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BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Existing sources of information, and projects, processes and programmes generating such information, for a comprehensive global-level assessment of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

1. The present note makes available detailed information on the assessments identified as existing sources of information for a comprehensive global-level assessment of the status and trends of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, including baseline information needed for assessing trends of biodiversity within the framework of the 2010 targets, which is presented to the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/7).

AfriCover – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<http://www.africover.org/>)

Summary: The purpose of the Africover Project is to establish a digital geo-referenced database on land cover and a geographic reference for the entire continent of Africa including data on: toponomy, roads and hydrography.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Country and region.

Indicators used: Land cover, rivers, roads, towns, agriculture aggregation, grassland aggregation, woody aggregation, bare areas aggregation, natural vegetation aggregation, and geomorphology (land form and lithology).

Agricultural Production Index

(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cdb/cdb_series_xrxx.asp?series_code=3510)

Summary: The Agricultural and Production Index is based on the sum of price-weighted quantities of different agricultural commodities produced after deductions of quantities used as seed and feed (using the Laspeyres formula).

Latest update: 2007

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/1.

Methods of classification: Country

Indicators used: All crops and livestock products originating in each country with the exception of fodder crops

Avibase- The World Bird Database (<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/avibase/avibase.jsp>)

Summary: Avibase is an extensive information system about birds of the world, containing over two million records concerning 10,000 species and 22,000 subspecies.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Bird name and bird family.

Indicators used: Distribution taxonomic status, and life history.

Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<http://dad.fao.org/>)

Summary: The Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) functions as the clearing house mechanism for the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, developed to assist countries in decision-making and as a communication tool in addressing the broad range of elements involved in the management of Animal Genetic Resources.

Latest update: Ongoing - Government appointed National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources can update their national data online via the internet.

Methods of classification: Country, species, and breed names

Indicators used: Origin, distribution, morphology, risk status (based on population size and structure; conservation programme *in-situ* and *ex-situ*)

Domestic Animal Genetic Resources Information System (DAGRIS) – CGIAR (<http://dagris.ilri.cgiar.org/>)

Summary: The Domestic Animal Genetic Resources Information System (DAGRIS) is an information system designed to facilitate the compilation, organization and dissemination of information on the origin, distribution, diversity, present use and status of selected indigenous farm animal genetic resources.

Latest update: 2006

Methods of classification: Breed, country, trait, and risk level.

Indicators used: Risk level (critical, endangered, rare, unknown and vulnerable), trait category (physical, production, reproduction and genetic), and trait type.

Earth Trends – World Resources Institute (http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/index.php?theme=9)

Summary: EarthTrends is an online collection of information on environmental, social, and economic trends. EarthTrends gathers data from statistical agencies into a single database. To facilitate the comparison of data from different sources, EarthTrends also supplements its content with detailed metadata.

Latest update: 2006

Methods of classification: Information is categorized under ten main headings: (i) coastal and marine ecosystems, (ii) water resources and freshwater ecosystems, (iii) climate and atmosphere, (iv) population, health and human well-being, (v) economics business and the environment, (vi) energy and resources, (vii) biodiversity and protected areas, (viii) agriculture and food, (ix) forests, grasslands and drylands, and (x) environmental governance and institutions.

Indicators used: For forests, grasslands and drylands: dryland extent, ecosystem area, forest production, forest certification, forest extent, land use, resource consumption, tree species, and trade in forest products.

Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) (<http://www.mnp.nl/edgar/>)

Summary: The Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) stores global emission inventories of direct and indirect greenhouse gases from anthropogenic sources including halocarbons and aerosols.

Latest update: 2005

Methods of classification: Region and country.

Indicators used: Fossil-fuel related sources and biofuel combustion, industrial production and consumption processes (including solvent use), land use-related sources, including waste treatment, and selected natural sources.

Endangered Languages Database (<http://www.indigenous-language.org/angered/>)

Summary: The Endangered Language Database is a survey of endangered languages carried out by the members of the Linguistic Society of America. The summary report includes one hundred and nine language researchers reporting on 151 languages/dialects.

Latest update: 1996

Methods of classification: Country and language.

Indicators used: Language or dialect, language affiliations, location, other language communities, nature of field work, number of speakers, total population, language program, other preservation activities, documentation and information on record author.

Global Assessment of Human Induced Soil Degradation (GLASOD)

(http://gcmd.nasa.gov/records/GCMD_GNV00018_171.html)

Summary: The Global Assessment of Human Induced Soil Degradation (GLASOD) project (1987-1990) has produced a world map of human-induced soil degradation. The type, extent, degree, rate and main causes of degradation have been printed on a global map and documented in a downloadable database.

Latest update: 1990 (chart), 1991 (explanatory notes).

Methods of classification: Geographic location.

Indicators used: Type, extent, degree, rate and main causes of degradation.

Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition – WHO (<http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/en/>)

Summary: The Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition is a standardized compilation of child growth and malnutrition data from nutritional surveys conducted around the world since 1960.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Country, age groups, residence (urban, rural) and region.

Indicators used: Weight/age (%), height/age (%), weight/height (%), body mass index/age (%).

Global Emissions Inventory Activity (GEIA) (<http://geiacenter.org/>)

Summary: The Global Emissions Inventory Activity (GEIA) develops and distributes inventories of global gas and aerosol emissions from natural and anthropogenic sources.

Latest update: Varies

Methods of classification: Source-specific emissions, compounds and other data (cropland and population).

Indicators used: Nitrogen oxides in soils, NOX lightning data, volcanic sulfur emissions, ammonia, black carbon, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, chlorofluorocarbons, CFC-11, CFC-12, HCFC-22, MCF, lead, mercury, methane, nitrous oxide, nitrogen oxides, pesticides, reactive chlorine emissions, sulphur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds.

Global Footprint Network (<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>)

Summary: The National Footprint Accounts are a comprehensive ecological accounting system that calculates the Ecological Footprint and bio-capacity of the world and 150 nations from 1961 through the present.

Latest update: 2006

Methods of classification: Global, region, country, high income countries, middle income countries and low income countries.

Indicators used: Total footprint (cropland, grazing land, forest: timber, pulp and paper, forest: fuelwood, fishing ground, carbon, nuclear and built-up land) and biocapacity (cropland, grazing land, forest and fishing grounds).

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) (<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>)

Summary: The Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) aims to increase awareness about invasive alien species and to facilitate effective prevention and management activities. The Global Invasive Species Database focuses on invasive alien species that threaten native biodiversity and covers all taxonomic groups from micro-organisms to animals and plants in all ecosystems. Species information is either supplied by or reviewed by expert contributors from around the world.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Species name, country or location, habitat, organism type, taxonomic level and taxonomic name.

Indicators used: Indicators are organized by: ecology (taxonomic name, description, similar species, uses, etc.), distribution (countries, alien range and native range), management information (preventative or control activities), and impacts (general impacts and location specific impacts).

Global Land Cover Network - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<http://www.glcnlccs.org>)

Summary: The overall objective of the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) is to increase the availability of reliable and standardized information on land cover and its changes at the global level.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Geographic location,

Indicators used: Natural vegetation life forms (trees, shrubs, woody, herbaceous, and lichens/mosses) natural vegetation dominance (closed cover and open cover), terrestrial cultivated areas and managed lands.

Global Water Quality Data (<http://www.gemstat.org/>)

Summary: Water Quality Data provided environmental water quality data and information on surface and ground water quality collected from over 2,700 stations, two million records, and over 100 parameters.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Region, country and watershed.

Indicators used: Indicators are classified under eight headings: (i) hydrologic and sampling variables, (ii) major ions, (iii) metals, (iv) microbiology, (v) nutrients, (vi) organic contaminants, (vii) organic matter and (viii) physical – chemical characteristics.

International Nitrogen Initiative (<http://www.initrogen.org/>)

Summary: The Preliminary Assessment of the International Nitrogen Initiative contains information on what is known and unknown about the impact of humans on the nitrogen cycle, and the resulting impacts on ecosystems and people.

Latest update: 2004

Methods of classification: Global, regional.

Indicators used: Agriculture, pyrogenic, biogenic and industrial emissions, and transport and deposition of reactive nitrogen.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List Index) (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>)

Summary: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on a number of taxa. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction.

Latest update: 2004

Methods of classification: Extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near-threatened, or least concern.

Indicators used: Population size, subpopulations, mature individuals, generation, reduction, continuing decline, extreme fluctuations, severely fragmented, extent of occurrence, area of occupancy, location and quantitative analysis.

The Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) (<http://lada.virtualcentre.org/pagedisplay/display.asp>)

Summary: The Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) aims to assess the causes, status and impact of land degradation in drylands. The LADA Virtual Centre is designed to serve as an information exchange platform for all stakeholders involved in the LADA project.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Thematic content (natural resources and environment, information and assessment, development/institutional issues, and relevance to LADA methodological framework), country, document type, and scale of issue.

Indicators used: Indicators are grouped within five main headings: (i) driving forces, (ii) pressures, (iii) state, (iv) responses, and (v) impacts.

Land Quality Indicators Information System (<http://www.grida.no/prog/global/cgiar/awpack/lqi.htm>)

Summary: The Land Quality Indicators Information System gathers data on global information related to land. This includes: the development of a meta-data catalogue on land-related data currently being stored by various international and national agencies, documentation, guidelines, analyses of data quality and compatibility, voids in information, databases directly available on the system, and inventories of land quality and environment related projects.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Relevant internet sites, case studies, databases, maps, newsletters and reports.

Indicators used: Not Applicable.

Official Development Assistance Database – OECD

(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cdb/cdb_series_xrxx.asp?series_code=29958)

Summary: Statistics of official development assistance provided to countries.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Country, landlocked developing country, small islands, least developed countries.

Indicators used: Debt forgiveness, debt relief, and Official Development Assistance (total, per capita, as percentage of Gross National Income, bilateral percentage untied, bilateral/multilateral, for basic social services, to help build trade capacity).

Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-arid Lands (SEPASAL) - Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (<http://www.kew.org/ceb/sepasal/>)

Summary: The Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-arid Lands (SEPASAL) is an online database recording the uses and use-related properties of almost 7000 wild and semi-domesticated plants of the world's tropical and subtropical drylands, with a geographical focus on Africa. Developed and maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, there are now also two SEPASAL nodes at the National Museums of Kenya and at the National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia. Useful plants include those which provide, for example, food, medicine, fuel, materials, or are used for erosion prevention.

Latest update: 2007

Methods of classification: Type of plant, use of plant, country or area, and environmental parameters.

Indicators used: Plant family, synonyms, vernacular names, distribution, uses, use-related properties (e.g. chemical properties, environmental tolerances, harvesting and processing techniques, seed sources, conservation issues, etc), references.

System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) - CGIAR (<http://singer.grinfo.net/>)

Summary: The System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) is an exchange network for information about samples of crop, forage and tree germplasm held in trust for the world.

Latest update: 2005

Methods of classification: Identity, source, characteristics, performance and distribution of accessions in the collection.

Indicators used: Varies depending upon the database but including, for example: institution holding collections, accession identifiers, taxonomic information, status, origin and distribution.

World Database on Protected Areas / United Nations List of Protected Areas

(<http://sea.unep-wcmc.org/wdbpa/>)

Summary: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is managed by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in partnership with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the World Database on Protected Areas Consortium. The WDPA contains information on the status, environment and management of individual protected areas.

The United Nations List of Protected Areas is the definitive list of the world's national parks and reserves. Since 2002 it has been compiled from the WDPA.

Latest update: 2006 (WDPA), 2003 (UN List of Protected Areas)

Methods of classification: Site name, country and international programme or convention.

Indicators used: Indicators are grouped within seven main headings: (i) location and category, (ii) map, (iii) Udvardy's realm, province and biomes details, (iv) historical details, (v) species details, (vi) related site details and (vii) document links.

World Grass Species (GrassBase)- Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
(<http://www.kew.org/data/grasses-db.html>)

Summary: The World Grass Species database provides an interactive guide to the morphology and nomenclature for the grass family. It presents flora-style descriptions for grass genera and species and an interactive key to species. This resource is now known as GrassBase.

Latest update: 2006

Methods of classification: Genus, geographical region, accepted name, synonym, publication, and distribution.

Indicators used: Indicators used: Habit, inflorescence, sterile spikelets, fertile spikelets, glumes, florets, flower, fruit, and distribution.

World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(<http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/wiews.jsp>)

Summary: The World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) is a mechanism to foster information exchange among FAO Member Countries, by gathering and disseminating information on PGRFA.

Latest update: 2005

Methods of classification: Geographic location, Institute, Germplasm (region, country, Institute code, species, and status of sample), and crop activity.

Indicators used: Status of sample, total accessions, geographic origin, storage conditions, and duplication.
