

## Conferences and Events

**International Conference “Ecological Affects on Biospheric Process in the Ecotone Zone of Southern Siberia and Central Asia”** dedicated to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition by the Russian Academy of Sciences and Mongolian Academy of Science will be held in September 6-8, 2010, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The main subjects for the conference work are: Ecological and social problems of the environmental pollution; Causes and effects of age-old dynamics of climatic conditions; Ecological risks in anthropogenic (agricultural and forest) ecosystems; Present state of the network of specially protected territories and prospects of their development; Flora, fauna and biogeocoenotical diversity in the ecotone zone; Ecological problems of aquatic and wetland ecosystems in the basin of Lake Baikal, and Round-table discussion on Desertification as ecological and economic problems for Mongolia and ways of its solution. Registration Forms for participation in the conference can be received by e-mail: monexp@mail.ru, ibot@mongol.net, geoeco@magicnet.mn and it should be submitted by March 1, 2010. Further information concerning the format of abstracts, and hotel accommodations can be accessed at: [http://www.sevin.ru/menus1/index\\_eng.html](http://www.sevin.ru/menus1/index_eng.html)

**International Conference “Eurasian Steppes: Status, Threats and Adaptation to Climate Change”** will be held at the Hustai National Park, Mongolia, September 9-12, 2010. The conference will be organized jointly by the Hustai National Park Trust and the Commission on Ecosystem Management of IUCN. The main subject of the conference is the effects of climate change on the Eurasian steppe ecosystems and the impact on livelihoods. This will be covered in the context of other threats like land-use change, overgrazing, hunting, mining etc. The aim of the conference is to promote ecosystem based adaptation for the conservation and wise use of Eurasian steppes in response to climate change. Official language of the conference is English, but will provide translation from and into Russian and Mongolian. For further information, please contact Mr. Munkhbat Tarav, Coordinator,

Hustai National Park, e-mail: takhi@hustai.mn, munkhtolui@yahoo.com or Dr. Marja van Staalanduin, Coordinator CEM (IUCN), e-mail: marjavs@xs4all.nl and go to: <http://www.hustai.mn/?pageID=94>

**International Year of Biodiversity.** The United Nations Organization is declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide. The celebrations for the International Year of Biodiversity are led by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Countdown 2010 is a partner of the CBD for the IYB. In only a few years of activity, Countdown 2010 has been able to mobilize an increasing number of actors ranging from local authorities and businesses to civil society organizations. With a powerful network of nearly 1,000 partners, Countdown 2010 is one of the leading initiatives mobilizing action for the 2010 Target. Through its wide and well-established network, Countdown 2010 will be a key global actor for IYB in Europe and around the world. Countdown 2010 and its partners will provide one of the main information channels and will be a major vehicle for reaching target groups worldwide. Objectives of IYB are Raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity for human well-being and promote understanding of the economic value of biodiversity; Enhance public knowledge of the threats to biodiversity and means to conserve it; Encourage organizations (and through them individuals) to take direct or indirect biodiversity conservation activities; Celebrate the achievements of Countdown 2010 partners and other stakeholders; Reporting on the possible failures for not achieving the Target; Prepare the ground for communicating the post-2010 target(s). You can find more information on the International Year of Biodiversity on the following websites: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/biodiversity/> or <http://iucn.org/iyb/>.