



# Twenty-year activities of DIVERSITAS in Japan

*International Scientific Framework*

**DIVERSITAS** (1991-)

**IBOY** (2001-2002) “International Biodiversity Observation Year)

**ILTER** (1993-) “Int’l Long-term Ecological Research“

*Inter-governmental framework*

**CBD** (1992-) “Convention on Biological Diversity”

**MA** (2001-2005) “ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment”

**IPBES**

“Intergovernmental Platform of  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”

GFOSS **GEO-BON** (2011-)

“Group of Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network”

*Regional-National Scientific Framework*

**DIWPA** (1991-)

**IBOY** (2001-2002) “International Biodiversity Observation Year)

**ILTER** (1993-) **JaLTER** “Long-term Ecological Research”

*Inter-governmental framework*

**CBD** (1992-) “Convention on Biological Diversity” **Aichi Targets** (2010)

**MA** (2001-2005) “ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment”  
**“Satoyama-Satoumi” Assessment**

**IPBES**

“Intergovernmental Platform of  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”

**J-BON, AP-BON**

**GEOSS GEO-BON** (2011-)

“Group of Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network”

# DIWPA

## DIVERSITAS Western Pacific and Asia



Tamiji Inoue  
proposed DIWPA and IBOY

**DIWPA: DIVERSITAS in the Western Pacific and Asia [ Biodiversity Network ]**

Home About DIWPA What's New? Members Publications Links

**New!**  
**Reports of DIWPA International Field Biology Course are available online**

2012 DIWPA International Field Biology Course was held in Kiso, Japan, from 17 to 24 August. A short report was provided by Dr. Okuda, one of the organizers of this course.

Monitoring data and scientific reports by participants are also obtainable in the following site.

[>> Web site](#)

**New!**  
**News Letter No.27**

We published DIWPA News Letter No. 27 on November, 2012.

[>>DIWPA News Letter No.27](#)

This issue contains;

- Essays about DIWPA International Field Biology Course
- Report of ASLO Lake Biwa meeting
- Introduction of AsiaFlux network
- New site of hill dipterocarp forests in Malaysia
- Guide to the Gordon Research Conference

**DIWPA directory of biodiversity observation sites**

DIWPA is ready for providing the directory of biodiversity observation sites. Please mail us (diwpa[at]ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp) if you have further information. Four sites were registered in 2012.

[>>DIWPA directory of biodiversity observation sites](#)

**Call for New Membership of DIWPA!**

We are now calling for membership of DIWPA. Membership is no charge. If you would like to join DIWPA, please contact the DIWPA Office.

[>>Call for New Member of DIWPA!](#)

**DIWPA (DIVERSITAS in the Western Pacific and Asia) is**  
an international network for the promotion of cooperative studies and information exchange on biodiversity in the Western Pacific and Asia, under a close cooperation with its mother program, Diversitas, organized by ICSU, IUBS, SCOPE and UNESCO.

[>> DIVERSITAS](#)

**We need your support**

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[>> CER \(Center for Ecological Research\)](#)

Center for Ecological Research  
Kyoto University (1991-)



# DIWPA: 309 fits (Google Scholar)



## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Tree diversity and dynamics of western Pacific and eastern Asian forests

#### Editors

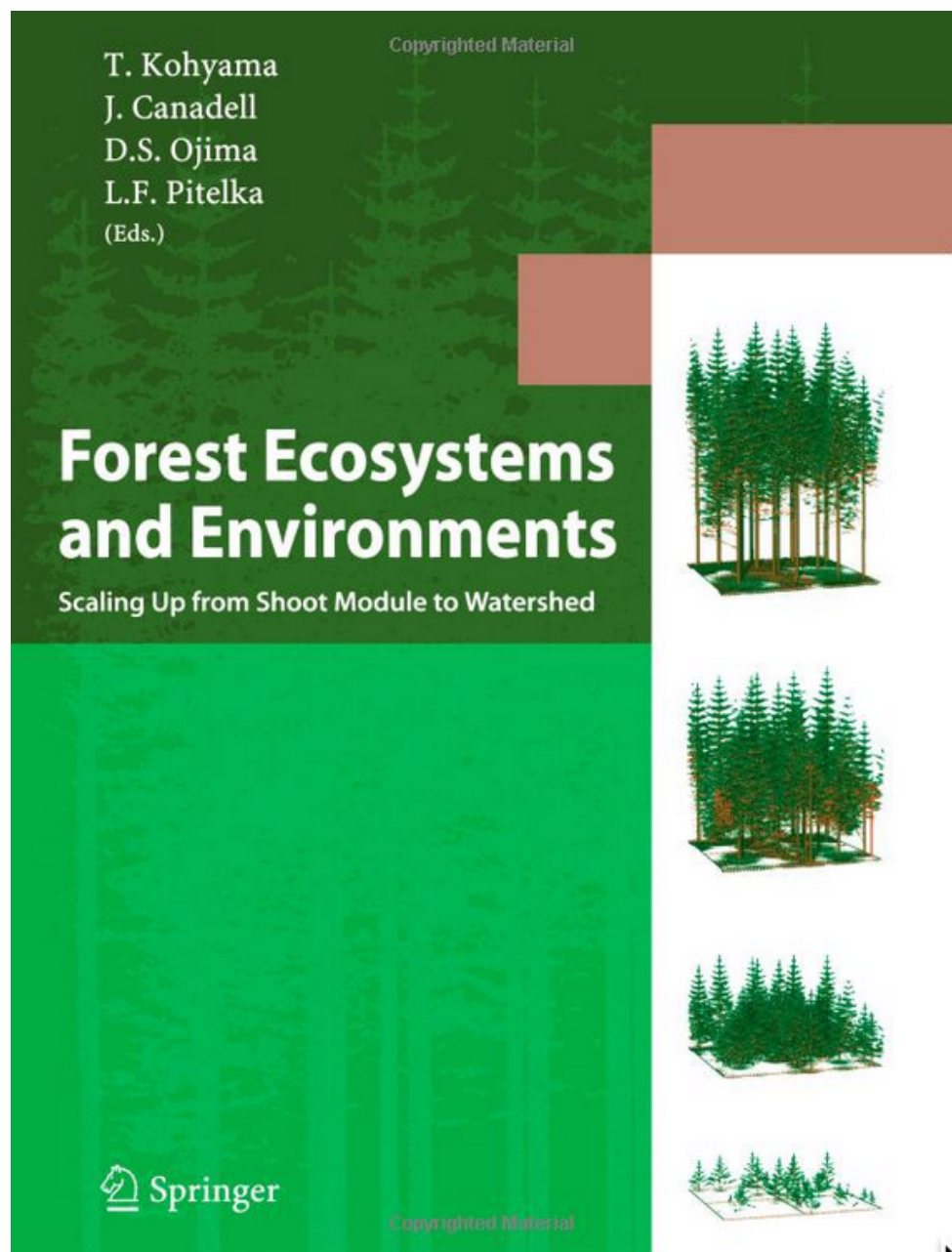
**T. Nakashizuka, T. Kohyama, T.C. Whitmore & P.S. Ashton**

The papers in this special feature were presented in the International Workshop entitled 'Biodiversity and Dynamics of Forest Ecosystems in Western Pacific and Asia' held on 10 and 11 November 1997 in Kyoto, Japan

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# GCTE-TEMA: 636 hits (Google Scholar) (1992-2003)



Ecol Res (2005) 20: 241–242  
DOI 10.1007/s11284-005-0040-2

### PREFACE

Takashi Kohyama · Josep Canadell · Dennis S. Ojima  
Louis F. Pitelka

## Forest ecosystems and environments: scaling up from shoot module to watershed

Published online: 31 March 2005  
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Terrestrial ecosystems are experiencing rapid changes of their structure and function as a result of an ever growing pressure by human demands on natural resources. Over the past decades, forcing by direct and indirect human activities has reached a point that is now rivaling the natural forcing that has shaped the Earth system over millennia. This unprecedented phenomenon has attracted a major investment by the scientific community to detect the impacts, attribute the changes to processes, and explore future trajectories. This scientific information is fundamental to creating the knowledge base that will inform policy development and will allow human societies to mitigate and adapt to these rapid changes.

With the goal of developing a novel research agenda in support to the above objectives, the “Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems” core project (GCTE, Walker et al. 1999; Canadell et al. 2005) was created in 1991 under the auspices of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). By contrast with other components of the Earth system, terrestrial ecosystems are constructed with short-lived and long-lived organic

compounds with varied diffusivity, resulting in pronounced spatial and temporal heterogeneity. Up scaling and integrating to global scales of such heterogeneous ecosystems in relation to global environmental change has been described and forecasted through the GCTE research agenda.

Other aspects of heterogeneity come from hierarchical and compositionally diversified features of terrestrial ecosystems. Plants create a vegetation framework with organismic hierarchy, from cell physiology to whole individual-level regulation, and biological components at each trophic level characterized by biodiversity related to compositional functional differentiation. Therefore, GCTE has promoted the integration and the study of feedbacks between processes driven by plant and ecosystem physiology, population and community dynamics, and biogeochemistry.

The “Global Change Impacts on Terrestrial Ecosystems in Monsoon Asia” project (TEMA) (1995–2003) was the Japanese contribution to the GCTE global effort. Coastal East and Southeast Asia, as the target region of TEMA, are characterized by wet growing seasons influenced by monsoon climates, and species-rich forest ecosystems develop along a latitudinal gradient from equatorial to boreal zone, and an altitudinal gradient from lowland up to the forest limit (Ohsawa 1995). The TEMA aimed to predict the effects of environmental change on the distribution and structure of forest ecosystems in the target region (Hirose et al. 1998). Core parts of TEMA were designed to integrate forest ecosystem processes from leaf physiology to micro-meteorological budgets, and to predict long-term changes of vegetation composition and architecture through demographic processes. The TEMA paid particular attention to watershed processes, where forest metabolism affects ecosystem properties and biogeochemical budgets of freshwater ecosystems. This is particularly important because rivers, wetlands and lakes are experiencing direct and indirect effects of environmental change. The unique challenge of TEMA research was the attempt to integrate various scales of

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# IBOY: International Biodiversity Observation Year (2001-2002)

## DIVERSITAS-IBOY: 119 hits (Google Scholar)



DIWPA: DIVERSITAS in the Western Pacific and Asia [ Biodiversity Network ]

IBOY Home    Research Site    IBOY Manuals    DATABASE    DB Manuals    Link & Site Map

IBOY Home

### Program Description

#### Project Title

Network study on biodiversity in ecosystems on the Green and Blue Belts in Western Pacific and Asia

#### Leader(s)

Dr. Hiroya Kawanabe (Chairman of DIWPA, Director of Lake Biwa Museum)

#### Other Participants

##### Organizer

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##### — Coastal marine ecosystems —

Dr. Y. Shirayama (Kyoto University, Japan)  
 Dr. D. Gordon (New Zealand)  
 Dr. T. Nakashizuka (Kyoto University, Japan)

### An International Biodiversity Observation Year

Diana Wall, Harold Mooney, Gina Adams, Geoffrey Boxshall, Andy Dobson, Tohru Nakashizuka, James Seyani, Cristián Samper and José Sarukhán

The International Geophysical Year (IGY), which took place between July 1957 and December 1958, helped us to rethink the world. At a time when there was a major paradigm shift in our understanding of the physical world, the international collaboration of the IGY helped to reset the discipline. The International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY) is now occurring at a time when our dependence on, and understanding of, biodiversity is being acknowledged as a paradigm shift in our present view of the world. Although the benefits of IGY were initially intellectual with practical effects remaining unknown until many years later, the benefits of greater knowledge of biodiversity will support efforts towards sustainability and affect the quality of life, both now and in the future. By providing the framework for international collaborations between scientists involved in every aspect of life on Earth, IBOY has the potential to redefine our current understanding of biodiversity in a manner similar to how IGY helped redefine the geophysical world.

January 2001 marks the start of the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY), which is an initiative of DIVERSITAS, the international program of biodiversity science that seeks to promote and integrate the various dimensions of research. During 2001 and 2002, scientists, informatics specialists, the media and educators from across the world will collaborate to focus attention on biodiversity, its status and trends.

#### Why an IBOY?

Globally, biodiversity is being lost at all levels: (1) genes, species and landscapes that provide goods such as food, fuels, fibers and medicines; (2) ecosystem services such as purification of air and water and renewal of soil fertility; and (3) natural environments that provide a foundation for art, culture and recreation. As has been abundantly documented in the scientific literature, the rate of extinctions of plant and

animal species has increased to between 50 and several hundred times the rates expected on the basis of geological data<sup>1,2</sup>, with 50% of mammals and birds predicted to be extinct within 100–1000 years<sup>3</sup>. As Myers *et al.*<sup>4</sup> note: 'the number of species threatened with extinction far outstrips available conservation resources'.

Biologists generally believe that these losses represent a threat to the well-being of human societies<sup>5</sup> yet no sector of society is equipped with sufficient knowledge to evaluate this erosion of natural capital and its goods and services. Only a small fraction, ~1.75 million, of the 14 million species estimated to be on the planet, have been taxonomically described<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the distribution, abundance, status, trends and contribution to ecosystem goods and services of many of these species, not to mention the remaining 80–95% of species yet to be taxonomically described, are unknown. Awareness of biodiversity and its many connections to our daily lives is limited across the globe, thereby completely undermining the ability of the public and policy-makers to make decisions for sustainable development and conservation.

During IBOY, biologists, educators and media professionals will collaborate to collate and increase the availability of accurate biodiversity information that is essential for informed decision-making. In doing so, they hope to make the compelling, scientific case for increased general concern and action about losses of biodiversity. The ultimate goals of IBOY, as eloquently stated in Article 13a of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), are to: 'promote and encourage understanding of the importance of and the measures required for the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media and the inclusion of these topics in educational programs'. Indeed, IBOY has the potential to achieve multiple goals.

#### Pushing the frontiers of science: the IGY model

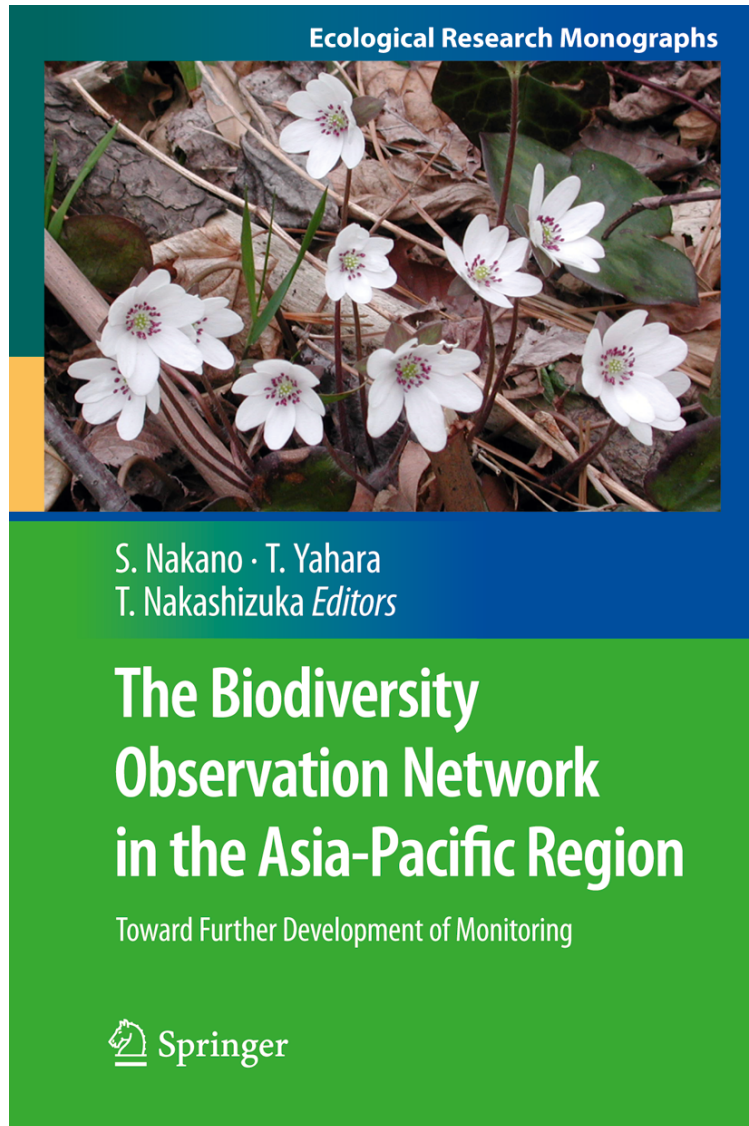
The IBOY was inspired in part by the enormous success of IGY which brought together many of the geophysical sciences to derive a more synoptic view of geophysical phenomena of the Earth and its atmosphere. Studies were made of the aurora, airglow, cosmic rays, geomagnetism, glaciology, gravity, ocean-floor soundings, the ionosphere, solar activity and, most notably, the ozone concentrations in the upper atmosphere<sup>7</sup>. The studies of ocean-floor soundings and the upper atmosphere led to our understanding of plate tectonics and the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts, respectively. In a large sense, the IGY paved the way for space-age research.

Thus, the hallmark of the IGY was innovative geophysical science that integrated both scientific disciplines and global expertise. Longer term research efforts were also initiated, adding to the data gathered during the single intensive year. Furthermore, the IGY was a great unifying force for the relevant sciences, bringing together unprecedented cooperation among the world's scientists and even leading to a remarkable political gain: the Antarctic Treaty<sup>8</sup>.

IBOY is set to play similar roles for biodiversity science, advancing our understanding of the nature and functioning of biological diversity, and conveying the importance of biodiversity to societal welfare. Projects within IBOY are exploring the frontiers of biodiversity — from the taxonomic diversity of the abyssal plains of the Atlantic Ocean to the dark and microscopic world in the soils beneath our feet (Box 1). Some projects are examining the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning from patch to landscape scales and others will identify biotic indicators of marine and terrestrial ecosystem sustainability. Many projects are combining previously fragmented datasets to provide new information on



# AP-BON (Asia-Pacific GEO-BON) First publication



- × **Part 1: General Introduction**
- × **Part 2: Networks for Monitoring and Research on Biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region**
- × **Part 3: Establishing a Biodiversity Database**
- × **Part 4: New Methods and Analyses for Biodiversity Studies**
- × **Part 5: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**
- × **31 chapters, 480 pages**

Scientific name: Dipterocarpaceae *Shorea stenoptera* Burck

No. 1

#

1<sup>st</sup> record



Scientific name: Rubiaceae *Lasianthus* aff. *angustifolius*

No. 32

#



Pictured guide as an output of Plant Diversity Assessment

Scientific name: Fabaceae *Bauhinia* sp.

No. 112

#



Scientific name: Centropalacaceae *Bhesa paniculata* Arn.

No. 351

#

Last record





# RIHN as a nodal institute of biodiversity research activities

## Ongoing biodiversity-relevant activities:

### ● Diversity Program



**Human Life, Aging, and Disease in High-Altitude Environments**  
(OKUMIYA Kiyohito)



**Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity**  
(SAKAI Shoko)



**Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia**  
(ISHIKAWA Satoshi)

## Past biodiversity-relevant activities:

Effects of Environmental Change on the Interactions between Pathogens and Humans (C-06)

Sustainability and Biodiversity Assessment on Forest Utilization Options (D-01)

A New Cultural and Historical Exploration into Human-Nature Relationships in the Japanese Archipelago (D-02)

A Trans-disciplinary Study on Regional Eco-history in Tropical Monsoon Asia:1945-2005 (R-02)

Multi-Disciplinary Research for Understanding Interactions between Humans and Nature in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Watershed (E-01)

Interactions between the Environmental Quality of the Watershed and Environmental Consciousness: With Reference to Environmental Changes Caused by the Use of Land and Water Resources (E-02)

Interaction between Natural Environment and Human Social Systems in Subtropical Islands (E-03)\

## Communication effort:



### How to teach children about biodiversity?

Edited by ABE Ken-ichi

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