

Please don't think that there is nothing going on and that the Chair decided for that reason to merge the flash reports for May and June. On the contrary: I may have got too many things to do. By the time I realised that the flash report for May was overdue, June was running towards its end and so I put them together. Apologies!

*CEM matters:*

- We have been putting a great amount of effort in getting the governance structure completed. It turned out to be rather time-consuming, but most positions are filled now. I am very pleased that so many leading experts are willing to make their time available to further the cause that CEM and IUCN stand for: sustainable conservation which integrates species, ecosystems and people.
- The CEM webpage is outdated as we have been waiting for more clarity on the governance of the commission. It is our priority now to get the latest information on the web so that each RVC and TGL can use this important communication tool for the purposes of the group he or she is leading.
- In some countries CEM may identify a member as our focal point. Countries that have focal points include The Netherlands, Mexico and China. If you feel that there is a need for such a "CEM-official" in your country, please contact your RVC.
- Another activity that is taking time is the preparation of the next steering committee meeting in Mongolia. The event will take place in Hustai National Park where I have been the Project Leader of the reintroduction project for the Przewalski Horse. A task force is presently being constituted that will have to prepare an international conference on Steppe Management and Climate Change that will be organised in Hustai on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September next year .

*From the Thematic Groups*

- You will have received the email that Gill Shepherd sent you asking for input on CEM/IUCN-Programme on climate change. Gill has been very satisfied with the answers she has received so far. I thank all of you that shared their views with Gill, please continue to send us your observations, ideas and suggestions.
- Karen Sudmeier and Neville Ash have published a booklet on "Environmental Guidance, Note for Disaster Risk Reduction". It has been very positively received.
- Joost Brouwer gave a short training session at CSD-17 in New York on dryland management. The brochure he produced was quickly out of stock and will be reprinted.
- The Business and Biodiversity programme asked for a preliminary list of threatened ecosystems in Europe which was required for a proposal to the European Union . Of course that is not something we do on a sunny afternoon, but it is another indication that the World is getting ready for this Red List, and we should deliver!
- Annadel Cabandan received a request for a working group on ecosystem management in relation to palm oil plantations. This is sensitive and may be tricky, but it is also very important and should be followed up by us. The Thematic Group on Business and Ecosystem Management will be asked to take this forward.

*From the Regions*

- A number of proposals have been developed and submitted to the MAVA Foundation. It includes proposals for a Red-List of ecosystems activity and a CEM summer school in West Africa.
- Dr. Jean Ngog Nje, former Director of the Garoua Wildlife School, has been very active in establishing a CEM-membership in Central Africa. Unfortunately, he himself is not in a position to be the RVC for that region, but I am much indebted to him to get our commission off the ground in this important region.
- In Latin America, activities are set up to provide a ecosystem management training to park rangers, and to organise a workshop on the Red-listing of Ecosystems.

*General IUCN matters*

- The Union is picking up on its promise to increase involvement of the commissions in its work. I receive regular demands for expert names and input in policy documents. Over the past months these included inputs for policy documents on drylands, the IPBES process, the Regional Office for Europe, Ecosystem based Adaptation to Climate Change, the UNFCCC process, REDD, etc.. Most of these I forward to RVCs and TGLs that lead the expert network where the required expertise is lodged.
- According to Bill Jackson "Ecosystem services" is the buzz word that he is confronted with at almost every meeting. I have asked Dolf de Groot, the Theme Leader on Ecosystem Services to start an activity on this. You may contact Dolf for more information: [dolf.degroot@wur.nl](mailto:dolf.degroot@wur.nl)

- Simon Stuart informed us that a good number of CEM members responded to the enquiry of SSC-CEESP sustainable use working group. He and Aroha Mead concluded that it would be appropriate to include CEM-experts in this group, so some of you may expect an invitation.