

This flash report is late and rather short. The unfortunate death of two close family members have taken quite a bit of my time and energy. This however illustrates the urgent need to get our new organizational structure established as quickly as possible so that we can get our new programs underway.

CEM matters:

- The great news is that Dr.Said Damhoureyeh agreed to be the Steering Committee member for Asia. The Steering Committee is now complete though his position will have to be confirmed by IUCN Council in November. Dr. Damhoureyeh is from Jordan where he is the Director of the Marine Science Station of the University of Jordan. He has a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the Kansas State University. One of his first actions was to propose a Regional Vice Chair for the Middle East which proposal I readily accepted. Dr. Samira A.S. Omar is from Kuwait and has a Ph.D. from Berkeley, California. She got off with a flying start by making an appointment with Mr. Boon von Ochssee, former IUCN Councilor and presently the Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Kuwait.
- Thanks to Angela Andrade, our present Deputy Chair, Latin America has always been a very active region for our Commission. Angela has proposed Dr.Roberto Vides as RVC for Central America and Dr. Bernal Herrera for South America. Of course I agreed happily to both. Roberto Vides has already contacted all Latin America members, a promising start!
- It was my intention to complete the list of Regional Vice Chairs and Thematic Leaders during this month, but this can hopefully be announced in the next flash report. I must however say that there is some undeserved modesty in our membership, where so many highly qualified members renew their membership (for which I am very grateful), but hesitate to forward themselves or other people's names as candidates for certain leading positions.
- Neville Ash is discussing with GEF the possible input of CEM expertise in the STAP process. Another issue in which he is representing our interests is the setting up of a website on Business and Ecosystems by the WRI.

From the Regions

- Annadel Cabanban RVC for South-East Asia has attended the meeting of the Regional IUCN Committee in Bangkok where she also contacted Professor Bandi, Director of Hustai National Park, on the organisation of the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in Mongolia. The idea now is that we organise a smaller workshop on steppe management first, to prepare the road for a much bigger event in 2010. GTZ-Mongolia has indicated that they would like to join in with this initiative and a Japanese University is also interested in participating.
- CEM member Jean Thie visited me in my office in The Netherlands. He is interested in setting up a task force to look into the development of innovative business models incorporating all dimensions of ecosystem management. This is very much in line with our new theme on Business and Ecosystem Management, and I asked Jean Thie to develop his ideas further.
- RVC for Oceania Milika Naqasima Sobey will be attending on behalf of CEM a meeting for IUCN-members from Oceania in Fiji
- Angela Andrade participated in the last regional meeting of SUR in Asunción, Paraguay, where she presented the CEM programme and the principal activities to be developed this year.

General IUCN matters

- We have to sell our CEM-cause better, even within the Union. Although I will be on the look-out, this can not be the work of the Chair only and I invite our members to raise our CEM flag wherever we may have a valuable contribution to make. Two examples:
 - CEESP and SSC have started a working group on sustainable use as requested by WCC-Barcelona.
 - The last issue of World Conservation is on Human Health and the Environment. Although the editorial states that “patients who have a view of green space stay in hospital less time and require a

lower intake of pain killers than those without”, there is no contribution in this issue with an explicit ecosystem management outlook.