

Two months have flown by and it is high time for another flash report. Apologies that it took so long.

***CEM matters:***

Much of my time went into the Steering Committee meeting that was held in Bissau. The associated workshop on the development of a mining code for Guinea Bissau was postponed due to an attempted *coup d'état* just before our meeting. As security was no problem, we decided to proceed with the Steering Committee meeting, a decision much appreciated by the Prime Minister, Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, who during the audience that we were granted thanked us for not letting his country down in these difficult times.

Many Thematic Groups (but not all!) and (fewer) CEM-Regions submitted their programmes for the coming months. Getting a volunteer network started takes more time than I had anticipated, but it is obvious now that we are gaining momentum. A summary of the SC minutes will be available on our website shortly. We decided to hold our next SC-meeting in Fiji.

I like to thank the Director of IUCN's country-office, Mr. Nelson Gomes Dias, and his staff for the support they gave us. As IUCN plans another mining workshop in neighbouring Guinea Conakry, we have decided to make this a joint effort with our postponed CEM workshop. Our new Guinea Bissau IUCN staff member member ,Frédéric Airaud, will be in charge of the organization of the workshop. He will collaborate with Mrs.Aissa Regalla and Aris El Ousseynou, whom I would also like to thank for all the effort they put into setting up the cancelled Bissau workshop.

***From the Thematic Groups***

All Thematic Group Leaders are invited to come forward with a name of a young professional CEM-member as co-TGL. You will be contacted by your focal point within the Steering Committee on this.

CEM-members regularly point out interesting web-sites, publications and other sources of information to each other. For instance, Jon Paul Rodriguez is co-author of a leading opinion article in Science on indicators, Dolf de Groot published recently in Ecological Economics, Nicolas Urbina elaborates on innovative approaches in connectivity in an article in Conservation Biology and - while I am writing this – Pat Hawes informs me about another article by Arthur Nonomura on carbon and photosynthesis. I think that this sharing of information is a perfect way to add value not only to our commission as a whole but also to individual members.

Graham Bennet has been invited to participate in the deliberations about a joint IUCN-UNEP action on connectivity.

The case-study book on Ecosystem based Adaptation to Climate Change is making good progress. Many case studies have been submitted and Angela Andrade and Roberto Cazzolla have made a first selection. Bernal Herrera, RVC Central America, who was member of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group of the CBD and CC for the elaboration of the Technical Document 41(Linkages between Biodiversity and Climate Change), will work with Roberto and Angela on the final edition of the book.

At the SC meeting Angela proposed to publish an easily accessible document on the value of the Ecosystem Approach for different sectors. We readily adopted this excellent idea, and will come back to you for input.

***From the Regions***

All Regional Vice Chairs are invited to come forward with a name of a young professional CEM-member as co-RVC. You will be contacted by your focal point within the Steering Committee on this.

Icelandic ashes prevented Councilor and CEM-member Hans de Iongh to go to Edinburgh to lead the CEM-event t the IUCN-UK conference "Nature-What's in it for me?" see <http://www.iucn-uk.org/>

The IUCN committee of The Netherlands organised another conference entitled "The Great Escape" that intended to draw attention to the fact that we have only one planet to live on. IUCN's president Ashok Khosla attended. [http://www.iucn.nl/about\\_us/conference\\_the\\_great\\_escape/](http://www.iucn.nl/about_us/conference_the_great_escape/)

Kalev Sepp, RVC for Eastern Europe, is organizing a conference in Tallinn, Estonia from 27-29 May entitled "Nature Conservation Beyond 2010". The Director General of IUCN will give a presentation and I myself will attend and give two presentations. [http://www.ncbeyond2010.eu/Conference\\_Nature\\_Conservation\\_b\\_1.htm](http://www.ncbeyond2010.eu/Conference_Nature_Conservation_b_1.htm)

***General IUCN matters***

It is a difficult time for conservationists these days. Many decision takers during this financial crisis, glide down the slippery slope into the marsh of a quick depletion of nature's richness to overcome the financial crisis. Money for conservation has a low priority. The Netherlands Committee of IUCN, in spite of all the positive evaluations of its programme over the last years, is one of the latest victims. Its proposal for programme funding has been turned down. This affects our Commission as part of that proposal was an activity to strengthen the development of the Red List of Ecosystems