

Dear iCCB Participant,

It was very good to meet you in all Helsinki . We think we have something worth developing and we hope you'll find the time to stay involved.

We're now writing to ask whether you might be willing and able to come to a second, two-day workshop in Oslo in March at the expense of Nils Chr. Stenseth's centre CEES. The purpose would be to hammer out a final version of the "conceptual paper" we discussed in Helsinki, from a draft manuscript to be produced and circulated beforehand. We as chairs all agree that the Oslo workshop is our best chance and first priority for developing the iCCB programme before the IUBS GA in Cape Town a year from now.

The meeting would take place at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on March 3-4 2009.

All the best and looking forward to hearing from you!

Nils, Christoph, Mikael

# Oslo meeting update

**By Marianne Fred**

Dear iCCB steering group,

The meeting in Oslo 3-4.3 was a good one. We ended up as a group of seven (Nils-Christian Stenseth, Mikael Fortelius, Christoph Scheidegger, Volker Mosbrugger, David Polly, Jussi Eronen and myself). This is an information letter for the iCCB steering group to bring you up to date and inviting you to continue participating in the project.

/1. Conceptual paper/

We began our discussions where we left off in Helsinki and this time could come up with a concrete outline for a conceptual paper. The paper is now being worked on and according to the time-line we could agree on at the meeting, a first draft will be sent out to the steering group beginning June. There will then be a month's time for commenting, a month's time for revision and discussions and then a first submission by begin August. David Polly will be responsible for streamlining the manuscript and reviewing comments.

/2. The General Assembly meeting in Cape Town/

The iCCB will hold a steering group meeting in Cape Town 7-8.10, before the GA meeting. There will be an open session on the 7<sup>th</sup>, with presentations by the group members and a poster session for local students and practitioners. Mikael Fortelius will contact you shortly about the open session.

During the GA meeting a grant proposal for the iCCB will be outlined. Especially the Human Frontiers Science Programme has been identified as a promising source for funding. (<http://www.hfsp.org/about/AboutProg.php>).

Please feel free to contact me or the chairs with comments, suggestions or questions.

iCCB text based on Oslo notes, not integrated into the Oslo outline

There appears to be four main, intertwined strands:

1. The core idea: assembly and disassembly of community-like, taxon-free entities, defined post hoc based on (changing) trait distributions that can be observed at any scale.
2. Understand how something observed at one scale appears at another.
3. Introduce climate change into this biotic system in a way that is relevant across scales.
4. Questions that can only be answered through integration, good examples that anyone can understand.

Selected statements during meeting and their relationship to the four strands:

What can we learn from the past? (1,2)

Specific questions about how climate change will affect/interact with living systems (3)

Ecophenotypic plasticity versus genetically based change (2,4)

Multispecies interactions (1,3)

Waxing and waning of taxa and communities / trait-based entities at different levels (history of taxa within history of communities) (1,2,4)

Why do communities (chronofaunas) expand and contract when species appear to respond to change individualistically?

Groups of entities interacting (1,2)

A system of sources and sinks (1,2)

Ecologists look within a time slice, paleontologists look at a series of time slices (2).

We observe invasions at the scale of decades or centuries -- how does this relate to invasions that take 100 000 years, like *Hipparion* in India, Turkey, Spain? (2,4)

How do questions asked at different levels differ from each other? (2)

Hysteresis: what happens depends on history. (3,4)

Post-Eocene decoupling of climate and CO<sub>2</sub>. (4)