

First DIVERSITAS International Conference on Biodiversity

*Integrating biodiversity science
for human well-being*

First Call

9-12 November 2005
Hotel Mision de Los Angeles - Oaxaca, Mexico

www.diversitas-international.org

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Programme Highlights

With more than 180 talks delivered by leading scientists from around the globe, the **First DIVERSITAS International Conference on Biodiversity** will provide in-depth overviews of a broad range of topics in biodiversity research.

In keeping with **DIVERSITAS'** mission, the Conference will:

- promote **integrative biodiversity science**, linking biological, ecological and social disciplines in an effort to produce socially relevant new knowledge; and
- further **develop the scientific basis** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Conference is an important means of synthesizing existing scientific knowledge, identifying gaps and emerging issues, and promoting new research initiatives while also building bridges across countries and disciplines. It also provides an opportunity to investigate policy implications of biodiversity science and consider means of communicating these to various fora, including international conventions.

Call for Proposals

All prospective participants are invited to submit ideas for a symposium fitting within the Scientific Disciplinary Areas (see below). Proposed symposia that bridge two or more disciplinary areas are welcomed and encouraged. All authors (including oral contributions and posters) will have to supply abstracts, the deadline for which will be announced in the Second Call.

Deadline: 30 April 2004

Special call for young and/or developing nation scientists

The Conference will present a special award for outstanding research by a young scientist. In addition, DIVERSITAS encourages and supports broad participation of scientists from developing countries.

Scientific Disciplinary Areas

The main themes of the Conference will reflect DIVERSITAS' Scientific Core Projects and Cross-cutting Networks, as well as biodiversity issues related to specific geographic regions.

bioDISCOVERY

- assessing how much biodiversity there is on Earth;
- developing the scientific basis for monitoring biodiversity and promoting the establishment of biodiversity observatories; and
- understanding and predicting biodiversity change.

bioSUSTAINABILITY

- evaluating the effectiveness of current measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- studying the social, political and economic drivers of biodiversity loss;
- investigating social choice and decision making; and
- understanding the interactions between humans and biodiversity in urban ecosystems.

ecoSERVICES

- expand the science of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning to larger scales and over a greater breadth of the biological hierarchy;
- develop effective means for linking changes in ecosystem structure and functioning to changes in ecosystem services;
- assess human response to changes in ecosystem services, and feedbacks onto ecological systems; and
- examine the impacts of biodiversity change on human health.

Cross-cutting Networks

- mountain biodiversity
- agro-biodiversity
- freshwater biodiversity
- biodiversity and human health

The Conference schedule is structured to give participants many opportunities to hear keynote speakers, participate in focused discussions, and explore the broad range of work being carried out around the globe. Each day will offer a minimum of three plenary sessions and 10 parallel sessions. An extensive poster session will highlight examples of innovative approaches to biodiversity science.

Conference Location

Founded in the 1400s and recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city of Oaxaca lies inland from the southwest coast of Mexico. A short one-hour flight from Mexico City, the area offers biological, ethnic and cultural diversity. Located just 10 blocks from the city's main square, the Hotel Mision de Los Angeles is a four-star resort with extensive meeting facilities.

Conference Scientific Committee

Mary Kalin Arroyo, Universidad de Chile, Chile • **Rodolfo Dirzo**, UNAM, Mexico • **Andy Dobson**, Princeton University, USA • **Michael Donoghue**, Yale University, USA • **Carlo Heip**, Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, The Netherlands • **Michel Loreau** (Chair), Université Pierre et Marie Curie, France • **Tohru Nakashizuka**, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan • **Charles Perrings**, University of York, UK • **Robin Reid**, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya • **Peter Johan Schei**, Directorate for Nature Management, Norway • **Bernhard Schmid**, University of Zürich, Switzerland • **Meryl Williams**, ICLARM, Malaysia

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Proposals or questions about the Conference should be sent to the DIVERSITAS Secretariat:

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