

RCEN E-Bulletin – April 9, 2008 Edition

Network News

International Day for Biological Diversity

In order to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues, the United Nations proclaimed May 22nd as the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) (IBD). This year, under the theme of Biodiversity and Agriculture, events will take place around the world (including Canada) to emphasize the value of agricultural biodiversity for food security, human nutrition and improved rural livelihoods.

The RCEN has been an active participant in the development of an outreach and education strategy leading up to the IBD and the Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) from May 19-30, 2008.

To learn more about the RCEN's contribution to these important events, please visit http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/consultations/closed/08_02_CBD.html.

Call for Delegates

ENGO-DFO National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee

The RCEN is looking for a new ENGO delegate to join the ENGO-DFO National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee (NFHCC). Since November 2006, 4 RCEN ENGO delegates have participated on the NFHCC, along with representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The purpose of the NFHCC is to plan, organize and coordinate cooperative activities between ENGOs and DFO in support of fish habitat management in Canada. The NFHCC meets monthly by teleconference and twice a year in person, with ENGO members being reimbursed for travel and living expenses related to all face-to-face meetings. **The deadline to apply is April 23, 2008.** For more information, please [click here](#).

Action Alerts

KYOTOplus: Add Your Name to the Petition

The *KYOTOplus* campaign is a project of Canadian public interest groups designed to mobilize public support for an urgent solution to the global warming crisis. There are two main components to the campaign. First, Canadian politicians have been asked to take the [KYOTOplus Pledge](#), calling on them to support strong action against global warming in Canada and around the world. Second, the groups are asking individual Canadians to sign the [KYOTOplus Petition](#). The petition calls for Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emission at least 25 per cent (from the 1990 level) by 2020. The campaign is targeting a minimum of **one million signatures** for this petition. The aim is to deliver the signatures to the United Nations climate conference that will take place in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Please [click here](#) to visit the *KYOTOplus* website and learn more about this initiative.

Announcements

Lobbying Act likely to come into effect in summer 2008

The new federal *Lobbying Act*, which formed part of the federal *Accountability Act*, is likely to come into effect this summer. The Bill was passed but the “coming into force” date was deferred to allow for an expanded Office of the Lobby Registrar and for passing of detailed regulations. Passage of the regulations has afforded more time for input and [Imagine Canada](#) together with national industry associations and nonprofit organizations wrote to the Minister and met with senior Treasury Board staff to explain the impact that the new reporting obligations under the *Act* will have on charities and nonprofits, including workload implications and constraints on sector-government policy dialogue. Treasury Board officials are presently considering whether to exempt certain types of communications from the reporting obligations. Information on the scope of the pending regulations is posted at <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/part1/2008/20080105/html/regle2-e.html>.

NGO Submissions under Challenge Component to CMP now available

Last March, four (4) NGOs responded to the Government’s draft screening assessment reports on the first Batch of substances under the Challenge component of the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). Their submissions are now available in French and English on the RCEN’s [CMP Capacity Building website](#). To sign up to receive future reports and NGO responses on the CMP, please contact [Leela Ramachandran](#), RCEN National Caucus Coordinator, tel.: (613) 728-9810 ext. 223.

Events

Toronto Bike Summit 2008

This April 25th, join leading transportation thinkers, practitioners and decision-makers at Bike Summit 2008. The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT) and the Clean Air Partnership (CAP) are hosting this unique one-day summit that will feature presentations by leading international bicycle transportation experts on strategies to encourage cycling, case studies of bike lane designs from around the world, and best practices for bicycle transportation funding and planning in both urban and suburban contexts. To register or for more information about this event, please [click here](#).

BCCFA 2008 Conference and AGM - “Community Forests – An Opportunity in the Face of Change”

From May 30 to June 1, the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA), the district of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast Community Forest invite you to join them for their 5th annual event in Sechelt, BC. Entitled “Community Forests – An Opportunity in the Face of Change”, the conference theme is an acknowledgement that these are tough times for the forest sector. However, it also reflects the fact that community forests are poised to meet the challenges and that they are part of the solution for rural communities. An ideal learning opportunity for anyone working in the community forestry sector, the event will put the focus on enhancing the marketing, product development and community building capacities of community forests. For more information, please visit the [BCCFA website](#).

Nova Scotia Nature Trust - St. Mary’s River Land Conservation Announcement and Reception

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust, one of the province’s leading private land conservation organizations, is very pleased to announce a special celebration which will take place on April 21st, in Halifax. Come hear an exciting land conservation announcement and enjoy a reception,

while learning about the Nature Trust's most recently protected property on the beautiful St. Mary's River, in Guysborough County. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact [Lauren Allen](mailto:Lauren.Allen@nsnt.ca) at (902) 425-LAND, or visit www.nsnt.ca.

Jobs

Seeds of Diversity Canada – Communications Coordinator

[Seeds of Diversity](http://www.seeds.ca) is currently seeking a bilingual Communications Coordinator to play a leading role in the delivery of programs and publicity. Working in an independent setting, in collaboration with staff and volunteers throughout Canada, the Communications Coordinator will help build strong relationships with members, supporters, partners, donors, and the media by maintaining clear and frequent communication in English and French. The part-time (8 hrs/week) Coordinator's time will be separated between communications work, volunteer coordination, fundraising and administrative tasks. The ideal candidate will preferably be located in the Montreal area and will have 5 years of related experience. To apply, please email your resume and a brief cover letter to Bob Wildfong, Executive Director at bob@seeds.ca.