

PRESS RELEASE - Montpellier (France) - January 30th, 2012

Montpellier 2012, a crossroad of cultural and biological diversity 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE)



Le Corum Conference center, Montpellier (France), 20-25 May 2012

For the first time, France will host for the first time the Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology on the following overarching theme:
**Cultural diversity and biological diversity for sustainable development:
Exploring the past to build the future**

In line with the scope of the activities of the ISE, the Congress will focus on both fundamental research and participatory action research and citizen science. It will bring together numerous Indigenous and non Indigenous scholars and practitioners from all over the world.

The history of human-induced changes, particularly how they have been influenced by and in turn impact cultural diversity today, will be analyzed for a better understanding of the components and dynamics of current global biodiversity and its relations to human diversity. Particular attention will be devoted to understanding the logic, and the effects, of past human activities and to using traditional ecological knowledge more effectively as a means to develop sustainable patterns of natural resource management in the near future.

The Congress in a few figures

- * more than 600 international delegates
- * more than 100 participants from indigenous and local communities
- * 70 different nationalities
- * more than 40 scientific sessions
- * 450 individual contributions
- * 50 educational projects involving 1,100 pupils
- * 20 events for the general public

Website: <http://congress-ise2012.agropolis.fr/>

The ISE website: <http://ethnobiology.net/>

An unconventional Congress

Montpellier's historical center transformed into a "planetary village"

Several intercultural panels, events for the general public, and educational projects prepared by pupils and their teachers throughout the region will be presented in various venues within the city center.

Lastly, a declaration will be prepared during an Indigenous Forum, and will be announced at the 2nd Earth Summit (Rio + 20, June 2012). As the leading French city in the fields of biodiversity and relations between the global South and North, Montpellier is an ideal place for holding this congress. The city hosts several associations, conservation organizations, high schools, universities and research institutions that are deeply involved in the fields of sustainable development and biodiversity management.

Organization of the congress is coordinated jointly by the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) and the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE), with the logistical support of Agropolis International, and the support of the trustee institutions of the mixed research groups (UMR) "Governance, risk, environment and development" (GRED) and the "Center for functional and evolutionary ecology" (CEFE)

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