

CEESP Quadrennial Report 2005-2008

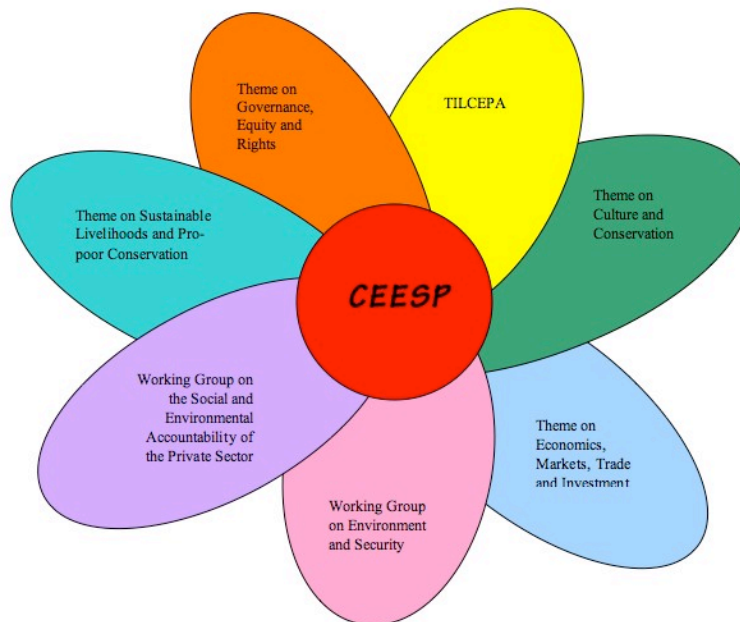
The mission of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), adopted at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, is to “contribute to the IUCN Mission by providing insights and expertise on ways to harmonize biodiversity conservation with the crucial socioeconomic and cultural concerns of human communities, such as livelihoods, poverty eradication, development, equity, human rights, cultural identity, security and the fair and effective governance of natural resources.” It was decided at the congress in Bangkok that CEESP would do this through four themes:

- Governance of natural resources, equity and human rights (TGER)
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Pro-poor Conservation (TSL)
- Culture and Conservation (TCC)
- Economics, Markets, Trade and Investment (TEM TI)
- Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA, jointly with WCPA),

and two cross-cutting priorities:

- Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector (SEAPRISE)
- Environment and Security (E&S)

With respect to prior years, the work of CEESP thus comprised some complementary thematic directions, while continuing to consolidate and build on the strong foundations of membership and expertise built in the previous quadrennial. The mission of CEESP is shared by all its working groups and themes, which thematically grow from and coalesce around the vision and core values of the Commission as illustrated by the corolla model below:



In the past years, CEESP has dealt with some of the most complex subjects that conservation faces today, in particular the dilemmas at the interface among governance of natural resources, equity (including gender equity) and human rights, and the questions around the economic and social root causes of environmental degradation. In this, CEESP has closely adhered to the vision and mission of IUCN.

Governance, Equity and Rights

The Theme on Governance, Equity and Rights (TGER) built on the long-standing expertise of Commission members on co-management issues. In the present quadrennial TGER extended its work to the broader field of governance of natural resources. The group also greatly expanded its membership, which is now some 600. Among the results of the group's work are greatly enhanced visibility and knowledge about **governance of natural resources and protected areas**, in particular through publications (including some now distributed by the **Convention on Biological Diversity**), analyses and **provision of technical support** at the local and national levels (e.g. Australia, Cambodia, China, Iran, Italy, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, and Vietnam). As an example, the government of **Madagascar** has been structuring its expanded system of protected areas on the **IUCN Matrix** developed by TGER/TILCEPA advisors. The group members have been in charge of organizing several international technical events, for instance the **Sharing Stewardship Stream at the First Marine Protected Areas Congress**, a symposium on innovative governance at the Society for Conservation Biology, a working group at the Almeria Categories Summit and side events on Community Conserved Areas and on Governance at meetings of the **CBD Working Group on Protected Areas** (Montecatini, 2005 and Rome, 2008).

One of the proud “distinctive initiatives” of TGER are **Regional Learning Networks** (RLNs), whereby small multi-stakeholder groups from different countries in the same region gather regularly to learn from each other's experience and initiatives. The small teams report to each others on lessons learned on a specific topic, go through some formal training and field visits together, reflect on what they can improve in their work on the basis of their joint experience and help one another to plan how to put that into practice. TGER has been for several years providing technical support to several such RLNs, including one on **co-management of marine protected areas in West Africa**, in cooperation with the Regional Programme on Marine and Coastal Conservation, and one on **co-management of protected areas with indigenous peoples in South East Asia**, in cooperation with the Asian People's Pact Foundation and Swedbio.

In the current quadrennial TGER also initiated a new line of work for IUCN on **Conservation and Human Rights**. Besides the publication of a dedicated issue of *Policy Matters* mentioned above, it organised a **symposium at the meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology** and a dedicated **workshop in Baviaanskloof Megareserve (South Africa)**, and produced a synthesis document on **tools and mechanisms to implement a rights-based approach to conservation**. The group has now a specific Task Force on the subject.

Communities and Protected Areas

The Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihood Rights in Relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA) is a joint theme between CEESP and WCPA. Having achieved significant progress at the international policy front—especially with the inclusion of Element 2 on Governance, Equity, Participation and Benefit Sharing in the **CBD Programme of Work (PoW) on Protected Areas**—TILCEPA has focused the quadrennial on the national and local implementation of progressive conservation policies. As an example, TILCEPA has initiated a survey of PoW progress in different countries and developed a database (available at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/CCAlegislations.htm>). In collaboration with TGER it also supported policy development and capacity building in various countries (see above) and offering side events and specific publications and tools at CBD meetings (e.g. in Montecatini 2005; Curitiba 2006, Rome 2008 and Bonn 2008 (planned)).

TILCEPA members have been active in refining the concept of protected area governance, through consideration of both “type” and “quality”. A number of papers offer a basis for an IUCN position on governance of protected areas, currently included as part of a revised version of the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on protected areas categories (and governance types). TILCEPA has further been working towards Understanding, Strengthening and Promoting **Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)**. Regional reviews of CCA status and needs were carried out for Eastern Africa, South-West China, the Arctic and Mesoamerica. Specific initiatives to support CCAs in need were undertaken in Mexico and Rwanda. Papers, cases studies and information on various aspects of CCAs are available from a new dedicated site: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/CCA> and will be used as a background for further discussions at regional and global events like the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2008. A **Global Alliance in**

support of Community Conserved Areas is evolving out of an international workshop on CCAs held in Turkey in October 2007.

A new TILCEPA Task Force on Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods is addressing social equity and poverty concerns in the conceptualization and management of protected areas, and is helping to operationalise the recommendation on Protected Areas and Poverty endorsed by the 2003 World Parks Congress. The TF has held 3 regional meetings and is consolidating its workplan for the next few years.

Finally, TILCEPA has remained active at the international level; it organised numerous events for the CBD and a **workshop stream on governance** for the **First Marine Protected Areas Congress** in Geelong (Australia).

Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector

The Working Group on the Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector (SEAPRISE) has supported civil society organizations and governments affected by **mining and gas operations** in many countries including Alaska, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau; Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, and Tanzania. The group helped organize lesson-learning trips to the Niger River Delta for senior government officials and civil society members from both East and West Africa. These trips were followed by training courses in Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania and Tanzania. Similar training was also organized in Peru in 2007. To help the training, the SEAPRISE team produced a publication, “Environmental Management of Offshore Oil Development and Maritime Oil Transport“ (in English and French with a summary in Portuguese). SEAPRISE also worked with the Governments of Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania and Tanzania as well as with UNEP-WCMC on spatial planning and mapping. The combination of the training and spatial mapping had a major effect on the way in which a number of countries planned their oil and gas development.

One of SEAPRISE’s biggest successes was its contribution to the 5th meeting of the Nairobi Convention in Johannesburg in November 2007, when 30 National Delegations from East and West Africa agreed to carry out **strategic environmental assessments** prior to allocating any further oil licenses. UNEP congratulated SEAPRISE members for their support during the meeting.

In response to a request from members in the Philippines and from the Catholic Bishops, SEAPRISE provided technical support to a team led by Claire Short (MP and former UK Minister for Overseas Development), including a visit to the Philippines and the production of a report: “**Mining in the Philippines, Concerns and Conflicts**”. The report was presented in Manila and circulated among both Philippines and UK Parliaments.

SEAPRISE also collaborated with the Nigerian Director of Biodiversity in the Ministry of Environment and a team of 20 local scientists and activists, during a **scoping mission on Oil Spills in the Niger Delta**. The affected areas and affected communities were visited, followed by a workshop. The scoping mission report highlighted the 4,000-6,000 oil spills that have taken place in the area over the last 50 years. The team also produced a briefing/training film with Reuters and an oil spill map.

Other worldwide activities of SEAPRISE included an **assessment of the major oilspill that affected Lebanon after the war in 2006** and a subsequent follow-up mission one year later and advocacy work against activities of the Dutch **bottom fish dredging** fleet near the Park National du Banc d’Arguin in Mauritania.

Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods

The **Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods and Pro-Poor Conservation (TSL)** focused a great part of its work on supporting the organisation of social groups with critical impact on the governance of natural resources, reviving customary institutions for the conservation of nature and the sustainable management of natural resources and defending their customary rights to autonomous governance of their natural resources. **Food Sovereignty and pro-poor conservation** were new emphases brought in the 2005-2008 Mandate. So was the **IUCN Policy on Mobile Indigenous Peoples** (the “Mobile Peoples Resolution” of Bangkok 2004), which also constituted a major focus and achievement of this Theme. In line with this policy, TSL promoted, supported and facilitated the World Gathering of Nomadic Pastoralists, as well as

the **First Congress of WAMIP (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples)**— a movement which owes its beginning to the World Parks Congress of 2003 in Durban). The Congress was held in Segovia, Spain in September 2007 and approved a revised version of the Statutes of the organisation, which now counts hundreds of members, in particular customary mobile indigenous institutions (tribes, clans, etc.) and supporting organisations and individuals. Also, as a result of the Gathering mentioned above, nomadic pastoralists of the world now have their own situation analysis of the state of their natural resources and development, a long term vision for conservation and sustainable livelihoods, and a strategy for moving forward in between the two.

TSL members actively participated in articulating the links between human well being, food security, human rights and the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources under the “food sovereignty” paradigm. Notable in this sense are the publication of a CEESP Occasional Paper on *Agro-ecology versus Eco-Agriculture*, and a book on *Agro-ecology and food sovereignty in the Americas* with Yale University and IIED. Participation in a new IIED-run project on democratizing research and development in food production systems and agro-biodiversity, and the active role in organising and running workshops at the **World Forum on Food Sovereignty** (Nyeleni, Mali, February 2007) were other highlights. In the field of genetic resources, TSL supported an ICARDA/ International Centre for Irrigation Research/ CENESTA project on participatory plant breeding. It also engaged in the implementation of the **IUCN’s Moratorium on GMOs Resolution** by setting up and maintaining the **IUCN web site** on the Moratorium, as requested by the IUCN Council. TSL also co-sponsored in 2007 the publication in a dozen languages of a CD on PGIS (Participatory Geographic Information Systems) together with a number of other institutions around the globe.

TSL has emphasised linkages and mutual learning among local organisations engaged in strengthening local food systems, livelihoods and agro-biodiversity. This has included collaboration with indigenous Andean communities (Asociación ANDES, Peru), Dalit women in the Indian subcontinent (Deccan Development Society, India), rice farmers in Indonesia (Farmers IPM movement) and nomadic pastoralists in Iran (Centre for Sustainable Development, CENESTA) through a project of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED, UK). A great deal of mutual learning has enriched the base of experience concerning sustainable livelihoods in these usually marginalised communities. TSL has supported national and regional projects on pastoral stewardship of arid and semi-arid lands, sustainable livelihoods, indigenous peoples’ rights and community-based natural resource management in Iran and neighbouring countries. TSL has also supported the secretariat of WAMIP, as an affiliated network of CEESP.

TSL has worked closely with other CEESP themes and Working Groups. With TGER and TILCEPA, it participated in a number of Community Conserved Areas (CCA) initiatives. With E&S, it supported the Conference on Forces for Sustainability (World Court Building, The Hague, March 2007). With E&S and SEAPRISE, it supported the Emergency Assessment of the marine pollution in Lebanon as a result of Israeli bombing of a power plant’s oil deposits in Jiyeh, including its assessment a year later.

TSL members engaged in field based training, awareness and policy work on desertification, co-management of natural resources, and common property resource management systems in Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Iran, Morocco and West Africa. It supported the **Caucasus Biodiversity Council** in the development of the Caucasus Eco-region Profile and the conservation programme of the six countries of the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia and Turkey).

Environment and Security Working Group

The Environment and Security Working Group organised the European launch of the State of the World Report 2005 entitled “**Redefining Global Security**”, in which the environmental dimension of security was analysed, described and illustrated with examples. The launch took place first in the Peace Palace, The Hague in March 2007, and the next day in the European Parliament, in Brussels, with the participation of high level speakers such as the Dutch ministers for Development Cooperation and for the Environment as well as Members of the European Parliament. In 2006 the group supported financially the mission of Professor Richard Steiner of CEESP SEAPRISE to assess the environmental impacts of the **oil spill in the Mediterranean** after the Israeli Air Force had bombed the oil tanks of the power station at Jiyeh on the Lebanese coast. In July 2006, it financed his follow-up visit to Israel to discuss the report with the Israeli

government. It also commissioned a report on the **legal (liability) aspects of the spill**, which was published in February 2007 and submitted to the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL).

In March 2007, the group organized the **Conference on Forces for Sustainability**, in the **Peace Palace**, which focused on new roles for the military to promote environmental security and on the responsibility of the private sector, especially the extractive industries, to prevent the violation of human rights and the destruction of the environment and nature, to compensate for damage done and to accept the guidance of citizens councils in the areas of operation. Many of the participants of the Conference have become new members of the expanding Working Group. On 10 December 2007 the chair of E&S, Wouter Veening, addressed a major side event at the **Bali Conference** of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention on the **security aspects of (on-going) climate change**, and preparations have been made to organize with the Polish government a major side event on that subject at the next Conference of the Parties in December 2008 in Poznan, Poland, following a combined event, jointly with the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) on the same issue at the Fourth World Conservation Congress in October in Barcelona.

Theme on Environment, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment

The Theme on Environment, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment (TEM TI) evolved from the former Working Group on Environment, Trade and Investment. The chair of TEM TI assembled a new steering committee for the group and approached foundations with project proposals to support TEM TI's workplan. A project proposal was also submitted to IUCN's 3IC Fund, which was approved in October 2007. The project, "**The Macroeconomic Connection: Monetary and Fiscal Policies for Sustainability**" is focusing regionally on **Latin America** (Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Mexico). Project activities have begun and preliminary results will be presented at the WCC in Barcelona.

Meanwhile, TEM TI continuously engaged in networking for membership and action-oriented research, starting at the Biannual Conference of the International Association of Ecological Economics in New Delhi, December 2006 and other subsequent international events. TEM TI's Chair Alejandro Nadal participated as a member of the drafting committee of the Memorandum on Natural Resource Governance for the XXIst century to the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, organized by the Heinrich Boell Foundation. During this session new contacts were established with African colleagues and discussions for a regional strategy for TEM TI in Africa were undertaken. TEM TI was active in several national contexts, such as the jury of the Independent Peoples Tribunal of the World Bank Group in India, and the establishment of the Upland Maize Germplasm Sanctuary in Mexico.

Theme on Culture and Conservation

The Theme on Culture and Conservation (TCC) was convened in early 2005 with a core group of members drawn primarily from contributors to the publication of a dedicated volume of *Policy Matters*, "History, Culture and Conservation". This membership has expanded in this quadrennial and now includes culturally and nationally diverse members from all areas of the globe. The main objective of TCC is to improve knowledge, policy and practice through linking cultural and biological diversity, their common threats and by strengthening opportunities, and the group set out to achieve this through action in a number of areas.

Knowledge dissemination activities of TCC have included the organization of a conference entitled **Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World** to be held at the American Museum of Natural History in April 2008; the production of an edited volume entitled "**Conservation, Culture and History**" which contains case studies of the relations between cultural practice and biodiversity conservation; and the production of a "**Source Book on Bio-cultural Diversity**" in cooperation with Terralingua, a volume that provides case studies from communities around the world on relations between biological and cultural diversity.

Action-research activities included the engagement of Maori peoples in biodiversity and conservation genetics research of native New Zealand species through collaborative research and community outreach to *iwi* (tribes); the integration of traditional knowledge and advanced GIS/GPS technologies/techniques towards conservation of key wetland resources in Mauritania; continuing research examining discrepancies between cultural understandings of nature in northern Pakistan and market-based conservation incentives

introduced by IUCN and other INGOs; research on the institutional dynamics that structure vulnerability to disaster in Kashmir; and the role of culture, traditional knowledge and local institutions of authority in the effective management of coastal resources in Ghana. Advocacy activities have included support for community biocultural diversity initiatives in Mexico, legal testimony on indigenous intellectual property rights in New Zealand, and the preparation of collective submissions on bio-prospecting to the New Zealand Government.

Chair contributions to Council and other areas

The Chair of CEESP, Dr. Taghi Farvar, was present and actively engaged during all sessions of the IUCN Council, focusing on upholding the **collegial spirit and form of the governance of the Union**. In addition, he continued his active engagement in regional issues in WESCANA and other regions of the world. He also delivered a keynote address to the Mesoamerican Parks Congress. His talks included a special opening address to the annual gathering of North American foundations that support Biodiversity in 2006.

The life of the Commission

Overall, CEESP engaged in addressing the causes of environmental degradation and supporting the positive forces for conservation and sound environmental management through:

- fostering the engagement of society as a whole, and in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, not just conservation professionals;
- working to attain basic environmental justice and human rights;
- promoting the full valuation of nature accompanied by more equity in the sharing of the related benefits and burdens;
- peeling off of the myth of the only and overpowering “economic value” and revitalizing/ strengthening the multiplicity of other values— identity, health, security, cultural, spiritual, religious—that are also embedded in nature.

Through its periodical journal “*Policy Matters*”, CEESP has continued to explore emerging and controversial conservation topics, creating a precious space for real discussion and exchange of ideas. The journal is not “designed in advance”, but built on the basis of the submissions by the members answering a series of questions on a set topic, often in conjunction with major international events. The editorial board then reflects upon the sum total of the submissions and develops an “editorial synthesis” of what the members have expressed, usually oriented towards recommendations for both policy and practice. The Commission is particularly proud of the issues published in the last three years: on ***History, Culture and Conservation***; on ***Poverty, Wealth and Conservation***; and on ***Conservation and Human Rights***. An issue to be launched at the 2008 IUCN Congress is being prepared on the topic of ***Climate Change, Energy Change and Conservation***, with other special issues in the offing.

CEESP members come from a wide variety of geographical, cultural and professional backgrounds, including indigenous peoples and academics, field-based practitioners and community elders, policy makers and young professionals (the Commission is the most “progressive” of IUCN in this sense, according to the last Commission Review). Members are well balanced between people in the North and the South (about 50/50) and more than one third of the members are women (a special achievement in gender balance among the IUCN Commissions). One of the strengths of CEESP has been its engagement with a variety of rightholders and stakeholders, which include IUCN members (governments and NGOs) but also direct representatives of civil society (indigenous peoples and local communities).

CEESP members worked in all continents through a flexible network with lean coordination, managing to take advantage of specific occasions for meetings and/or developing projects and obtaining funds for joint initiatives. Typically, and as a **hallmark of the Commission**, they dealt with the **critical links between practice and policy** (e.g. feeding local experiences into national and international policy processes and promoting the implementation of sound policy in specific contexts). This is crucial work towards “*a just world that values and conserves nature*”.