa-biological-sci.org)

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### **3.9. Mountain centre launches traditional resources portal**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) announces the launching of a web portal on 'Access and Benefit Sharing from Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge'. Accessible at <http://www.icimod.org/abs/>, the portal contains information about Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanisms and processes being carried out as well as the development and implementation of ABS regimes in countries of the Himalayan region. The portal provides links related to the subject and aims to serve as a regional clearing house mechanism on ABS. Through this facility, ICIMOD hopes to encourage, enable, and support learning and foster multi-stakeholder discussions and sharing of the ongoing debates and dialogues at international, regional, and national levels on the subject.

For more information, see [www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=87](http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=87) or contact:

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## **4. ICUC-related information**

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### **4.1 CoDI Induction Workshop held**

The ICUC-led Coalition to Diversify Income from Underused Crops (see ICUC-News # 70), partnered by BAIF, CASRAD, FAVRI and Winrock International India, held a most successful inception workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, 13-16 August. See the ICUC website for a summary, with the full workshop report to be made available shortly.

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## **5. ICUC network**

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**In this section we introduce new and old subscribers to ICUC-News to encourage greater interaction and benefit from the great diversity of readers. If you haven't done so, please send a brief introduction of yourself and your interest in underutilised crops to [h.jaenicke@cqi.org](mailto:h.jaenicke@cqi.org). We will not publish your email or phone contacts and if anyone is interested to establish direct contact, please write an email to me.**

- Fram Anonas, editor and science writer

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- Dhan Bahadur Air, Nepal, works in natural resource management, improving food security and livelihood securities of poor and excluded communities in rural areas.
  - Alan Beales, with a coffee company in Nigeria.
  - Bikash Paudel, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity research and development, Nepal, currently working on four different projects directly related to NUS.

ICUC also wishes to offer its congratulations to a Prof Mohammad A. Rahim, Department of Horticulture, Bangladesh Agricultural University, for being awarded with the 'Dr. Norman Borlaug International Science and Technology Award 2008' for his work on nutritional food security through fruit and vegetable research.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development