

**BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF BIOLOGY®**

VOLUME 69

AUGUST, 2009

NUMBER 3

**EDITORIAL NOTE**

The Brazilian Journal of Biology® releases in this number the Floodplain Declaration. *The Declaration on Sustainable Floodplain Management* is a result of discussions and presentations at the International Conference on Ecohydrological Processes and Sustainable Floodplain Management, organized at the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology under the auspices of UNESCO Int. Inst. Polish Academy of Sciences, 19-23 May 2008, Lodz, Poland. This declaration enforces the need for better understanding the mechanisms of the functioning of floodplains, describes a methodology for problem solving (integrative science) and for provisioning sustainable ecological services of floodplains, proposes tools for the implementation of new scientific approaches and policy, and recommends an action plan consisting of the classification of different types of floodplains, development of a methodology for maintaining flood pulses necessary to secure function and structures, and

recommends the use of integrative science and relevant Science/policy interface.

This is a new step towards a balanced and integrated approach to scientific understanding and management of such important ecosystems such as the floodplains. Considering the economic, ecological and social importance of floodplains in the Neotropics, this declaration is a fundamental message to scientists and managers working in this geoecological and biogeographical region. It is expected that this declaration stimulates papers with this integrative approach in the research developed and submitted for publication in future volumes of the Brazilian Journal of Biology®.

The Brazilian Journal of Biology® is preparing a new special number on the Pantanal. It is expected to be published at the beginning of 2010 as one of the special numbers of volume 70.

This will be part of the series of publications in commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity, United Nations, which will start in 2010.

*Editorial Board*