

October 2010 ISSUE No. 006

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixth issue of our newsletter showcasing stories on the use and sustainable management of agrobiodiversity by communities, around the world. We would like to apologize for the late distribution, as we were developing our [new look website](#). We hope you are finding this service useful and we look forward to receive any comments or suggestions on how to further improve our quarterly newsletter and the website.

In this issue you can find:

- News from the Secretariat
- News Articles
- Announcements
- Forthcoming Events
- Resources

We hope you will enjoy reading and feel inspired by the energy and commitment of the growing community of agrobiodiversity researchers and stakeholders that the Platform is supporting.

We welcome your feedback, comments and contributions and would like you to inform us if there are any interesting activities, projects or initiatives you wish to feature in these newsletters or on our website. Please send these to the [Platform Coordinator](#).

For the next issue of our newsletter we request you to send us your contributions by **20 November 2010**.

News from the Secretariat

New look Website

We have developed and expanded our [website](#) to provide additional resources and facilities and to make it easier to use. In addition to the main Platform website, you can now explore two other web spaces dealing with [Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change](#), and [Crop diversity to reduce pest and disease damage](#). We are currently working on a new initiative called the [Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty](#), soon to be added on the main website. Please send your comments and ideas for further improvements.

PAR at CBD SBSTTA 14 – Nairobi, Kenya (May 2010): PAR was at the Fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held from 10 to 21 May 2010 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. In this meeting PAR made two statements:

1. Statement on Biodiversity and Climate Change

The PAR Statement was made in response to Agenda item “3.1.5. In-Depth review of the work on biodiversity and climate change” in reference to how the maintenance and use of agricultural biodiversity has been neglected in climate change discussions, despite the fact that it is this diversity that is and will be essential to the development of the adaptation and mitigation strategies that will maintain food security for a growing global population. Read [more](#).

2. Joint statement on Agricultural Biodiversity

The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) – together with Bioersity International – made its second formal Statement during discussions on Agricultural Biodiversity. The Statement was made in response to Agenda item 4.1.1 Agricultural Biodiversity: Follow-up to requests of the Conference of the Parties in Decision IX/1. Together with Bioersity International, the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research will continue voicing for follow up to the Review the CBD programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity conservation. Learn [more](#).

Side Event “Coping with Climate Change: How are Indigenous Peoples and Rural Communities Using Agrobiodiversity”: PAR organized a Side Event on during the CBD SBSTTA 14 meeting where representatives of indigenous groups and rural communities came together to discuss their experiences related to the use of agrobiodiversity, its role in how to best contribute to adaptation and mitigation. The event was intended to help stimulate interactions between scientists and farmers. More information on this event can be found [here](#).

Nairobi Agrobiodiversity Debates: On 22 May 2010, PAR organized its first public discussion to celebrate the United Nations proclaimed International Day for Biological Diversity. The main aim of the seminar was to increase the public's understanding and awareness of agricultural biodiversity and its importance in the wider picture of biodiversity. The event attended by more than 50 participants was held at the National Museum of Kenya's Louis Leakey Auditorium in Nairobi which coincidentally was the venue for the CBD's International Day for Biological Diversity celebrations. An interesting presentation was given by the keynote speaker Dr Hans Herren, the current president of the Millennium Institute and 1995 World Food Prize Laureate. His presentation titled "*Multifunctionality: The Unexplored Positive Side of Agriculture*" focused on the importance and relevance of sustainable agriculture.

Information related to this event has been posted [here](#).

Climate change and indigenous communities strengthening adaptability resilience and innovation

Through a project developed by the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research and supported by the Christensen Fund, the Sarawak Institute of Agriculture Scientists (SIAS) and the Semongok Agriculture Research Centre (ARC) has begun working on an initiative that intends to support the use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous and rural communities who have to cope with the effects of climate change.



The large number of rice varieties still maintained by a great number of farmers represents a rich opportunity for Sarawak and its farming communities; this diversity provides livelihood options through social, economic and ecological opportunities and helps improve both environmental and community resilience. The seed genebank of Sarawak's Department of Agriculture (DoA) aims to provide an improved service to the members of the Bidahyu community at Gahat and of the Iban by identifying and making available rice varieties that will help these farmers to adapt to the changes they are facing, especially floods and drought. Read more [here](#)

Iban lady selecting seeds in Sarawak/ Photo: Paul Quek, Bioversity International

Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty

Many may not know them, but there are several indigenous communities seeking to revitalize indigenous peoples' food systems and thereby define the food and agriculture of their choice; these are the real champions and stewards of agrobiodiversity. In this light, a new partnership, the [Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty](#) is being established to seek out such groups. It is also expected to bring together indigenous communities, scientists and policy researchers to work together for agricultural systems with lower carbon and ecological footprints.

The **Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty** is being led by an indigenous professional and three indigenous organizations together with the [Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research](#) (PAR) and [Bioversity International](#) (Rome, Italy), the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) (IIED) (London, England) and [Slow Food International](#) (Bra, Italy).



Photo: Indigenous community in Port Vila, Vanuatu/ Photo: Shayna Bailey, Slow Food

[Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research](#) (PAR) and [Bioversity International](#) (Rome, Italy), the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) (IIED) (London, England) and [Slow Food International](#) (Bra, Italy).

The Partnership's first activity was to hold an [International Scoping Workshop](#) from 3 to 5 May 2010 in Cusco, Peru within the vicinity of the Andean [Potato Park \(Parque de la Papa\)](#), an Indigenous Bio-Cultural Heritage Area. The Potato Park seeks to protect the vast knowledge, culture, resources and rights of the land and people who inhabit it. Read the full article [here](#).

The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty currently involves the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR), Biodiversity International, Slow Food, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and three indigenous organizations Tebtebba, ANDES and Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

News and Articles

Traditional Knowledge and adaptation to climate changes in Sunimarca, Peru

Dr Sonia Salas Domínguez and Dr Ana María Ponce

The community of Sunimarca is located in the High Andean Plateau at 4,100 m in Peru. It belongs to the hydrographic basin of the Ramis River, tributary to the Titicaca Lake, the highest navigable freshwater lake in the world. The annual mean temperature is approximately of 9 degrees Celsius, with pluvial precipitations of 700 mm.

Using ancestral techniques, this community preserves its biodiversity including crops and quinoa varieties which are unknown for the rest of the world, as well as valuable traditional knowledge and technologies. They live under extreme climatic variability, a condition under which they have adapted, since thousands of years, through their biological diversity, technologies and knowledge. However, the extreme heat and frost affecting them is more intense than before, causing lung diseases on children and elder people. Pastures are drying, vegetation cover is diminishing. This became even more evident since the introduction of foreign livestock in places where there only were there Andean camelids in the past, causing over pasturing and desertification. The community has conducted



diverse practices in aim to improve resilience of their maps against harsh weather conditions. A communal map and individual models of familiar plots called “*mapas parlantes*” have been elaborated by the farmers. These maps shape both the individual and the group aspirations of the people. Reforestation with native trees been conducted in the plots, and improved farming livestock practices are being promoted through annual and bi-annual livestock fairs organized by the community of Sunimarca with the participation of hundreds of farmers from diverse communities around the Ramis River.

Farmer showing her plot model "Mapa parlante", Sunimarca, Peru/ Photo: Ana María Ponce

Sunimarca is a model for the rest of the world based on the way they are adapting to climate changes through their traditional knowledge. It is important to raise the attention of the international scientific community in order to seek ways to assist (them) in the application of modern tools and technologies, allowing them to improve and implement future community development plans, improving their living conditions and protecting their valuable biodiversity from the harsh environment and extreme weather conditions in the Andes, similar to those in the Himalayas.

For more information please contact [Ana María Ponce](#).

Africulture Project – Eastern Cape, South Africa

Participating authors:

- Georgina McAllister GardenAfrica (UK)
- Michelle Griffith Umthathi Training Project (RSA)
- Prof Monique Simmonds Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK)

The Africulture Project's specific focus is the protection of the biodiversity of South Africa's Thicket Biome, which is a biome under serious threat due to the over exploitation of medicinal and other species, as well as illegal harvesting for national and international trade.



The detrimental impact on local healthcare and related livelihoods, upon which over 85% of the local population depend, are significant. It is this link between plants, health and livelihoods that has provided the focal point for communicating biodiversity, both to the projects' stakeholders and other interest groups.

To find out more about this project contact [Georgina McAllister](#), Programmes Director or visit the project's [website](#).

Aloe collection in South Africa/ Photo: Georgina McAllister

Cordoba Seminar Focuses on Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change

The **International Seminar on the Role of Agricultural Biodiversity in Addressing Hunger and Climate Change** was organized in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity and in commemoration of World Food Day held from 13 to 15 September 2010 in Cordoba, Spain.

Participants heard presentations by senior representatives of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), Bioversity International and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

The Seminar was organized by the Chair of Studies on Hunger and Poverty at the University of Cordoba, Bioversity International, CBD, FAO, ITPGR, the Government of Spain and local and provincial authorities. It aimed to: promote awareness raising and dialogue among public institutions, universities, scientists, civil society and the private sector; catalyze action and projects; and contribute to defining priorities and developing policies at all levels.

Read more about what transpired at this event [here](#).

Benefits of functional agrobiodiversity described in new brochure

Veronika Mikos

A brochure explaining the concept of functional agrobiodiversity (FAB) has been prepared by the European Learning Network on Functional Agrobiodiversity (ELN-FAB) in order to inform the interested public about benefits and possibilities that FAB offers. It focuses on the promotion of the concept and gives examples of FAB-based practices. The brochure was disseminated during the EU Green Week event (1–4 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium) and will be disseminated at other events.



The ELN-FAB project aims to provide a platform and facility for exchange of knowledge and practical experiences between farmers, policymakers and scientists to enable fast and effective implementation of best practices in order to help optimizing agrobiodiversity benefits and promoting sustainable agriculture.

ELN-FAB focuses on the 27 Member States of the EU, including Norway and Switzerland. For more information visit: www.eln-fab.eu or contact the Project Manager, [Veronika Mikos](#).

Global Survey of Traditional Ecological Knowledge Conservation Options

Ruifei Tang

A PhD student from Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) is conducting research on conservation and empowerment of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). A survey is being undertaken for this study and is aimed at exploring the global patterns of TEK conservation practices, and facilitate sharing its 'best' practices across regions.

TEK-focused researchers, organizations and indigenous communities are invited to participate in this study.

The survey for Researchers: http://vuw.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_cwnhbhPjR0ImnkM

The survey for Community members: http://vuw.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_37MxoVOV1nMqdDe

The survey for organizations: http://vuw.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_07ZqxDJ353RkPZy

Please feel free to pass on the survey to your colleagues/networks that maybe interested in such a research. If you have any questions or further interest in this research please contact [Ruifei Tang](#).

Bean diversity fair in Uganda

A Bean Diversity fair was held in Uganda on 21 June 2010. Farmers representing 40 villages came with their varieties and explained the use of the varieties. The fair was a big party for farmers; they had an opportunity to learn which varieties were available on other villages and to share their knowledge about varieties. More than 500 people attended the fair. The theme of the fair was “*Crop Diversity, Our Heritage, Our Livelihood*”. During the fair farmers organized several events, including traditional singing and poems, a painting competition for schools all related to the fair theme.

Read more [here](#).

Tisza river floodplains – the living genetic museum in Europe

Zsuzsanna Flachner

The Tisza river basin has unique role in Europe to preserve biodiversity, for example you can find the last healthy mayfly population with its symbolic dance in June here. Besides of nature values, special agro-biodiversity can be found and the world's thirteenth largest agricultural gene bank can be found here for preservation ([Research Center for Agrobotany, Tápiószele](#))

The Alliance of the Living Tisza (SZÖVET, www.elotiszaert.hu) has been formed as a coalition of farmers, municipalities, NGOs and researchers to support the introduction of floodplain management along the river as an alternative for sustainable rural development. One element of their activities is market development for local, diverse products through direct marketing, box systems and modification of legal and institutional framework, build up new partnerships.

One innovative action is a bridging role to transmit rare seeds (e.g. tomato, potato) for selected farmers of SZÖVET and besides create market opportunities for them with their special, high value local products. SZÖVET shop has been opened at one of the main market place in Budapest, capital city of Hungary to sell these products, and interest from exclusive restaurants, health care centers and individuals - keen to eat healthy food and support the diversity preservation action - bring increasing sale return. Certain percentage of profit goes for SZÖVET operation (for nonprofit activities, like education, research) and the rest for farmers directly. The Agrobotany Center benefits from field experiments and farmers supports further collection of old varieties.

For further information please contact [Zsuzsanna Flachner](#).

Tajik women's perspectives of climate change

The way that individual people perceive climate change is complex. Climate change impacts are not simply good or bad. A project in Tajikistan aimed at bringing together leading scientists and local communities to document scientific and traditional knowledge on climate change.

Find out more by viewing the video [here](#).

Events

CBD COP10, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 18–29 October 2010

Over 10,000 delegates are expected to attend the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in Nagoya, Japan. The meeting will acknowledge that the target set in 2002 to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 has not been met, although there are some success stories. Delegates will discuss why the original target has not been met, including views that it was vague and difficult to measure. They will set a framework to ensure that future targets are ambitious but realistic.

Here are some side events to look forward to during COP10:

IUCN-WCPA Protected Areas Day at the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion

All day in Room number 211 A, 1st Floor, Building 2

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) are organizing a side event during COP10. The day will raise awareness of the valuable role that protected areas can play as part of strategies to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Side event: IUCN-WCPA Global Protected Area Programme: Implementing the PoWPA 19 October 2010

13:15 - 14:45 in the Event Hall, 1st Floor, Building 1

The event will outline the role of IUCN (Commissions, Members and Secretariat – Headquarters and Regions) in post 2010 [Programme of Work on Protected Areas \(PoWPA\)](#) implementation. It will focus on the areas recommended by the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi; focusing on implementation, product delivery and funding needs.

For a full agenda and daily protected area highlights please visit [here](#).

Terra Madre, Turin, Italy, 21-24 October 2010

More than 5,000 representatives from the worldwide Terra Madre network will meet in Turin, Italy for the fourth time coinciding once again with the international Slow Food fair [Salone del Gusto](#). The five-day meeting will bring together food communities, cooks, academics, youth and musicians from all over the world, who are united in a desire to promote sustainable local food production in harmony with the environment while respecting knowledge handed down over the generations.

During Terra Madre, more than 70 [Earth Workshops](#) will be held. These workshops of the *world meeting of food communities* will be hosted at the Oval Olympic building, and in some cases, the nearby Lingotto.

On 24 October the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (IPAFS), together with PAR and Crops for the Future (CFF) will hold an event titled “**Recipes for Success**” (15.00 – 17.00 in ROOM C). The full agenda of Terra Madre Earth Workshops is [here](#).

Salone del Gusto, Turin, Italy 21-24 October 2010

This eighth **Salone del Gusto** establishes the event's international profile and confirms it as a key date in the calendar of everyone around the world who cares deeply about food. The Salone del Gusto and its parallel event, **Terra Madre**, have by now become two inseparable and interconnected halves, in constant dialog with each other. They offer perhaps the only place in the world where peasants and artisan producers, academics and chefs, wine connoisseurs and novice food lovers can come together in a spirit of exchange and friendship.

Democratising Agricultural Research for Food Sovereignty (DARFS): Global Partner Meeting and Interregional Exchange Workshop, Penang, Malaysia, 29-31 October 2010

The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty will participate. More about Democratising Agricultural Research for Food Sovereignty can be read [here](#).

Training in vitro and cryopreservation techniques for conservation of plant genetic resources, New Delhi, India, 15-27 November 2010

The International Training Course is being organized by the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Bioversity International Centre of Excellence. NBPGR is one of the leading institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India for plant genetic resources (PGR) management. The 2010 training course is being co-organized with the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), a programme of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI). The course will be conducted at NBPGR, Pusa Campus, New Delhi, India.

More [information](#) about this training event can be found [here](#)

Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists, Mera, India, 21-26 November 2010

The Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists will be a first of its kind aimed at bringing together pastoral women, from across the world. The gathering is the brainchild of MARAG, a voluntary organization established in 1994, which works to educate, organize and empower the Maldharis – a marginalized pastoral community from Gujarat in India. The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty will participate. Learn more [here](#).

Enhancing agrobiodiversity use: Development of demand oriented value chains, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 8–17 December 2010

The course aims to bring together the Wageningen alumni that participated in crop science related courses, who do have experience in agrobiodiversity conservation and/or agrobiodiversity use from a crop improvement and seed supply perspective, and the alumni of the more business oriented courses who have been well trained in developing supply chains and marketing issues.

Learn more [information](#).

Click [here](#) to find out more about other events.

Resources

A Viable Food Future

A report was released by the Norway's Development Fund "A *Viable Food Future*" in which the concept of ecological agriculture is introduced and explained. The aim of this report is to provide scientifically based facts, arguments and ideas for what is needed to meet some of the most important challenges in the world today. This report is about food and agriculture, it sees food as more than calories that fill people's stomachs, and it sees agriculture as more than producing and harvesting food. Find out more about the report [here](#), which can also be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Biodiversity and agricultural *sustainagility*¹: from assessment to adaptive management

Rapid changes in land use, food systems, and livelihoods require social–ecological systems that keep multiple options open and prepare for future unpredictability. *Sustainagility* refers to the properties and assets of a system that sustain the ability (agility) of agents to adapt and meet their needs in new ways. In contrast, sustainability tends to invoke persistence along current trajectories, and the resilience to return to current baselines. With three examples, the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity is explored along temporal, spatial, and human institutional scales for its role in *sustainagility*: first, farmers' seed systems; second, complex pollination systems; and third, wildlife conservation in agricultural areas with high poverty. Incentives are necessary if agrobiodiversity is to provide benefits to future generations. The publication is now available [here](#).

GCARD: Engendering Agricultural Research

This paper makes a case for gender equity in the agricultural research and development system. It reviews the evidence on exactly why it is important to pay attention to gender issues in agriculture and why it is necessary to recognize women's distinct food-security roles throughout the entire value chain—for both food and nonfood crops, marketed and non-marketed commodities. The authors examine whether women are factored into the work of research institutions, and whether research institutions effectively focus on women's needs. In short, are these institutions conducting research by and for women? The paper's conceptual framework demonstrates the need to integrate gender into setting agricultural priorities; conducting the research itself; designing, implementing and adopting extension services; and evaluating their impacts. Learn more [here](#).

UNEP Policy Series on Ecosystem Management

The Policy Series seeks to facilitate dialogue on policy issues related to Ecosystem Management. The target audience of the series includes governments, civil society organizations, the academic and scientific community, as well as colleagues in other organizations. Besides enabling UNEP to communicate with stakeholders, the policy series will also provide an opportunity for readers to engage in UNEP's work by discussing issues covered in the featured articles. It will also serve as a feedback loop from stakeholders. The Policy Series is accompanied by an online blog where readers can post their comments, ask questions, and suggest topics for future issues in the series. More information can be found [here](#).

¹ . *Sustainagility* refers to the properties and assets of a system that sustain the ability (agility) of agents to adapt and meet their needs in new ways.

Global survey of agricultural mitigation projects



FAO has released an analysis of the survey of agricultural mitigation projects carried out during April 2010. You can download the report [here](#).



This global survey of agricultural mitigation projects provides a summary of the state-of-the-art of different projects currently developed in this sector. It contains data on 50 agricultural projects focusing on climate change, of which 22 were developed specifically with a greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation objective. The data on the projects were submitted to an online survey in April 2010. The inventory is by no means meant to provide a complete picture of all currently developed agricultural mitigation projects, but rather aims to provide an overview of the status of activities within this field.

The analysis reflects on the focus of these projects, their objectives and main activities, the entry points for their establishment, as well as the management of the carbon benefits. More in-depth information is provided on 22 case studies. The report contributes to the current discussion on finding ways to integrate smallholder farmers into agricultural mitigation activities, and calls for developing financial mechanisms that could facilitate the transformation of current agricultural systems to climate-smart agriculture.



[Crops for the Future Brochure 2010](#) (PDF 1.2Mb)

[Crops for the Future has a new brochure. Read about this initiative that is taking off and derives from the merger of GFU and ICUC](#)

Other resources that may be of interest to you are listed here:

- [ACTESA newsletter issue 11](#)
- [September 2010 edition of CGIAR e-News, which has a thematic focus on Agricultural Biodiversity](#)
- [Food Prices in Africa: Quarterly Bulletin - September 2010 Edition](#)
- [Inforiz regional: L'actualité sur les thèmes rizicoles en Afrique de l'Ouest/Rice news in West Africa.](#)
- [Nouvelles de la campagne agricole AZN-FPG Juillet Aout 2010](#)
- [PAAP Newsletter vol. 13, no. 18: Climate change in agriculture: vulnerability, impact, cost and policy](#)
- [The Journal of Peasant Studies, vol. 37, no. 4, Special Issue: The Politics of Biofuels, Land and Agrarian Change](#)
- [Mountain Research and Development \(MRD\) vol. 30, no 3, on "\(Agro\) biodiversity in Mountains": available online and open access](#)

Announcements

[New NEPAD Website](#): please give them your insight!

Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter (PGRN)

Some of you have been eagerly waiting over a year to receive a new issue of the [Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter \(PGRN\)](#). This means you have missed out on interesting news, reports of collecting expeditions, genebank updates, preliminary testing of new characterization protocols related to PRG. All hope is not lost; a new initiative is currently being launched by [Robert Koebner](#) and Theo van Hintum ([WUR](#)) to bring PGRN back from the dead! The idea is to resume publication as a web-only English language journal housed at WUR and to provide authors with linguistic support if needed.

They are currently looking for the necessary financial sponsorship. To achieve the goal we need to demonstrate there is appreciable community support for the revival of PGRN. If you feel this is a worthwhile goal and would like to see PGRN back as a freely available, web-based journal, please send a message of support to [Robert Koebner](#).

More information and news on the current status of this newsletter can be found [here](#).

Funding opportunities for Small Scale Initiatives.

The Small-Scale Initiatives Programme run by the French Global Environment Facility (GEF) is designed to support civil society organisations in Africa which are actively working on biodiversity protection and climate change action.

The programme has been set up to help civil society organisations to:

- undertake field projects in West and Central Africa, Madagascar and Mozambique;
- strengthen their technical, training, management and project monitoring capacities;
- strengthen a small-scale projects monitoring network in West and Central Africa;
- strengthen their capacities for influencing environmental policy choices in the countries concerned;
- share and disseminate their experiences and success.

More [information](#)

The WCS Research Fellowship Program

The [WCS Research Fellowship Program \(RFP\)](#) is a small grants program administered by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Institute, which, from 1993 to 2007, funded over 300 proposals totaling more than three million US Dollars. The RFP grants help build research capacity for the next generation of conservation practitioners worldwide. The Program supports individual field research projects that have a clear application to conservation. In 2010, the RFP was re-designed and re-launched with a new focus of supporting work directly related to WCS priority land/seascapes, species, and/or the global challenges of wildlife health, climate change, human livelihoods, and natural resource extraction. The Program seeks to support the field work of graduate-level students (Masters, PhD, DVM or equivalent) who will work with WCS staff in Asia, Africa, Latin America and in special cases in North America (limited to Native Americans and First Nations, Métis or Inuit). The maximum award is \$20,000

Individuals interested in submitting an RFP application should visit [here](#). The application deadline is **5 January 2011**.

Call for Papers

An international conference to address the challenges faced in embracing payment for environmental services in the eastern African region is planned for 20-22 October 2010 in Jinja, Uganda. More information can be found [here](#).

Call for Concept Notes

Sustainable intensification of sorghum-legume based systems for food security and feed to improve livelihoods and adaptation to climate change in the semi-arid areas in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).The Staple Crops Programme of [Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa \(ASARECA\)](#) seeks concept notes for a regional project whose overall objective is to improve productivity and competitiveness of the sorghum-legume cropping system in the semi-arid areas of ECA. This would contribute to improved food security, livelihoods and adaptation to climate change of the communities (both small-holder farmers and agro-pastoralists living in these areas) in ECA.

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Invitation to share your images and videos

We invite you to please share your images and videos through the media gallery the Platform is creating. A [Flickr account](#) has been set up to share pictures related to agrobiodiversity, climate change, food systems, farmers and indigenous people in their fields and so forth. In addition, a [Vimeo account](#) for sharing videos has been created. If you are keen to share your pictures and videos with our readers, then kindly send them to [Nicole Demers](#).

For those of you, who already have a Flickr account, please consider adding “[Agrobiodiversity Platform's photostream](#)” to your contacts. This way we could return the favor and would be able to see when you have uploaded work-related photos that might be of wider interest. If you use another image-sharing website, please let us know about that too.

We will share pictures with the Platform members and our website users under the Creative Common License “[Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivates](#)”.

Please check [here](#) and let us know what would work best for you.


Thanking you all in advance!

PAR's goal: Is to enhance the sustainable management and use of agrobiodiversity by improving knowledge of all its different aspects. It seeks to promote research and integrate, mobilize and share research findings on the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity.

The PAR Newsletter is published by the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research and distributed to members and other subscribers. The Secretariat welcomes news, letters and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondences and information to:

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PAR PLATFORM FOR
AGROBIODIVERSITY
RESEARCH

The Platform is hosted and supported by  **Bioversity**
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