



Flash Report - January 2010

Angela Andrade, Deputy Chair

On behalf of our Chair, Piet Wit, who was taken ill in Guinea Bissau when he was preparing our next Steering Committee Meeting in April, I would like to wish you all the best for this year, the International Year of Biodiversity, and to inform you about some of our recent activities.

In December, I joined the IUCN delegation to Copenhagen, representing CEM. I have participated specifically in the negotiation processes of the Adaptation Text where we aim to position the Ecosystem-based Adaptation concept (EbA) as it is stated in IUCN position paper. CEM believes that adaptation strategies should be ecosystem based, and the application of the principles of the Ecosystem Approach in both adaptation and mitigation strategies are necessary to maintain ecosystem services on which people depend. Protecting and restoring forests, wetlands, coastal habitats and other natural ecosystems can provide social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits, both directly through more sustainable management of biological resources and indirectly through protection of ecosystem services.

There is still a lot to do in positioning this concept in the future negotiation process of UNFCCC and other multilateral agreements. In Copenhagen IUCN also launched a booklet on Ecosystem-based Adaptation, with some case studies from different areas of the world. CEM aims to publish a book with EbA case studies and the impact of climate change on ecosystems by the end of the year, with the contribution of CEM members who have worked on these issues.

One of our main commitments for this year is our participation in the next meeting of the CBD. A new strategic plan is under discussion. Steve Edwards, the recently appointed Regional Vice Chair for North America and other CEM members have been very active giving comments to the preliminary position paper of IUCN to the CBD, regarding the Strategic Plan for the coming 10 years. We appreciate all your efforts to contribute to this process and encourage you to continue with your input.

In Latin America, Bernal Herrera, Regional Vice Chair from Mesoamerica and Roberto Vides, from South America, have been working actively with their CEM members. Together we all are working on a booklet that will provide guidelines for the application of the ecosystem approach for Park Rangers. Roberto and I have also been participating as lecturers in the "Conservation Science at landscape level" course given by the Tropical Andean Partnership".

We wish Piet a quick recovery and hope he follows doctor's orders to rest.

Angela Andrade, Deputy Chair.