

Announcing a special session devoted to ethnobiological issues in coastal and marine environments: “Ethnothalassic Interactions”

Tuesday 22 May from 2 pm et 5 pm, session S40 at the

13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology

Montpellier (France), 20-25 May 2012

<http://congress-ise2012.agropolis.fr/ftpheb.agropolis.fr/en/Home.html>

For two decades, the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) has actively promoted and supported the inextricable linkages between biological and cultural diversity and the vital role of Indigenous and local peoples in stewardship of biological diversity and cultural heritage, which includes recognition of land and resource rights, as well as rights and responsibilities over tangible and intangible cultural and intellectual properties. The ISE is committed to understanding the complex relationships which exist between human societies and their environments. A core value of the ISE is the recognition of Indigenous peoples as critical players in the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity.

Twenty-two years ago, at the inaugural international congress held in Belém, Brazil in 1988, more than 600 people from 35 countries and 16 Indigenous organizations came together to discuss a common strategy to stop the rapid deterioration of the planet's biological and cultural diversity. They adopted the Declaration of Belém, which explicitly outlines the responsibilities of scientists and environmentalists in addressing the needs of local communities, including establishing mechanisms by which Indigenous experts are recognized as proper authorities and are meaningfully and equitably engaged in all initiatives that affect them, their resources, and their environments.

Today, the ISE continues its groundbreaking efforts in providing a platform for a meaningful and respectful dialogue among people of diverse views, cultures and backgrounds. Cross-cultural sharing of ideas, issues and solutions across Indigenous and non-Indigenous, academic and non-academic, and theoretical and practical perspectives is a vital part of this dialogue that takes place face-to-face at international congresses, held every two years in varying parts of the world. During the ISE Congresses, participants tackle the most difficult and challenging, yet promising questions of our times - cultural and intellectual property rights, endogenous development, and agrobiodiversity, to name a few - informing the global discourse and advancing debates to qualitatively new levels.

A fundamental aspect of the ISE that sets it apart from other societies is the Code of Ethics that, based in “mindfulness,” fosters mutually respectful and beneficial relationships between different knowledge holders. The Code of Ethics was adopted by the ISE membership in 2006 after a decade of development, and is a manifestation of the groundbreaking thinking, courage, and foresight of the ISE and a tremendously important contribution to the future of humankind.

Building on the traditions of past ISE congresses, the 13th International Congress of Ethnobiology in Montpellier, France yet again will bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants from around the world to tackle the key issues of our times. The Congress will include a wide range of formats for people to share their knowledge, ideas and experiences, ranging from talking circles, to film viewings and discussions, cultural performances, field trips, oral presentations and poster sessions. The Congress is designed to be highly interactive and participatory, and to foster a commitment by participants to building understanding and trust.

Abstract submission – deadline 31 October 2011.

Early Bird Registration: before 29 February 2012:

<http://congress-ise2012.agropolis.fr/ftpheb.agropolis.fr/en/styled-8/>

S-40 Ethnothalassic Interactions:

A special session devoted to ethnobiological issues in coastal and marine environments

Title: Ethnohallassic interactions

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Abstract:

The oceans play a key role in human survival. Besides regulating the climate, removing carbon from the atmosphere, providing humans with essential minerals, acting as alternative energy sources and serving humans for transportation of much of the world’s goods, the oceans are also the primary source of protein for more than a billion people, and a yet to be quantified source of therapeutic remedies for coastal populations around the world. As a result, the coastal zone has been an attractive environment for humans since prehistoric times and currently, about 40 % of the human population lives within less than 100 km from the sea.

Marine and coastal resources are economically important for many traditional and indigenous populations. Coastal land and seascapes have shaped the cultural identities of populations and actually represent an important cultural heritage. Fishing in open sea has been a live at risk, separating male and female populations for prolonged periods. In contrast, the seashore comprises also more sheltered environments as semi-enclosed bays, lagoons (13 % of the world coastlines) and estuaries that can be exploited on a day-to-day basis with smaller vessels or

directly from the shore with lesser risks. While in the perception of many people, the ocean appears immense and the marine resources as infinite, currently the coastal and marine environment is facing severe overexploitation and the negative impacts of other anthropogenic pressures like contaminants. Overexploitation of the more sheltered coastal environments has been documented since historic times. However, the traditional coastal populations that use artisanal methods have faced particularly strong pressures by new types of exploitations introduced since colonial times and particularly since the start of the industrial revolution, with the impact dramatically increasing since the 1970's. It is no longer possible to consider the coastal populations and their specific environments as individual identities, as these populations suffer the impact of both the increased human pressure in the watersheds, the creation of large megacities in the coastal zone, overfishing in the open ocean, global climate change and sea level rise.

Specific protection measures as the creation of national parks since the late 19th century, and later the creation of biocultural heritage sites, have been implemented on the continents. Such measures have been also been implemented for a part of the terrestrial and aquatic environments along the coastlines and their watersheds. However, the current dire state of the marine fisheries and poor overall health of the oceans called for new conservation schemes specifically targeting the protection of marine biota and resources. Hence, the creation of marine protected areas (MPA) is a relatively recent development. The process of implementing MPA's has begun in the 1970's and has been accentuated worldwide more recently. The international Convention on biological diversity (CBD) represents a founder treaty, which recognizes the importance of MPAs, while it engages member States to create a complete and consistent network that should cover at least 20 to 30% of the global marine surfaces. By the past, MPAs and their continental counterparts were mostly articulated to biological considerations with the aim to preserve some natural marine heritages. Hence, their management was mainly based on restrictive and all exclusive prohibitions. But this model has been called into question due to some pervert effects pointed by numerous scientific studies and reports related to "MPAs governance". Those researches have emphasized the necessity to integrate the diversity of stakeholders affected by MPAs projects and to that purpose to adopt a specific "multidisciplinary methodology" along the implementation and the governance processes. This recent approach, based on the "ecosystemic theory", aims to articulate the stakes of "biological conservation" to socio-economical considerations in order to take count of MPAs' local context of application. Indeed, the coastal areas focused by such projects remain most of the time occupied by autochthonous populations for whom they represent an important cultural heritage. Whether we consider marine resources and territories for their vital or their symbolic components, they have contributed to shape the identities of local communities, their social and their political organisation, but also their economical activities. Thereby, conservation schemes and MPAs projects in particular must deal with local particularisms that reflect the cultural and biological diversity of traditional marine management systems developed by coastal groups over the world. As a consequence, from an endogenous point of view, MPAs tend to be seen as a way to protect and to perpetuate the traditional knowledge and management systems inherited from the past to build a "sustainable" future. Meanwhile, from an exogenous "developmentalist" point of view, MPAs remain strategic instruments of management of coastal areas, of legitimization of the "conservationist" instruments ("MPAs' network", "integrated and participative co-management", "decentralization", "community-based development" and "ecotourism"), but also of economical benefits based on "environmental" political strategies.

This session calls for contributions that describe how coastal populations exploit the coastal and marine resources, with specific emphasis on medicinal and food resources, sea tenure, interactions between researchers, local actors and stakeholders. and cultural identities. Special attention will be paid to how coastal populations have managed the risk of overexploitation or adapted to depleted resources and to the role that local traditional ethnobiological knowledge (TEK) plays in terms of marine resource management. We will evaluate the implementation of conservation schemes and assess their effectiveness. We envision the organisation of a subsection specifically dedicated to MPAs. Therefore, we strongly encourage contributions that describe how MPAs can contribute to preserve cultural and natural marine heritages over the world. Special attention will be paid to how MPAs are perceived by the different stakeholders and how contemporary governance processes try to combine the diversity of bio-ecological, socio-economical and political considerations to the cultural and natural particularisms of MPAs' coastal zones of implementation? Finally, contributions will discuss how to operate the interactions between traditional ethnobiological knowledge (TEK) and global environmental norms in MPAs projects and how the enforcement of the "multidisciplinary research-action methodology" can help improving the management process of MPAs. Collectively, the entire section aims to help all participants to arrive at a common understanding of how different research streams can be pursued together in a complementary fashion to actively and effectively influence the stakeholders behaviour in and governance of the coastal and marine environments.

Accepted Talks in **S.40 Ethnothalassic Interactions** at the 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology that will take place in Montpellier, France 20-25 May 2012

Seri ethnophycological knowledge: A concrete example of extinction of experience or the rise of human ingenuity?

Nemer E. Narchi, Luis E. Aguilar-Rosas

Les aires marines protégées comme outils de préservation de l'héritage culturel et naturel maritime

Samuel Cornier, Luc Camoui

Management and resilience of Economical Social and Ecological aquaculture system in the past and present Venice Lagoon

Donata Melaku Canu, Cosimo Solidoro

Giant clam in French Polynesia: how to combine traditional uses, conservation purpose and fisheries development ?

Nabila Gaertner-Mazouni, Georges Remoissenet, Serge Andreföuet, Tamatao Bambridge, Jean-Claude Gaertner

Co-evolving with the lagoon environment: the case of Venice

Simona Dalla Riva, Donata Canu, Pierpaolo Campostrini

Introduction of Oyster-farming in South France during the 19th century as a response to the depletion of natural stocks; the role of an enlightened scientist Victor Coste and the 2nd Empire

Rutger De Wit

“Les archives du sensible” an ethnological activity to support nature conservation and sustainable development in a regional natural park

Christian Jacquelin, Marion Thiba