



ICSU

International Council for Science

To: Scientific Union Secretaries-General
National Member contact points
Associate Member contact points

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From: Howard Moore, Senior Advisor

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you have been receiving copies of the newsletter *A World of Science* issued by the UNESCO Sector of Natural Sciences, and we have been asked by our collaborators at UNESCO to bring the following announcement to your attention.

UNESCO periodical on science goes 100% digital

UNESCO's quarterly journal, *A World of Science*, has become a purely electronic edition in 2012. The open access journal was disseminated both online and in print for nearly 10 years to a wide readership that included governments, academies of science, scientific unions and universities around the world. UNESCO continues to offer a free e-subscription to the English, French and Spanish editions, with e-subscribers receiving an e-mail alert four times a year.

The latest issue of *A World of Science* appeared in January. It features an article by Thomas Lovejoy entitled 'What future for biodiversity?' In this extract from the proceedings of the UNESCO Conference on Biodiversity Science and Policy in 2010, he alerts to the consequences of climate change for biodiversity and explains why protecting forests and restoring degraded lands could help limit carbon emissions.

UNESCO also pays tribute to Wangari Maathai, Kenya's environmental and pro-democracy activist, who used tree-planting via her Green Belt Movement to empower rural women and raise environmental awareness until her death last year.

A World of Science also reports on the findings of a study commissioned by UNESCO which reveals that the majority of Africans writing for the *Journal of African Earth Sciences* between 2000 and 2010 originated from just ten countries. Together with a series of scoping workshops, this study has incited UNESCO to focus its new Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa on institutional networking and the introduction of geology courses into African schools.

A fourth article profiles Serra do Espinhaço Biosphere Reserve in Brazil. This vast territory harbours not one but three biodiversity hotspots but is also the most intensely mined biosphere reserve in the world. An ecotax provides revenue for municipalities with large protected areas but this form of income remains less lucrative than the compensation mining companies pay municipalities for the environmental damage they cause.

Click on one of the following links to access the January issue and subscribe to *A World of Science* in your preferred language ([English](#), [French](#) or [Spanish](#)). Back issues may be consulted in five languages, including Arabic and Russian.

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