

NEWS

Biodiversity Internationally in Focus

After 2010, the international year for biodiversity, international progress has led to the creation of the UN Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), tasked with analysing and reporting on the global state of biodiversity. It is expected IPBES will promote an understanding of the extent to which our economies are dependent upon healthy ecosystems. Furthermore, the EU has recently set up 2020 objectives, compiled in a strategy document entitled "Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020". Its aims and objectives are to improve strategies towards halting biodiversity loss through better enforcement, maintaining and improving ecosystems, focusing on sustainable fisheries and terrestrial farming, and tackling invasive species. The focus on biodiversity research remains strong internationally.

TCBR Member Leads FP7 Biodiversity Research

Healthy futures is a consortium of international partners bridging the boundaries between the global 'North-South'. This is the type of transdisciplinary work that many believe will be a main focus of future FP8 meetings. The team boasts 'southern' research collaborators from Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa. It focuses on environmental change and adaptive capacity through mapping, examining and anticipating future risks of water-related vector-borne diseases in eastern Africa. Prof. David Taylor (of the TCBR and the School of Natural Sciences) will act as overall project coordinator. He was successful in collaborating with the Irish SME AQUA TT UETP Ltd. When speaking to FP7 Ireland David Taylor said that "the research provides an excellent opportunity for Ireland to develop further its international reputation for research on the links between environment and health, an area of research that is likely to grow in importance in coming years."

TCBR Members Awarded EPA Project Funding

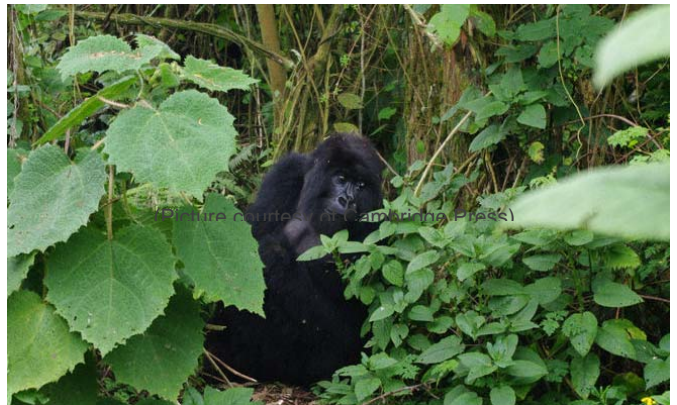
TCBR members (Dr. Ainhoa González and Professor Mike Jones) have been awarded an EPA project funded under the STRIVE programme to develop a GIS-supported Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment Methodology. The methodology aims to meet Ireland's current and future needs for Appropriate Assessment and other

legislative obligations and better integrate biodiversity considerations into EIA and SEA. The project is collaboration between TCD, UCD and Scott Cawley Ltd.

MSc Environment & Dev. Trip to Rwanda

Some of the 2010 Master class on Environment and Development were lucky to climb Bisoke Volcano, in the Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, where the group came across a small number of unhabituated gorillas.

Please send in your suggestions for the next edition of the TCBR newsletter and we would gladly include pictures of recent research trips and activities.



Picture courtesy of Cesary Filipek

CALLS

Dublin City of Science 2012 Festival

The festival will run for the entire year with a principal focus on the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF 2012), which will run for a week in July at the Dublin Convention Centre. There will be both scientific and public-engagement programmes. The TCBR will engage with the global scientific media and the public at this event and throughout the year. For those interested in submitting a proposal to the ESOF, the deadline is June the 30th 2011. All the relevant details are available at: www.dublinscience2012.ie/calls.

EU Open Call - Preparatory Action 'BEST'

Research institutions are invited to apply to 'BEST'. BEST is a follow-up to the 2008 conference "Message from Réunion Island" which was aimed at "The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter biodiversity Loss".

The cost actions of proposals should contribute to the protection of natural and semi-natural habitats which are characteristic for the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories; promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services through practical examples, including examples for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and green infrastructure providing multiple benefits. The budget available for this call is EUR 2.000.000. Proposals must be submitted by 9th of September 2011. The maximum EU funding rate of co-financing for this call is 95% of the eligible costs.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Power EF and Stout JC (2011) Organic dairy farming: impacts on insect-flower interaction networks and pollination. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 48: 561–569.

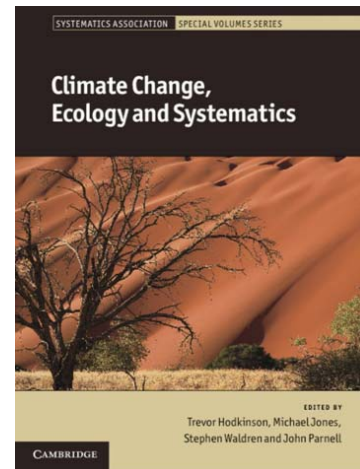
Mayer C, Adler L, Armbruster S, Dafni A, Eardley C, Huang SQ, Kevan P, Ollerton J, Packer L, Ssymank A, Stout JC, Potts SG, (2011) Pollination ecology in the 21st century: key questions for future research. *Journal of Pollination Ecology*, 3, 8-23.

Stout JC, Power EF, Stanley DA and Mullen SE (2011) Pollinators and pollination networks in Irish farmland: implications for conservation of pollination services. Conference proceedings of the Teagasc Biodiversity Conference 'Conserving Farmland Biodiversity; Lessons Learned and Future Prospects', 25-26 May, Ireland.

TCBR Publishes Key Text on Climate Change

Cambridge University Press has published a book, entitled 'Climate Change, Ecology and Systematics', edited by TCBR botanists Trevor Hodgkinson, Mike Jones, John Parnell and Stephen Waldren. It stresses how climate change has shaped life in the past and will continue to do so in the future. It also describes the challenge science faces to understand the interactions between climate and biodiversity, a key research theme of the TCBR. With contributions from sixty key researchers, this book examines the ongoing impact of climate change on the ecology and diversity of life on earth. It discusses the latest research within the fields of ecology and systematics, highlighting the increasing integration of their approaches and methods. Topics covered include the influence of climate change on evolutionary and ecological processes such as adaptation, migration, speciation and extinction, and the role of these processes in determining the diversity and biogeographic distribution of species and their populations. This book ultimately illustrates the necessity for

global conservation actions to mitigate the effects of climate change in a world that is already undergoing a biodiversity crisis of unprecedented scale.



Picture courtesy of Cambridge Press

EVENTS

The Alumni Tercentenary Garden Party will be held in the Trinity College Botanic Gardens in Dartry on the 25th June 2011 at 3 pm.

The Trinity College Trees Calendar will be launched on the 25th June 2011 at 3 pm, in the Trinity Botanical Gardens. If you would like to contribute a photo for consideration in the calendar please send your image to botany@tcd.ie.

REQUESTS

The TCBR is looking for contributions to our new biodiversity library. Please feel free to contribute to our growing collection by contacting the TCBR office.

Please send in information concerning current research, calls, news, publications and wildlife photos from field trips for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter.

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