



News

How socioeconomic factors can influence the spread of invasive plants

Predicting the spread of nonnative plants that have the potential to become invasive may seem like an unachievable goal. But research featured in the journal *Invasive Plant Science and Management* shows important, predictive clues can be found in how we live and work. A team from the University of Hawaii collected data on nonnative plants found on six of the main islands in the Hawaiian archipelago—recording where each plant was first discovered and how it was likely introduced. Researchers identified almost 1500 nonnative species that have become "naturalized" and spread naturally without cultivation. The plants were found to be quite diverse, originating from a wide variety of climates, continents and taxonomic groups. When the team analyzed the plant data alongside socioeconomic changes in the island chain, they noted an important trend.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** October 01, 2021**Source:** phys.org**UN chief promotes 'enormous' benefits of greener cities**

City leadership in using green materials and constructing energy-efficient, resilient buildings powered by renewable energy, is essential to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050," said António Guterres in his message for World Habitat Day, marked on Monday. The theme for this year's celebration of cities and towns worldwide is Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world. Cities are responsible for about 75 per cent of the world's energy consumption and over 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Urban areas across the globe are facing the dual crises of COVID-19 and climate change, said the UN chief. Around 4.5 billion people live in cities today, but that population is projected to grow by almost 50 per cent, by 2050.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** October 03, 2021**Source:** UN News**"Mystery plant" from the Amazon declared a new species after nearly 50 years**

In 1973, a scientist stumbled upon a strange tree in the Amazon rainforest, unlike anything he'd ever seen. It was about 20 feet tall, with tiny orange fruits shaped like paper lanterns. He collected samples of the plant's leaves and fruits, but all the scientists he showed them to wound up scratching their heads—not only were they unable to identify the plant as a species that had previously been described by scientists, but they couldn't even declare it a new species, because they couldn't tell what family it belonged to. But in a new study in the journal *Taxon*, scientists analyzed the plant's DNA and determined where it belongs in the family tree of trees, finally giving it a name meaning "Mystery of Manu," after the park in Peru it came from.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** October 06, 2021**Source:** phys.org**Access to a healthy environment, declared a human right by UN rights council**

In resolution 48/13, the Council called on States around the world to work together, and with other partners, to implement this newly recognised right. The text, proposed by Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland, was passed with 43 votes in favour and 4 abstentions - from Russia, India, China and Japan. At the same time, through a second resolution (48/14), the Council also increased its focus on the human rights impacts of climate change by establishing a Special Rapporteur dedicated specifically to that issue. In a statement, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, called on Member States to take bold actions to give prompt and real effect to the right to a healthy environment. Ms. Bachelet said that, having long called for such a step,

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** October 08, 2021**Source:** UN News**Plant-based jet fuel could reduce emissions by 68%**

Dwivedi led a team that estimated the break-even price and life cycle carbon emissions of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) derived from oil obtained from *Brassica carinata*, a non-edible oilseed crop. The study was published in *GCB Bioenergy*. "If we can secure feedstock supply and provide suitable economic incentives along the supply chain, we could potentially produce *carinata*-based SAF in the southern United States," said Dwivedi, associate professor in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. The aviation industry emits 2.5% of all carbon dioxide emissions nationwide and is responsible for 3.5% of global warming. "*Carinata*-based SAF could help reduce the carbon footprint of the aviation sector while creating economic opportunities and improving the flow of ecosystem services across the southern region."

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