

## Editorial

I was trying to write something positive or at least meaningful about tourism in this climate, but all that comes to my mind is what a horrible February this has been worldwide: more political bloodshed in Nepal, religious atrocities in India, televised decapitations in Philippines and Pakistan, all out war between Israelis and Palestinians, war apparently resuming in Afganistan. Unsurprisingly the Bulletin clock moved forward 2 minutes. So, is this the new millennium or the new middle ages? We urgently need able and imaginative leaders - this is not a spaghetti western with the good and the bad - to sort out this mess before anything worse happens, such as moving further back from the new middle ages to a new stone age. In December 2001, the top brains of this world, 110 Nobel Laureates, signed a declaration saying "To survive in the world we have transformed (a polite choice for a verb), we must learn to think in a new way". I think we must learn to think fast too: the clock shows 7 minutes to midnight...  
- *Antonis B. Petropoulos*

And now to change your mood...

Real or Surreal:

`` ***A live whale is worth more than a dead whale.***" - Hector Ceballos-Lascurain, Director general of the Program of International Consultancy on Ecotourism  
(AP, 24/2/2)

`` ***It is natural for many Japanese people to enjoy both watching and eating whales, It is like eating BBQ after a farm tour in New Zealand.***" - Joji Morishita, a deputy director at the Fisheries Agency of Japan.  
(AP, 24/2/2)



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## What's up @ ECOCLUB

### Ecolodge Membership Strengthens

First of all we would like to thank two quality members:



**Apani Dhani Lodge of India**, that renewed their Ecolodge Membership,



**Koshi Camp of Nepal** that have successfully completed their Trial Membership and now are a full Ecolodge Member.

We also warmly welcome the following new Ecolodge Trial Members:

- \* **Hibiscus Valley Inn, of Dominica**
- \* **Posada Amazonas, of Peru**
- \* **Sonrise Beach Retreat, of Jamaica**

### ECOCLUB Co-sponsors Community Tourism Conference

We are co-sponsoring and participating in a March 2002 conference organised by Ron Mader and Planeta.com on Community Tourism. ECOCLUB Members are most welcome to register and participate. Click here for more information

### The ECOCLUB on-line Community

We are very excited because more and more members find their way to the ECOCLUB Community, and use it to find information and network with other Members. Remember, you may subscribe to one or more of the Community's Forum, so as to receive a notification

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each time a new posting, or a reply to your posting occurs. If you are a registered member, you also have access to a personal inbox where other members can send you private messages. Plus, you can also publish and update your profile.

We have selected below two interesting postings from the Student Forum:

### **"Ecotourism on Farms"**

Posted by Steven Gillespie

Greetings ecotourism colleagues, My name is Steve Gillespie. I'm currently doing a PhD at Glasgow University (Scotland) in 'ecotourism as a diversification strategy in farming communities'. The research aims to assess the success of ecotourism on farms and identify how farms can use ecotourism to increase resilience. My research is based on encouraging ecotourism in a rural region of Scotland called Dumfries and Galloway. Does anybody know of any studies of ecotourism on farms, perhaps in western Europe or on a similar latitude to Scotland where similar environmental conditions or farming practices prevail? Dumfries and Galloway is 25% forestry and 70% agriculture with a population of 140,000. Agriculture within the region consists of a mixture of crops, sheep and cattle farming. Any help would be most welcome! All the Best, Steve

### **"Importance of eco-tourism for sustainable management of natural resources"**

Posted by Pranab

Hello everybody ! I Mr Pranab J P Master in Environment Sciences from Bharti Vidyapeeth Institute on Environment Education & Research, Pune, India. Presently working on Sustainable management of Natural resources leading to the PhD at Dept of Business Administration under University of Tezpur, Assam, India. Now I am seeking your expert comment as well as suggestions on my work and also looking for further information and some reference material, specially research papers previously done on this topic. So I would like to request you to kindly help me in this regard. Details of the study is as follows :

AIM : Sustainable management of natural resources with a special reference to eco-tourism.

STUDY AREA : Assam in particular

OBJECTIVES:

1. Study of economic potency of natural resources in Assam area.
  2. Role of ecotourism in socio-economic development of the area.
  3. How ecotourism can help sustain the natural resources and also can provide a sustainable livelihood to the local community.
  4. How ecotourism can be best utilized to promote public awareness for the conservation of natural resources including biodiversity. Thanking you, With warm regards.
- PRANAB J P

### **TRAVEL AND WIN**

To encourage bookings at all our Member Ecolodges, each and every one of which deserves your fullest support, especially in these troubled times, we are offering a surprise gift to anyone that books through ECOCLUB.com and then stays at an Ecolodge Member. When you return, simply contact us to claim your gift.

Details of this offer at <http://ecoclub.com/gift.html>

Susan, a Member from Iowa, USA claimed her surprise gift, by sending us this Ecolodge Report: "We enjoyed our stay in Hana very much. It was very peaceful and beautiful, I hope we can go back soon. The drive there was an experience in itself and something to be remembered always. It was interesting to learn about the eco-system and efforts to preserve it."

*"The research aims to assess the success of ecotourism on farms and identify how farms can use ecotourism to increase resilience."*


  
**Expert & Ecolodge**  
**Members' News**

**Ms. Jo Loyce**, Proprietor of Hana Maui, Ecolodge Member in Hawaii is seeking a buyer / funding for the Hana Maui Lodge because of a spouse passing away. Hana Maui is the most popular ecolodge of ECOCLUB.com based on bookings.

**Professor Rana P. B Singh**, Expert Member in India: announces the publication of the book: "Banaras Region A Spiritual and Cultural Guide" by Rana P. B. Singh and Pravin S. Rana. The book is the first compendium of cultural sites in and around Varanasi. It covers a very wide range of places and subjects and provides a huge quantity of information, being a veritable small encyclopaedia of the Banaras region. ISBN 81-86569-24-3. Rs 350 / \$ 20.


  
**World News**

**International:**

International tourist arrivals worldwide totalled 689 million in 2001, compared to 697 million in 2000. The last four months of 2001 suffered a drop of 11% in arrivals worldwide and substantial decreases in every region: Africa (-3.5%); Americas (-24%); East Asia/ Pacific (? 10%); Europe (-6%); Middle East (-30%); and South Asia (-24%). [WTO]

"Save the Elephants", an NGO, issued a report blaming French, Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese and Chinese Tourists and their ivory souvenir buying habits, for the demise of Asian Elephants. [Reuters]

The "Emerald Triangle" (as in Golden Triangle) is a planned golf course to be built between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand.

"Ecotourism" makes it for the first time into the Oxford English Dictionary ! Ecotourism is added together with new entries such as "ecofeminism" and "home-shopping". [CNN]

In 2002 approximately 10 million whale-watchers will pay more than \$1 billion on tours, travel, food and hotels in 87 countries and overseas territories, according to US (Mass.) based International Fund for Animal Welfare, "up from about 4 million people spending about \$317 million in 1991" [AP]

**Africa & M.East**

**Botswana:** Tsodilo Hills have acquired the status of a World Heritage Site, the first one in Botswana. [WildnetAfrica.com]

**Kenya:** will serve as host to the UN designated East African Regional Preparatory Conference for the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE). The African Conservation Centre, Eo-resorts, The International Ecotourism Society and the Ecotourism Society of Kenya are sponsoring the conference that takes place in Nairobi, Kenya from Wednesday March 20 to Friday March 22,

2002. Intended as an objective review of East Africa's ecotourism, the conference will allow 150 ecotourism stakeholders from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, including 60 community members, to discuss the key issues facing East African ecotourism today.

**Niger:** A peculiar dinosaur with 1,000 teeth (but vegetarian) has been unearthed by scientists in a Niger desert. [wildnetAfrica.com]

**Uganda:** A French company has been advertising on the Internet hunting expeditions to Uganda to hunt various species of animals despite a Uganda nationwide ban on hunting since 1985. [AllAfrica.com]

**Egypt:** BBC reports that the cruel practice of shark-finning in which the fins are sliced off of living sharks to make soup has found its way into the heavily protected waters of Egypt's Red Sea.

**Asia & Pacific**

**Pakistan:** Ecotourism Society Pakistan report that they have managed to include the study of Sustainable Tourism/ Integrated Tourism into the curriculum of Tourism Management courses offered by Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (ITHEM) of Government of province of Punjab for the first time, in connection with IYM and IYE 2002. For this purpose ESP would be obliged to receive any material which can help the students as reference. Hard copies would be added to the ITEHM Library.

**India:** Tall pines enveloping the mountains, is the image most commonly conjured up when one talks of the Himalayas. However many of these are in fact forced entries and largely responsible for the fragile state of the mountains. With large-scale pine plantations desert-like conditions have now arisen in many parts of the Himalayan region [cseindia.org]

**Afghanistan:** Interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai reassured his country and the international community that his administration remained "fully united" despite last week's assassination of Abdul Rahman, interim aviation and tourism minister.

**China:** Preparation for a site housing Hong Kong's future Disney theme park could seriously threaten ecological systems nearby, according to an independent environmental study. [Reuters]

**Russia:** The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) warned that Russia's far eastern forests, one of the world's biggest areas of forest wilderness, risked destruction within five years because of illegal logging.

**Thailand:** Turtles start disappearing from Phuket Island as tourism expands. [Agence Press] / Thailand, the world's top rice exporter, appears to be on the verge of its worst drought in several years, which could force thirsty farmers to cut rice production, officials said on Thursday. This year at least 36 of Thailand's 73 provinces have already been touched by drought triggered by the El Nino weather phenomenon [ENN]

**Nepal:** The drinking water supply for Kathmandu Valley's one million inhabitants has been secured by the designation of a new national park near Nepal's capital city of Kathmandu. The Shivapuri National Park, 13 kilometers (eight miles) north of Kathmandu [ens-news.com]

**Malaysia:** More than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of land have been scorched by fires in the past few weeks, prompting the government to ban open burning. [Reuters]

*(Continued on page 4)*

**New Zealand:** Efforts to save one of world's rarest and strangest birds, New Zealand's flightless kakapo parrot, with only 62 individuals remaining, have been boosted by a record 7 hatching eggs [kakaporecovery.org.nz]

**Caribbean**

**Bahamas:** The Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx) announced fellowships for Caribbean and international journalists interested in participating in the second edition of this innovative meeting which enlists media specialists in the design of sustainable tourism. Slated for Nassau, Bahamas May 16-20, CMEx will focus on the business and economic aspects of sustainable tourism in the region. [counterpartcaribbean.info]

**Europe**

**EU:** The European Parliament voted by a huge majority of 540 to 4 (!) to support European Union ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, as proposed by the European Commission late in 2001. Later on, the EU launches Envisat, "the first satellite to contribute to the monitoring of compliance of the Kyoto Protocols".[ITV]

**Norway:** which resumed commercial whaling in 1993, raised its whaling quota to 674 minke whales, compared with 549 last year and has announced that it is ready to export to Japan. Japan has announced it will hunt 50 sei whales as part of its scientific research whaling programme this year. Sei whales are listed by IUCN, the World Conservation Union, as endangered. (iisd.org)

**Ukraine:** A United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report, proposes that Chernobyl, infamous site of the best known nuclear accident, should become an "ecotourism destination". "It sounds odd (...), but the restricted areas have actually dev.5(e)686.3()1521.9( 1c( dev)-6.1e)15rlyactuela7aye 142.7(s)si yi P

**UKway**

neighboring Peru could herald another El Nino year.

**Brazil:** Carnival time, but an outbreak of dengue fever centered in the state of Rio de Janeiro, has reportedly infected at least 430,000, and the army mobilised to assist in fighting the epidemic.

**Chile:** Forest fires ravaged 20,000 acres of prized native forests and nature reserves in what the government said was one of the worst disasters to hit a popular tourism zone, 500 miles south of Santiago. [Reuters]

**North America**

**United States:** The oldest living single organism on the planet could lose its title to a newly discovered kid on the block. Biologist Jim Cornett of the Palm Springs Desert Museum says that a scraggly-looking Mojave Desert creosote bush may have an 11,000-year-old death grip on life. [ENN] / President Bush approved on Friday a plan to bury the nation's radioactive waste in Nevada's Yucca Mountain, provoking an immediate lawsuit by the state's governor, a republican.

**Canada:** Following decades of opposition, the Cree nation vote to sign agreement for the construction of hydroelectric power plants with the Quebec government.

## ECOCLUBing in Koshi Tappu Reserve, Nepal

### What & Where

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Coordinates: 26°39'N 86°59'E, Elevation: 75-81 m, Area: 17,500 square km) is situated on the flood plains of the Sapta-Koshi River in Eastern Nepal, on the Nepal - India border. In 1987 it was declared a Ramsar site, being home to over 280 bird species, clearly the most important wetland in Nepal. It is also an important habitat for a large variety of wildlife including the threatened crocodile *Gavialis gangeticus* and the leopard *Panthera pardus*. Nepal's last remaining wild population of *Bubalus arnee* inhabits the area and the Ganges dolphin has been recorded in the Koshi river.

### Climate

The climate is subtropical. During the monsoon, the reserve is flooded with depths ranging from 10 to 300 cm. From season to season the Sapta-Koshi River changes its course.

### Challenges

The Reserve is state-owned. Between 1978-1979 some 12,000 people were moved out of the Nature Reserve and re-settled elsewhere. A reserve headquarters and five guard posts were established to prevent squatters from re-establishing themselves in the reserve. Tourism takes place in the reserve and activities include boating, rafting and bird watching. Accommodation within the reserve is available for tourists. The surrounding areas are privately owned, and



Photo Credits by: Paul Sterry

fishing and agriculture, mainly rice cultivation, but also collection of edible fruits and ferns, takes place. The site is under jurisdiction of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and managed by the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Office.

IUCN-Nepal and a Swiss development agency assist the implementation of management actions such as visitor centre strengthening, ecosystem monitoring and a community awareness program. The site is located within a densely populated area, and overgrazing by domestic livestock has degraded parts of the site. A fence has been built in an attempt to keep the population of *Bubalus arnee* in the reserve and to exclude people and their livestock. Despite that, the population of *Bubalus arnee* may have hybridised with feral water buffalo.

### Koshi Camp

In the Reserve, you can stay at Koshi Camp, our new Ecolodge Member, located at the reserve's eastern edge, a known site good for birds and wildlife. It is easily accessed from the east-west highway which is only 6 km away. The reserve headquarters is also a similar distance from the camp. Close to several waterholes, Koshi Camp is furnished with 11 large natural-colour luxury safari tents with a spacious dining tent and a bar. At one time, the camp can hold a maximum of 22 guests only.

For guests looking for 'extra adventures' Koshi Camp organise several exciting and memorable tours. For many who are looking for peace and tranquility this is an ideal place. On a clear day, you may be lucky to see the world's 5th highest mountain 'Makalu' from your tent !

### Why visit

This camp is run by a group of field naturalists who previously worked for other tour operators. It operates on the principle of fair trading and provides benefits to its staff in various ways. This camp is an example and encouragement for all field staff who share the profits from the camp. It supports nature conservation, awareness and social education activities in the nearby villages. Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is Nepal's only Ramsar Site and must surely be one of the best wetlands in Asia for birds. Over 460 species have been recorded, including 16 globally threatened species. This is a luxury tented camp for birdwatchers just outside Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The staff are enthusiastic, helpful and friendly, and the naturalists are highly knowledgeable about birds and other wildlife in the area. The camp has an excellent location with an open view so you can watch birds moving up and down the Koshi River from your tent.



Habitats for birds are totally protected in the camp and have been improved for birds, for instance some former paddyfields have been restored to rough grassland and this year attracted two Bristled Grassbirds. Koshi Camp has been recommended as the best birding camp among others by Paul Holt (Asia specialist, Sunbird Tour), Mic Wells (the author of the birds of the world checklist), Carol and Tim Inskipp (Himalayan ornithologists), Chris Daughy, Director, Peregrine Bird Tours, Australia and Esther Lev, Conservation Director, USA

### When to visit

From October onwards till May are the months that most people visit Nepal. This is a good period also to watch the many winter migrants that abound at Koshi Tappu. Between May till the end of September, during the onset of the monsoon things are wetter because of rain.

However, for special cases Koshi Camp may be able to run during the wetter months also. Please notify them in advance. To see Koshi at its best, a minimum of 3 nights and 4 days stay at the Camp is recommended. This should also give you time a quick tour of major sites in the area.

EVENTS

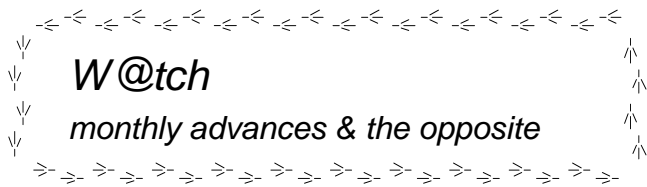
If you are organising or are aware of an ecotourism related Trade Show, Conference, Workshop or other Event please send us the details to [news@ecoclub.com](mailto:news@ecoclub.com) to announce it and promote it for free. A worldwide selection of ecotourism and related events during the next 3 months follows. For more events please visit:

<http://ecoclub.com/events>

- March, Communities and Tourism/PLANETA.COM
- March, Internet Workshop for Travel Providers/PLANETA.COM
- March 1-3, The Holiday and Travel Show/UK
- March 3-11, IYE 2002, Regional Conference for the Southeast Asia/THAILAND
- March 3-5, IYE 2002, Conference on Ecotourism for the Asia-Pacific Region/MALVIDES
- March 7-10, UTAZAS Budapest/HUNGARY
- March 9-10, World Travel Expo/USA
- March 13-14, British Travel Trade Fair/UK
- March 14-17, Mondial du Tourisme/FRANCE
- March 15-17, Third Annual Aloha State Travel Expo/HAWAII
- March 16-20, Sustainable Travel Market at ITB 2002/GERMANY
- March 19-23, Travel to promised lands; tourism, space and diaspora/USA
- March 20-22, IYE2002, Regional Conference for East Africa/KENYA
- March 21-24, TUR Gothenburg/SWEDEN
- March 24-26, 4th Annual National Green Building Conference/USA
- March 25-26, Seminar on Ecotourism/RUSSIA
- March 25-26, eTourism Futures / UK
- March 27-30, MITT Moscow/RUSSIA
- April 3-4, CHME Hospitality Research Conference 2002/UK
- April 7-14, Mountain Travel Symposium Whistler/CANADA
- April 8-10, 4th Annual TREX/GUATEMALA
- April 9-12, PATA Travel Mart/SINGAPORE
- April 11-14, AWTTE 2002/LEBANON
- April 11-13, International Conference: "Leisure Futures"/AUSTRIA
- April 14-15, IYE2002, Conference on Ecotourism for the South Pacific Islands Preparatory Conference for the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002/ FIJI
- April 14-18, 51st PATA Annual Conference/INDIA
- April 14-16, JAPEX 2002/JAMAICA
- April 16-19, TOURISM FUTURES/AUSTRALIA
- April 17-21, Tourism in the Mediterranean: From Past to Future/TURKEY
- April 18-21, 2002 Spring Travel & Leisure Show/CANADA
- April 18-22, SATTE/INDIA
- April 18-21, 2002 Asia Dive Expo (ADEX)/SINGAPORE
- April 18-21, 2002 Spring Travel & Leisure Show/CANADA
- April 21-24, Scenic Summit: Action for America's Communities, Countryside and Public Lands/USA
- April 24-28, ECOTUR 2002 - Feria Internacional de Ecoturismo y Aventura/ECUADOR
- April 25-28, IYE2002, Regional Conference for Arctic countries/SWEDEN
- May, Financing Ecotourism/PLANETA.COM
- May 2-5, Ecotourism and Conservation in the Americas. Putting Good Intentions to Work/USA
- May 2-5, Millennium Hospitality Summit 2002/USA
- May 2-4, BTC - Caribbean Tourism Exchange/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- May 2-5, Cayman Islands Marketplace 2002/CAYMAN ISLANDS
- May 2-5, ASTA Southern Regional Conference/JAMAICA
- May 5-10, 27th Annual ATA Congress/GUINEA
- May 7-10, Arabian Travel Market/UAE
- May 11-14, Indaba 2002/SOUTH AFRICA
- May 13-17, COTAL 2002/VENEZUELA
- May 13-17, Hotel Electronic Distribution Network Association University & 2002 Global Meeting/UK
- May 13-23, The Cornell Hotel School Advanced Management Program: AMP 2002/USA
- May 15-19, IFWTO Annual Convention/THAILAND
- May 19-22, IYE2002, World Ecotourism Summit/CANADA
- May 20-22, The HOTEL SHOW Dubai/U.A.E.
- May 22-25, 10th Canadian Congress on Leisure Research/CANADA
- May 22-26, EMITT/TURKEY
- May 22-25, Tourism Industry Development, Marketing and Sustainability: the Fifth Biennial Conference on Asian Tourism/HONG KONG
- May 25-29, International Pow Wow 2002/USA
- May 27-June 2, Expotur 2002/COSTA RICA
- May 28-31, Celebrating Mountain Women/NEPAL
- May 31-June 1, Karibu Tanzania Tourism & Trade Fair/TANZANIA

**ECOCLUB.com**  
*co-sponsors*  
**On-line**  
*conference*  
**Communities &**  
**Tourism**  
*Starts 5th of March @*  
**Planeta.com**

**Details of these and other events at ECOCLUB.com EVENTS: <http://ecoclub.com/events>**  
**To announce an eco-event, please email [news@ecoclub.com](mailto:news@ecoclub.com)**



@ The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that isotonic drinks work better than water to alleviate the effects of the "Economy Seat Syndrome".

@ Popular wildlife viewing website AfriCam.com is back online.

@ Unique visitors to online Travel sites increased 9% worldwide from December to January, to 94.3 million people, or 30% of the worldwide audience, exceeding the previous pre 11/9 record of 94 million.

@ Biometric passports for British may be introduced by 2006

@ Walmart starts selling cheap OS-free (i.e. without Windows) PC's. Problemz ahead for Microsoft?@ Priceline And Ebay Team Up To Provide Enhanced Travel Services. 42 percent of eBay users purchased online travel in the last year, representing \$8.4 billion in gross merchandise sales.

@ WebSideStory, Inc. reports that 52% of Internet surfers worldwide are using direct navigation and bookmarks to locate Web sites, rather than relying on search engines and Internet links.

@ Mars Odyssey spacecraft shows vast amounts of water-ice beneath the surface of Mars, possibly.

@ The U.S. Department of Commerce said that as of September 2001, 54% of Americans, some 143 million, were using the Internet, with 2 million new users being added every month.

@ Washington Carnegie Institute scientists announced that E. coli bacteria, found for example inside hamburgers can survive at extremely high pressures, therefore life as we know it could be found even in Jupiter's moons.

@ Worldres.com survey finds that 83% of their customers reserving hotel rooms online consider price the primary factor.

## ***THE GEORGE ORWELL COLLECTION***

***Source: Wired.com***

***The Jacobs family ( not Adams?) are the first to volunteer to permanently implant a microchip, "VeriChip", in their bodies. "The world would be a safer place if authorities had a tamper-proof way of identifying people" Ms Jacobs said. "I have nothing to hide, so I wouldn't mind having the chip for verification. I already have an ID card, so why not have a chip?"***

*Eco-Jobs*

Ecotourism Manager-USA  
 Wilderness Leaders-WORLDWIDE  
 Expedition Leaders-WORLDWIDE  
 Manager, Ecolodge-ECUADOR  
 Conservation Advisor-CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
 Lodge Manager-USA  
 Rainforest Solution Project, Project Manager-CANADA  
 Lodge Sales Manager-USA  
 Intern for China Program-USA  
 Editorial Intern-USA  
 Seasonal Interpretation Ranger-AUSTRALIA  
 Editor, World Watch Magazine-USA  
 RARE Center, Director of Development-USA  
 Environmental Education Instructor-USA  
 Lodge Operations Managers-ALASKA  
 Development Writer-USA  
 Indonesia Program Director-USA  
 Greenpeace Summer Internships-USA  
 Wildlife Sanctuary Director-USA  
 Environmental Ranger-USA  
 Environmental Law-UKRAINE & UZBEKISTAN  
 CAMP Program Director-USA  
 Director Conservation Programs-USA  
 Environmental Director-USA  
 Executive Director Denali Institute-ALASKA  
 Organic Farm Education Internship-USA  
 Government Relations Intern-USA  
**Get details on these and many more Vacancies at our Ecotourism Jobs Forum**  
**Jobseekers: Post your CV online for FREE at our Ecotourism Job-Seekers Forum**

*ECO - QUIZ*

**THE FEBRUARY ECO-QUIZ WAS:**

" Origin of a characteristic word used to describe People from the North in the South of a Continent " The word is "Gringo", a derogatory term often used by Latin Americans when referring to North Americans. Gringo is a corruption of "Griego" = Spanish for "Greek". In 18th century Spain, Spanish people used the term "Gringo" in the equivalent of the English phrase "it all sounds Gringo to me", to refer to foreigners speaking Spanish with a foreign accent and later to the foreigners itself. I can tell you, in Greece, we use "it all sounds chinese / turkish to me" as we happen to understand greek... We had a winner, Mr. P.P. from Bucarest, Romania! " As an incentive to scratch your scalps, the winner(s) will be able to add the link to their favorite tourist or environment website on this page.

**THE MARCH ECO-QUIZ:**

*Name the Tourist peninsula that "does not understand"!*

**Email replies to: [news@ecoclub.com](mailto:news@ecoclub.com)**

**New at The ECOCLUB.com Shop**  
<http://ecoclub.com/shop>

**Stamps**

Greek Flora & Fauna Set of 2 First Day Covers  
 Price: \$11.50 - Free Shipping !

**Herbs & Spices**

Greek Mountain Teas Set of 4 Bags  
 Price: \$10.90 - Free Shipping !

*Information for our readers*

You are most welcome to send us genuine news & views for publication. All should be clearly marked "For Publication in the ECOCLUB.com News" and sent:  
 by EMAIL to : [news@ecoclub.com](mailto:news@ecoclub.com) or  
 by POST to : ECOCLUB S.A., PO BOX 65232, Psihico , Athens, 15410, Greece  
 N.B. Please do not send us email attachments (or viri...), only text files.

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IN NATURA UNITAS