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ኢንስቲትዩት

INSTITUTE OF
BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION

የወሩ መከሰክት

ብዝህ ሕይወትን በዘላቂታዊነት መጠቀም በአካባቢና በኢኮኖሚ ላይ ያለው አወንታዊ ሚና የላቀ ነው!

Message of the Month

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity has significant positive impact on Environment and Economy!

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Monthly Newsletter
Public Relation & Communication
Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC)



08 February 2012

30 ጥር 2004

ብዝህ ሕይወትን መንከባከብ የሁሉም ድርሻ ሊሆን እንደሚገባ ተገለፀ



ከአዳማ አውደጥናት አቅራቢዎችና ተሳታፊዎች በከፊል

ኢትዮጵያ ካላት የብዝህ ህይወት ሀብት ተጠቃሚ እንድትሆን የባለድረሻ አካላት ተሳትፎ እንደሚያስፈልግ የብዝህ ሕይወት ጥበቃ ኢንስቲትዩት አስታወቀ።

ኢንስቲትዩቱ ታህሳስ 23/2004 ዓ.ም በአዳማ ቴታስ ኢንተርናሽናል ሆቴል ተገልጋይ እና ባለድርሻ አካላትን ያካተተ የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ የውይይት መድረክ አካሄዷል።

የግብርና ብዝህ ህይወት ጥበቃ፣ አርክቦት እና ጥቅም ተጋሪነት ፖሊሲ ላይ ያተኮረው የውይይት መድረክ የኢትዮጵያ ብዝህ ህይወት ሀብት ያለበት ወቅታዊ ሁኔታ እና የሚታዩ ችግሮችን የዳሰሰ ነበር።

በእለቱ የተለያዩ ጥናታዊ ፅሁፎች የቀረቡ ሲሆን ብዝህ ህይወትን እንዴት መጠበቅ እና መንከባከብ እንደሚቻል እንዲሁም የሚያስገኙትን ጥቅም ፍትህዊ በሆነ መልኩ ማካፍልን አስመልክቶ ሰፊ ያለ ማበራሪያ ተሰጥቶበታል።

ብዝህ ሕይወት ጥበቃ ኢንስቲትዩት የአግሮ ባዩዳይቨርሲቲ ፕሮጀክት ሥራ አስኪያጅ ዶ/ር ተረፈ በልሁ ኢትዮጵያን ከብዝህ ህይወት ሀብት ተጠቃሚ ለማድረግ የብዝህ ህይወት ጥበቃ

ኢንስቲትዩት ፕሮጀክት ቀረፆ በመንቀሳቀስ ላይ መሆኑን አስታውቀዋል።

አያይዘውም መንግስት ባዘጋጀው የ5 አመት የእድገትና እና ትራንስፎርሜሽን እቅድ መሰረት ዘላቂ ልማትን ለማምጣት መሰረት የሆነውን የብዝህ ሕይወት ሀብታችንን በጋራ መንከባከብ ይገባል ብለዋል።

ኢንስቲትዩቱ ከሀገር በሚወጡትም ሆነ ወደ ሀገር በሚገቡት የጀነቲክ ሀብቶች ላይ የቁጥጥር ስርዓት ዘረግቶ ሀገሪቱ ተገቢውን ጥቅም መጋራት እንድትችል ትኩረት ሰጥቶ እየሰራ ይገኛል።

ሆኖም በሀገሪቱ ውስጥ የሚገኙትን የብዝህ ሕይወት ሀብቶች የመጠበቁ ስራ ለመንግስት ወይም ለአንድ ተቋም ብቻ የሚተው ሳይሆን የሁሉንም ማህበረሰብ የጋራ እንቅስቃሴ የሚጠይቅ መሆኑን የጀነቲክ ሀብት ዝውውር ፈቃድ እና ቁጥጥር ዳይሬክቶሬት ዳይሬክተር ዶ/ር ዘለቀ ወ/ተንሳይ አስታውቀዋል።

ዶ/ር ዘለቀ ወ/ተንሳይ በንግግራቸው የጀነቲክ ሀብታችን ያለአግባብ እንዳይመዘበር ቅንጅታዊ የአስራር ስርዓትን በመዘርጋት ሁሉንም አሳታፊ የሆነ ስራን እንደሚጠይቅ ገልጸዋል።

ለዚህም ግንዛቤ በመፍጠሩ ረገድ መጠነ ሰፊ ስራ ለመስራት እና ባለድርሻ አካላትን በማስተባበር እንዲሁም የህግ ክፍተቶችን በመሙላት መሰረታዊ ለውጥ ለማምጣት በመንቀሳቀስ ላይ ይገኛል።

Members of French/Belgian Association of retired people visit IBC

07 February 2004 - The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) was visited by members of a French/Belgian association that comprised 15 retired people trying to keep abreast of developments in the world. Dr. Gemedo Dalle, IBC's Acting Director General, welcomed the guests, who came to see the extra-ordinary beauty and biodiversity of Ethiopia.

Dr. Gemedo in his welcoming speech said: "IBC is always open to work in collaboration with local and international organizations for mutual benefits. You are most welcome to the origin of mankind and one of the 12 Vavilovian centers of origin and diversity to cultivated crops."

IBC's Public Relation and Communication Director Ato Abiyot Berhanu presented on biodiversity and IBC'S current status and future plans. The presentation explains Ethiopia's genetic resources, species, ecosystem and cultural diversity as well as IBC's accomplishment since its establishment as Plant Genetic Resources Center (PGRC) in 1976.

Ethiopia, with land area of 1.12 million sq.km, has diverse ecosystems from the highest elevation of the Afroalpine and Subafroalpine Ecosystem of Simien (4550m asl) to the lowest point of Desert and Semi-desert Ecosystem of Dallol (-120m bsl). Owing to this diverse topography and climatic variability, the country is endowed with rich plant, animal and microbial genetic diversity and associated indigenous knowledge.

The Gene bank is one of the leading Gene banks in Africa and has accomplished a tremendous work in exploration, collection, and conservation of plant genetic resources. Currently, the Gene bank holds more than 62, 334 accessions of 165 plant species in cold storage facilities obtained through collection, repatriation and donation; and more than 6,664 accessions of 234 species in field Gene banks.

Until recently, 286 species of microbial genetic resources and 5376 soil samples are conserved in Microbial Gene bank. Moreover, 17 *in situ* and *ex situ* field



Welcoming visitors and official visit at Gene bank

Gene banks of endangered forest, medicinal, and forage and pasture plants have been established and they are expanding.

With regard to sustainable utilization, 100,639 accessions of seeds had been distributed from *ex situ* collections to different research and educational institutions and individual researchers in Ethiopia as well as worldwide.

Before opening the floor for discussion Ato Abiyot described the future plan of IBC on modernizing the conservation system and strengthening the capacity and the relationship with local and international beneficiaries.

While enjoying the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, the visitors raised some questions regarding Ethiopia's experience with regard to climate change and its effect on biodiversity. Financial source and support for conservation, GMO and invasive species were major points raised by the visitors for discussion. And experts from different areas of study gave enlightenment regarding the points raised.

According to experts response, the farmers are the primary victims of climate change. That happens as a consequence of deforestation and land degradation; and being part of the world impacts of climate

Members of ...

change also affects Ethiopia. On account of this, shift of species from low land to high land and the *vice versa* is taking place and it is believed that some species are endangered with climate change.

The country is also affected by invasive plant species, most importantly forestry species such as *Prosopis juliflora*, *Lantana camara* and *Acacia drepanolobium* as well as weeds such as *Parthenium histrophorus* and *Eichornia crassipes*.

With regard to GMO, the Institute focuses on landraces (farmer's varieties) and encourages their

sustainable utilization. As a country, Ethiopia has rules and regulations on GMO and the issues are addressed accordingly.

After the discussion, the guests attended official visit to the main Gene bank.

Nagoya Protocol on genetic resources achieves 92 signatories

3 February 2012 – With 16 countries becoming signatories in the past eight days, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity now has 92 signatories. The Nagoya Protocol was closed for signature on 1 February 2012.

The most recent countries to sign the Protocol (since 25 January 2012) are: Cambodia, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Thailand, and Ukraine.

The Nagoya Protocol, which was opened for signature on 2 February 2011, will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. Two countries, Gabon and Jordan, have thus far ratified the Protocol.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: "The signature of these 91 countries and the European Union effectively demonstrates that the international community is committed to early entry into force of this unique legal instrument at the service of sustainable development. I call on all Parties

who have not yet done so to expedite their internal procedure of ratification in 2012, which coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the opening of signature of the Convention for Life on Earth."

In order to become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, those Parties to the Convention that was not able to sign the Protocol by 1 February 2012 are invited to accede to it by depositing an instrument of accession with the Depository. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources; creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use.

Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

Biodiversity crisis is worse than climate change, experts say

20 January 2012 - Biodiversity is declining rapidly throughout the world. The challenges of conserving the world's species are perhaps even larger than mitigating the negative effects of global climate change. Dealing with the biodiversity crisis requires political will and needs to be based on a solid scientific knowledge if we are to ensure a safe future for the planet. This is the main conclusion from scientists from University of Copenhagen, after 100 researchers and policy experts from EU countries were gathered this week at the University of Copenhagen to discuss how to organise the future UN Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES - an equivalent to the UN panel on climate change (IPCC).

Species extinction and the degradation of ecosystems are proceeding rapidly and the pace is accelerating. The world is losing species at a rate that is 100 to 1000 times faster than the natural extinction rate.

Mass extinctions of species have occurred five times previously in the history of the world, last time was 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs and many other species disappeared. Previous periods of mass extinction and ecosystem change were driven by global changes in climate and in atmospheric chemistry, impacts by asteroids and volcanism. Now we are in the 6th mass extinction event, which is a result of a competition for resources between one species on the planet - humans - and all others. The process towards extinction is mainly caused by habitat degradation, whose effect on biodiversity is worsened by the ongoing human-induced climate change.

“The biodiversity crisis - i.e. the rapid loss of species and the rapid degradation of ecosystems - is probably a greater threat than global climate change to the stability and prosperous future of humankind on Earth. There is a need for scientists, politicians and government authorities to closely collaborate if we are to solve this crisis. This makes the need to establish IPBES very urgent, which may happen at a UN meeting in Panama City in April,” says professor Carsten Rahbek, Director for the Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate,



Firewood market

University of Copenhagen.

Professor Rahbek was one of the main forces behind this week's conference on biodiversity and the organisation of the new Biodiversity panel IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). The conference was arranged and hosted in cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Environment and took place at the University of Copenhagen, where more than 100 scientists and decision makers, primarily from EU countries were gathered. The conference has been organised just as Denmark is taking over the EU Presidency, which provides an opportunity to influence the process of organising the UN Biodiversity Panel.

The new panel is the biodiversity equivalent to the UN panel on climate change, which has resulted in enhanced policy awareness and changes around the world, and initiated a change of behaviour for billions of people in many companies. Unfortunately, the same is not true when it comes to reducing the threats to ecosystems and the loss of animal and plant species.

Biodiversity in danger without swift action, MEPs say

24 January 2012- With Europe facing a “silent crisis” of biodiversity loss, MEPs are considering ways to strengthen protections for habitats and species but are divided over how to compel EU national governments to live up to their commitments. A draft resolution debated yesterday (23 January) in the European Parliament’s environment committee says past efforts at biodiversity protection and restoring habitats have largely failed and urges the EU executive to pursue more forceful policies.

“We should be doing a bit more than producing roadmaps and we should be very clear and strong otherwise we will fail again and again,” said Bas Eickhout, a Green MEP from the Netherlands and member of the panel.

The draft calls for restoring 30% of damaged ecosystems by 2020 – doubling recent recommendations made by the European Commission. It also urges strengthening conservation provisions in the EU’s agricultural policy and to create an EU coast guard to improve enforcement of marine laws.

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, the new vice chairman of the environment committee, said European leaders have focused on the eurozone troubles while more threatening challenges loom ahead.

“I am working on a silent crisis, that’s the extinction of species and habitats,” said Gerbrandy (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, the Netherlands). “It’s a crisis behind the scenes that to be honest is probably more threatening than the euro crisis that we are facing.”

Preserving biodiversity ‘protects drylands’

16 January 2012 - The impacts of climate change and desertification on drylands could be reduced by preserving biodiversity, one of the first studies to look at dryland biodiversity and ecosystems has found.

This, in turn, would help protect the livelihoods of more than a third of the global population. Drylands occupy more than 40 per cent of the global land surface. They host around a fifth of the major centres of global plant diversity and more than a third of endemic bird areas - home to birds that live in geographically restricted areas.

“Biodiversity has an important effect on the quality and quantity of the ecosystem services provided by drylands,” Fernando Maestre, an ecologist at the King Juan Carlos University, Spain, and lead author of the study - published in *Science* last week (13 January) - told SciDev.Net.

These crucial services include carbon storage and the build-up of nutrient pools, all of which are crucial to prevent negative impacts of climate

change and desertification.

Researchers looked at 14 of these functions in more than 200 dryland ecosystems in 16 countries.

They found that the richness of biodiversity had a larger influence on the ability of dryland ecosystems to maintain these functions, than factors such as annual rainfall levels or microbes in the soil.

cycling.

“Because land degradation is often accompanied by the loss of soil fertility, plant species richness may also promote ecosystem resistance to desertification,” he said.

John Lemons, professor emeritus of biology and environmental studies at the University of New England, United States, told SciDev.Net that the study was the first to determine the relationship between dryland biodiversity and multiple ecosystem functions.

Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) in Brief

Vision

By 2023, IBC will be Center of Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Africa.

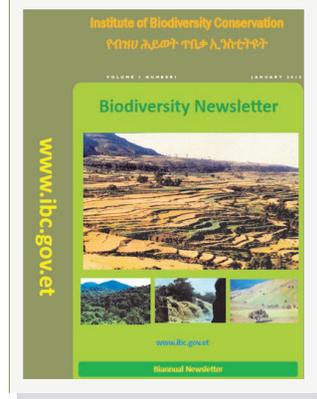
Mission

Undertake study and research on the proper conservation of Ethiopia's Biodiversity and associated indigenous knowledge; Establish participatory conservation mechanisms; Ensure fair and equitable Access and Benefit Sharing; Promote sustainable utilization of biodiversity for sustainable development.

Objectives

The Objective of the Institute is to ensure the appropriate Conservation and Utilization of the Country's Biodiversity.

Recent Publications



Biannual Biodiversity Newsletter (Vol. I No. 1)



IBC Brochure

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Website: www.abc.gov.et

Biodiversity Information Sources

www.abc.gov.et

The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation official website was first launched in 2004. Though the site was static in content and the need for biodiversity information was far from adequate, it has been an alternative means for at least getting some facts about the institute.

In 2007, the static website has been transformed to a fully dynamic and user friendly version using state of the art website technology and tools. The content is by far rich and based on users needs from past and present experiences. We deliver any type of information related to biodiversity mainly plant, animal, microbial diversity and associated indigenous knowledge and ecosystems.

Among others, the following are major

services from our website:

- Genetic resources transfer forms, guidelines, species lists, laws, etc.
- Publications (Laws, books, journal articles, newsletters, brochures, posters, etc.)
- Media (documentary films, Photos)
- Event and News calendar (workshops, meetings, etc.)
- IBC Press releases and international news
- Biodiversity Forums (comments)
- Staff Database
- E-mail services (staff only) and much more ...

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