



## SEEmore Newsflash, March 2010

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### Editorial

*Astrid Bjørnsen Gurung, MRI Europe-IGF (mailto:astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at)*

Quality research not only builds on innovative project ideas, adequate equipment and funding but, in the first instance, is the result of personal contacts and mutual trust between project partners. Compiling information on active mountain researchers in the South Eastern European Region in a "Who's who" list is a crucial element to the development of the SEEmore network yet does not replace or supplement personal contacts.

The SEEmore event on "**South Eastern European Mountain Research and Global Change – Strategy Development and Networking Conference**" (26-29 August 2010, Timisoara, Romania) will offer an opportunity for scientists from all disciplines and interested stakeholders to engage in the formulation of new research initiatives within the SEEmore network. Specifically, the meeting targets at:

- (i) defining the current status of Global Change research in the South Eastern European (SEE) mountains in specific disciplines;
- (ii) drafting a research strategy for the SEE mountains focusing on topics relevant to the region;
- (iii) identifying potential partners for jointly developing research proposals and projects on Global Change impacts in the SEE mountains; and
- (iv) establishing an active SEEmore network.

The conference follows an action-oriented and future-directed approach allocating appropriate time on "what we know" but rather emphasizing "what we don't know", "where we need to go" and "how we want to reach there". While thematic inputs are kept to a minimum, appropriate time will be allocated for guided and free interaction between participants that ultimately should yield in products (synthesis, research strategy, project proposals).

**Call for contributions:** Global Change researchers from the SEE region have the opportunity not only to participate in the meeting, but to actively shape the conference programme suggesting input presentations and workshop themes they like to elaborate with a group of interested participants. The preliminary agenda can be downloaded from the SEEmore webpage: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-europe/south-eastern-europe/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if for any suggestions how to render the event more useful for mountain research in the SEE regions. I will be happy to include your ideas!

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THE NETWORK  
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## **Update of the SEEmore List**

*Florentina Popescu, Dept. of Geography, West University of Timisoara, Romania  
(florentina.popescu@cbg.uvt.ro)*

The SEEmore list is a simple and transparent tool for Global Change scientists working in mountain regions of the SEEmore countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania Republic of Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey, and for individuals of other countries with a special interest in SEEmore.

As SEEmore is not only a science network but primarily a network of scientists, it is crucial to develop sound knowledge on who-is-who in the region. The SEEmore list contains information on names and affiliations, research interest and expertise (including sites, geographical interest and URL of the person, institute or project, if available). It is updated on a bi-monthly basis and made available on the SEEmore webpage. Individuals listed in the regional „who’s who” list are automatically members of the MRI Europe network.

To add an entry or to make any changes, please send a message to Florentina Popescu.

[http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/SEEmore\\_List\\_V5.pdf](http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/SEEmore_List_V5.pdf)

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## PROJECTS

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### **Old-growth forests in Bosnia**

*Renzo Motta, Dep. AGROSELVITER, University of Turin, Italy (mailto:renzo.motta@unito.it)*

Old-growth forests are the ideal place for long term forest studies that can provide examples of structural and specific compositional transitions useful for verifying the predictions of forest successional models and can provide reference to analyse past disturbance history and present-future development with special reference to the climate change impact. One of the most important contributions of the long-term study in old-growth forests is its guidance for managing forests to better achieve a mix of environmental and commodity objectives in different present and future scenarios. According to some estimates, less than 10 percent of forests worldwide can be considered old growth, or undisturbed for more than a century. Old-growth forests are particularly rare in the temperate area and, even more, in Europe. Some of the best conserved European forests are in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The most important of these virgin remnants are the forests of Perucica, Lom and Janj. Planet action supports a project focused on Bosnia old-growth forest. The main purposes of the research are:

- a) to study the structure, dynamics, and developmental stages, and to establish a network of permanent plots in three Bosnian old-growth forests;
- b) to analyse the disturbance history at the stand (field research) and at the landscape (field research and remote sensing) levels in the forest types and in the regions studied;
- c) to reconstruct past and present climate-growth relationships and to develop hypotheses regarding future dynamics according to the different ICPP scenarios.

This study is coordinated by the Department Agroselviter of the University of Torino (Italy). Other partners involved in the project are: University of Padua (Italy), Dep. TESAF, University of Pavia (Italy), Dep. ECOTER, University of Ljubljana (Slovenija), Dep. of Forestry and renewable forest resources, University of Bania Luka (Bosnia Herzegovina), Faculty of Forestry.

More information: <http://www.planet-action.org/web/85-project-detail.php?projectID=4677>

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## EVENTS

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The MRI does not maintain a separate calendar for mountain research events but supports the system managed by the Mountain Forum, an electronic network of networks related to sustainable mountain development across five regions:

<http://www.mtnforum.org/europe/rs/calendar.cfm>

<http://www.mountainpartnership.org/events/>

Events included in the MRI-Europe or SEEmore Newsflashes are usually those that have been organized by MRI network members or which are of particular interest to researchers working in the field of Global Change in mountains.

### **International Mountain Day 2010 – Poll for themes**

*Sara Manuelli (mailto:Sara.Manuelli@fao.org)*

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 11 December as "International Mountain Day" with a different theme every year. For 2010 „Research“ would be a possible option! You can influence the selection of the 2010 theme by taking part in the below poll (not later than 1st of April):

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MNFCHWT>

### **BALWOIS: Water information and Information System for Decision Support**

25-29 May 2010, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia

<http://balwois.com/2010/>

### **SEEmore Conference**

#### **South Eastern European Mountain Research & Global Change – Strategy Development and Networking Conference**

26-29 August 2010, West University, Timisoara, Romania

The 2-days conference followed by a 1½-day field trip invites Global Change scientists and stakeholders interested in developing mountain research activities in the South Eastern European (SEE) Region. It is organized by West University, Department of Geography, Timisoara, RO (Prof. Dr. Constantin Vert), University of Bucharest, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), and the Institute for Mountain Research (IGF), Austrian Academy of Sciences. A small conference fee is raised (30€ for networking event, 50€ for both conference and excursion).

For more information see "Editorial" or download the preliminary agenda from the SEEmore webpage. To make suggestions please contact: Astrid Björnsen Gurung (mailto:astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at)

The call for registration will be published in April 2010.

### **Forum Carpaticum 2010**

15-17 September 2010, Kraków, Poland

<http://www.forumcarpaticum.org>

SEEmore Side Event at the

#### **International Conference: Global Change and the World's Mountains**

26-30 September 2010, Perth, Scotland,

To present the outcomes from the SEEmore conference in Timisoara (26-29.8.2010) and to discuss next steps towards an interdisciplinary research agenda for the SEEmore region, a side-event is scheduled during the Perth Conference. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the conference in Perth and if you like to actively contribute to the organization of the 1-hour side-event (mailto:astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at). Thanks.

<http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010>

First Call:

The first Romanian-Bulgarian-Hungarian-Serbian Conference

#### **Geographical Research and Cross-Border Cooperation within the Lower Basin of the Danube**

23-26 September 2010, Craiova, Romania

Convened by the University of Craiova & West University from Timisoara.

Conference Secretariat mailto: popescu.liliana.ucv@gmail.com

Early bird registration deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2010

Abstract submission deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2010

Acceptance notification: 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010

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Full paper submission deadline: onsite  
[http://www.gwpceeforum.org/File/first\\_call\\_Lower\\_Danube\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.gwpceeforum.org/File/first_call_Lower_Danube_1_.pdf)

First call:

**19th Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA 2010)**

23-26 September 2010 in Thessaloniki, Greece

Secretariat: <mailto:info@cbga2010.org>

CBGA 2010 invites you to submit abstracts until April 30, 2010. CBGA 2010 welcomes contributions covering every aspect of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. For a complete list of Special and General Sessions check <http://www.cbga2010.org/Programme.htm>.

Registration at <http://www.cbga2010.org/Registration.htm>

<http://www.cbga2010.org/Fieldtrips.htm>

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EVENT DOCUMENTATION  
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**First Meeting of the Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook Reporting Process**

Ljubljana, 4-5 February 2010

UNEP and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia (MESP), with the technical support of the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC), organized a first meeting of the Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook (DABEO) Reporting Process to discuss in greater detail the preparation of an integrated environment assessment (IEA) report for the Dinaric Arc and Balkans region. DABEO, which aims at covering state, trends and future environmental outlook, will be carried out as a collaborative exercise among the countries of the region, UNEP, the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative and other international organizations and stakeholders. The main objectives of the meeting were to agree on both the substance (contents/scope) and process for the DABEO report, including discussion of two papers on the geographic scope and thematic focus that had been prepared by UNEP, and to agree on "next steps" for the process.

More information is available at <http://unep-dabeo.org/>

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CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS  
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**Call for Research Proposals from Serbia**

The Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP) Western Balkans, launched in 2007 and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), aims at establishing and strengthening research capacities in the area of social sciences in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. For this purpose, and besides networking and capacity building, funding is also provided for research projects conducted by researchers from the region. The RRPP Management presently launches a call for proposals, open to researchers from and resident in Serbia. The research topics/project proposals to be submitted should be relevant to transition themes, and they should address and deal with specific issues at stake. Furthermore, the proposals must fit into the regional umbrella topic "Political, Social and Economic Change in the Western Balkans" and the research topic defined specifically for Serbia: "Governance, Social Change and Information Society".

Budget line: Swiss Francs (CHF) 25'000 maximum for one year per project

**Deadline: 12 April 2010**

For more information:

<http://www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net/calls?phpMyAdmin=f72f1c3ac670ace9c6f45f52160020de>

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CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT COLLABORATION  
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**Interested in collaborating on research projects** to assess genetic diversity of forest tree species in the Carpathians Mountains and South – Eastern Europe. Ex.: to install the experimental trials with larch provenances from Carpathians Mountains and other regions, if somebody is interested in this topic.

*For more information please contact: Georgeta MIHAI, Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS), Genetics and Tree Breeding Department, Bucharest, Romania*  
E-mail: [genetica@icas.ro](mailto:genetica@icas.ro)

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The next Newsflash is planned for May 2010, please send us any information you want to be distributed to the network. If you have documents to share please send us the web link rather than the document. Persons from outside the Balkan region interested to obtain the regional newsletter should send a short note to Dr. Björnson. Please send questions and comments to Sandra Liechti <mailto:liechti@giub.unibe.ch>. If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please reply with the subject "unsubscribe".

yours sincerely  
Sandra Liechti, The Mountain Research Initiative

Astrid Björnson Gurung  
MRI Europe/Institut für Gebirgsforschung: Mensch und Umwelt, Austrian Academy of Sciences

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-europe/south-eastern-europe/>

