

November has been a month mostly with activities “behind the screens”: Meetings and exchanges with the secretariat, commission chairs and other members of the IUCN-family. A few highlights:

Visit to HQ in Gland

On the 12th of November I visited Gland where Pat Hawes had organized a number of important meetings. Some salient points from the discussions:

- Radhika Murti (Project Officer EMP): I discussed the CEM-newsletter and her work on island ecosystems. There are emerging plans for the IUCN Islands initiative to organise a conference next year together with CEM.
- Stewart Maginnis, Head of Environment and Development Group (EDG): This recently-formed group brings together the Forest Conservation Programme, Water Programme, Ecosystem Management Programme, Social Policy Unit and Global Gender Advisory. Stewart needs a link between expert groups within CEM and programme officers within the secretariat.
- Gonzalo Oviedo (Senior Advisor Social Policy) would like to see CEM develop a portfolio on ecosystems and food security.
- Jean-Yves Pirot (Senior Coordinator, Global Programme): The possibilities of a workshop by CEM on “Adaptation of Alpine Ecosystems to Climate Change” were discussed. The first funds have been promised. More input is needed for the content of the workshop and additional funding. Martin Price (CEM’s advisor on mountains) has been contacted to help take this forward.
- David Sheppard (Head Programme on Protected Areas) and I discussed connectivity issues, certification of protected areas and collaboration amongst commissions (in particular CEM, WCPA and CEESP).

Meeting Julia Marton-Lefèvre

Julia and I had lunch together when she visited The Netherlands on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Dutch Committee of IUCN. As we all have noticed in Barcelona, Julia is a very inspirational leader. We discussed a/o the composition of the CEM Steering Committee, the work in IUCN’s Council, and the collaboration between commissions. Julia clearly sees CEM as a potential jewel in IUCN’s crown.

Steering Committee (SC)

The first steering committee meeting will be organised in Gland in the last week of February (23-25). The associated workshop on Alpine Ecosystems has been postponed until June since we need more time to organise it. Important issues on the SC-agenda will be a/o the organisation of the commission, criteria for membership, task descriptions for regional vice-chairs and theme leaders, working with the secretariat, communication with members, collaboration with other commissions, etc..

CEM Members should feel free to suggest other items for the agenda

Membership

All CEM-members will be reinvited early next year in line with the new criteria that the Steering Committee will develop in February 2009.

You will therefore be sent a new membership form asking you to reapply.

Regions

- The meeting in Malaga on cooperation between Commissions and the secretariat in the Mediterranean region has been postponed until January. The Mediterranean Office produced a beautiful newsletter (“flashnews”) with several issues of relevance for our Commission’s programme (<http://cmsdata.iucn.org/download/med>)
- I accepted an invitation from the Russian MAB-office to give a presentation at a conference to be organised in Russia in August 2009. More details are to follow.
- Cooperation with commissions was on the agenda of the regional directors of IUCN meeting in Asia. I have not seen the minutes yet.

Themes

- The expert group on the Red List of Ecosystems has produced background documents of their presentations at WCC-Barcelona. For more information you may contact the leader of this group Jon Paul Rodriguez: jonpaul@ivic.ve
- A meeting is being planned between the Chair of CEM and the leadership of the expert group on Ecosystem Based Management of Fisheries in January 2009.