

**IUCN  
WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS  
5–14 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain**

## **Election of the Chairs of IUCN Commissions**

**Action Requested:** The World Conservation Congress is requested to ELECT the Chairs of IUCN Commissions.

### **Background**

1. Paragraph 34 of the Regulations to the IUCN Statutes provides as follows:  
  
“Nominations for election to the office of Chair of each Commission shall be made to each ordinary session of the World Congress by the Council after considering proposals made by members in Categories A and B, and by the members of that Commission. The nominations shall take into account the need to ensure that the holders of these offices are of the highest professional calibre and, as a whole, come from a diverse range of Regions.”
2. The Director General wrote to IUCN members on 7 September 2007 inviting members to submit proposals for the nomination of Chairs of the Commissions.
3. Commission members were also invited by circular letter in September 2007 to send in their proposals.
4. Pursuant to Regulation 70, Council reviewed the Terms of Reference and the activities of each Commission and proposals were solicited on the basis of said review.
5. In May 2007, the Council appointed a Nominations Committee chaired by IUCN Regional Councillor, Mr Alistair Gammell, to assist it in the task of submitting nominations to the World Conservation Congress. The Nominations Committee revised and updated the Terms of Reference for Commission Chairs which were subsequently circulated to IUCN members.
6. At its 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 10–12 March 2008, the Council, upon recommendation of the Nominations Committee, extended the deadline for receipt of proposals for Commission Chair nominations from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Subsequently, by mail ballot closed on 14 April 2008, Council decided to nominate the following individuals as candidates for election as Chairs of IUCN Commissions by the World Conservation Congress:

#### **Commission on Ecosystem Management**

Ms Angela Andrade Perez, Colombia  
Dr Peter Bridgewater, Australia/UK  
Dr Gill Shepherd, UK  
Mr Hein Rune Skjoldal, Norway  
Mr Piet Wit, Netherlands

#### **Commission on Education and Communication**

Mr Keith Wheeler, USA

#### **Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy**

Mr Abdelhadi Bennis, Morocco  
Dr Richard Cellarius, USA  
Ms Aroha Te Pareake Mead, New Zealand

#### **Commission on Environmental Law**

Ms Sheila Abed, Paraguay

**Species Survival Commission**

Dr Holly Dublin, USA

Dr Simon Stuart, UK

**World Commission on Protected Areas**

Mr Nikita Lopoukhine, Canada

7. Short biographical notes on the candidates mentioned above are given in Annex 1, arranged in alphabetical order for each Commission.

## **Biographical Information on Candidates proposed as Chairs of IUCN's Commissions**

### **COMMISSION ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT (CEM)**

#### **Angela Andrade Perez, Colombia**

**Current position:** Coordinator of the Integrated National Adaptation Project to Climate Change (Colombia), INAP (WB) and other environmental initiatives including Payment for Environmental Services. Conservation International-Colombia.

**Professional background:** Angela Andrade is an Anthropologist with specialization in Geography and Land Evaluation and has a Master of Science degree in Rural and Landscape Ecology. She has occupied several positions in the Colombian Government, and later was Deputy Director of Geography in the National Geographical Institute for ten years. She has been involved especially in landscape surveying and the development of methodologies as well as the implementation of case studies for territorial and land use planning at different levels. Later, she became for six years Director of Ecosystems of the Ministry of Environment of Colombia, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of several environmental policies. She was also the focal point of different international conventions and agreements, especially the ITTO, MAB, CITES, RAMSAR, among others. In 2003 she joined Conservation International in Colombia where she managed the Conservation Corridor, Choco-Manabí, between Colombia and Ecuador and now she coordinates the Integrated National Adaptation Programme to Climate Change and the payment for environmental services initiatives. She has also been a consultant of the GTZ for the implementation of the Forestry Programme in Colombia, she participated in the Mission to Panama, of ITTO, and she has been advisor to the Administration of National Parks in Argentina for the creation of the Chaco conservation corridor. These positions provided an opportunity to lead on environmental policy, planning and surveying, integrating ecological, biological, socio-economical and cultural criteria towards conservation, land use planning and sustainable development.

#### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Member of WCPA over 5 years
- Member of CEM for the past 7 years
- Regional Vice-Chair for South America – IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management for the past 5 years
- Participation in the II Latin American Congress of Parks and Protected Areas and coordination of the Symposium: Ecosystem Approach and Protected Areas, 2007
- Delivered a workshop in Colombia and edited the book: Application of the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America, Villa de Leyva
- Participation in the Global Biodiversity Forum promoted by IUCN-Curitiba
- Contribution to CEM in the preparation of the IUCN Programme 2009–2012
- Contribution to IUCN in the Drylands program
- Fluent in English, medium level in French and Spanish native tongue

**Institutional support:** Conservation International in Colombia provides the basic support required. For additional aspects, the Colombian Committee to IUCN will help to get sponsored initiatives.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** CEM is facing a very interesting opportunity of positioning the Ecosystem Approach as a relevant framework in adaptive management, especially in climate change adaptation initiatives and the valuation and payment for ecosystem services. Both issues will be considered as relevant priorities; therefore specific case studies and flagship products will be produced. Additionally, the recommendations of COP 9 will be taken into account as future priorities.

Special attention will be given in promoting the dissemination of the benefits of the Ecosystem Approach and Ecosystem Management, starting with other IUCN Commissions and institutional members. Specific initiatives in which CEM and other Commissions could work together will be

proposed and regional portfolios will be developed indicating priorities for research and implementation.

A better diffusion of the Ecosystem Approach and Ecosystem Management for multilevel policy making and planning oriented to specific demands of different stakeholders will be considered, as well as opportunities to work with the private sector. Experiences of the application of the Ecosystem Approach by other sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, energy and health will be considered.

The development of standards and indicators for a proper application of the Ecosystem Approach will be also considered.

Partnerships with other organizations, IUCN members, and membership will be promoted to meet these priorities.

Finally, based on the recognition of different views and approaches to conservation and sustainable land management, initiatives for the interchange of knowledge and experiences with Indigenous Peoples will be promoted.

### **Peter Bridgewater, Australia/UK**

**Current position:** Chair, UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK-JNCC) – Part time post since 2007.

**Professional background:** *Posts since 1990* – Secretary General, Ramsar Convention, (2003–2007); Director, Division of Ecological sciences, UNESCO, and Secretary, Man and the Biosphere Programme (1999–2003); Chief Executive, Australian Nature Conservation Agency (1990–1999).

*High-level appointments* – Chair of the International Whaling Commission (1995–1997); Chair of the man and biosphere programme intergovernmental council (1996–1999); Chair of the Ramsar Convention CoP (1996); Commissioner on the Independent World Commission on the Oceans (1996–1998); Board Member of the Millennium Assessment since its inception (2000–2004); Member, International Advisory committee of the International Model forest network (2007–).

*Honours* – Honorary degree in resource management from the University of New England in 1997; jointly with Aboriginal Traditional Owners, the Picasso gold medal from UNESCO for excellence in managing a World Heritage cultural landscape 1995; Fellow of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, and the Linnaean Society of London.

**Experience and past involvement with IUCN:** Involvement with IUCN dates back to the '80s, as a member of the Commission on Ecology until its transmogrification into CEM. Member of SSC and WCPA; organizing committee for the Parks Congresses in 1992 and 2003; at the 2003 World Parks Congress acted as stream lead for the “Linkages in the Landscape” theme, which bridged from Protected Areas to landscape scale processes and management; assisted in organizing the 1990 IUCN Congress in Perth, Australia; organized workshops for the 1996 and 2004 World Congresses; member of the Australian national committee for IUCN; as Secretary General of the Ramsar convention for four years have also been (in a legal sense) a staff member of IUCN! I was also one of the original team who developed the Ecosystem Approach in Malawi in 1998.

**Institutional support:** Supported in part by UK-JNCC I have a fully equipped home office with broadband internet, phone and fax, Mac and PC computers, so am fully interoperable! The JNCC is involved in promoting the work of the Commission in many forms, including recently providing publication support for the *Ecosystem Approach: Five steps to implementation* booklet, and I anticipate such institutional support will continue. For CEM to be fully effective in its reach I would hope to interest and involve other relevant IGOs and NGOs to help with delivery of an enhanced programme.

**Quo Vadis, CEM?** At the end of three years as Chair, I would like CEM to be seen as The Commission for the Commissions and programmes. What do I mean by this? Simply that the CEM work should underpin and support the work of other Commissions in an effective, partnership-driven

way. The themes of the last three years are still relevant, but progress over the last three years needs to be reviewed and a new strategic direction developed. Three areas in particular deserve attention:

- Linking cultural diversity with biodiversity through an understanding of how ecosystem management has been, and should be, linked to human understanding of ecosystems, using all forms of knowledge to help in this understanding is an emerging issue for the Commission. Here joint activity with CEC and CEESP will be important.
- Outside of the IUCN family, CEM has a continuing role to play in the next phase, in whatever form it takes, of the Millennium Assessment, and of working with CBD, Ramsar and regional conventions on implementation of landscape approaches to the conservation and management of biological diversity.
- Finally, the Congress sees a welcome change in the level of concern for IUCN's role in the climate change discussions, and CEM must build on Congress outcomes in this area, by working with UNFCCC, CBD, and relevant IUCN programmes and members.

There will be a need to enhance the membership of the Commission to deal with some of these agendas.

### **Hein Rune Skjoldal, Norway**

**Current position:** Senior Scientist, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway

**Professional background:** Hein Rune Skjoldal (b. 1948) has a degree (Cand. Real.) in marine biology from the University of Bergen (1975). He has been working at the Institute of Marine Research since 1981, where he has held the position as Research Director and Head of the Department of Marine Environment. He has also held positions at the University of Bergen, latest as Associate Professor at the Institute of Fisheries and Marine Biology. He has been visiting scientist at the University of Miami (RSMAS) in the USA and at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Townsville. Skjoldal is a marine biologist and ecologist and has worked in the large marine ecosystems surrounding Norway (Barents, Norwegian and North Seas). He has participated in several national committees and expert groups. He was Chair of an Advisory Committee on establishment of marine protected areas in Norway in 2000–2004, and Chair of a Norwegian national expert group on marine eutrophication in 1995–1999.

Skjoldal has been involved in work on developing an ecosystem approach to management for the North Sea, and on associated Ecological Quality Objectives within OSPAR. He has been Chair of the ICES Advisory Committee on Ecosystems (ACE; 2001–2003) and Chair of the ICES Advisory Committee on Marine Environment (ACME; 2000). He was a member of the Scientific Committee for the FAO Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem (2001) and a member of the Steering Group for the Bergen Conference on Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (2006). He is co-lead for the Arctic Council Assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic (2004–2008) and lead author of the chapter on environmental impacts of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (2007–2008). Skjoldal has edited (with co-editors) the books: *The Norwegian Sea Ecosystem* (2004), *Large Marine Ecosystems of the North Atlantic* (2002), *ICES Zooplankton Methodology Manual* (2000), and *Ecology of Fjords and Coastal Waters* (1995). He is fluent in English and knows some German and French.

**Experience and past involvement with IUCN:** Skjoldal has been Regional Vice-Chair for Western Europe of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management for the last three years. He attended the last World Parks Congress in Durban where he presented in a session on the relationship between LMEs and MPAs. He has been a Norwegian Delegate to many of the recent CBD SBSTTA and COP meetings.

**Institutional support:** Skjoldal expects support from his current employer (IMR) to cover his salary and office support should he be elected Chair of CEM.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** Ecosystems consist of habitats and species, and the ecosystem approach to management (EA) is about sector integration to achieve the dual objectives of

sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. CEM should move beyond pilot case studies to contribute to the global implementation of the EA, building on the five steps identified (which again build on the 12 EA principles of CBD). This requires geographical identification of all the ecosystems worldwide (Global Ecosystem Atlas), realignment or establishment of management mechanisms or structures, and involvement of relevant stakeholders. The membership of CEM should be engaged to help with training and practical implementation, collecting and sharing experiences, and contribute to aggregated global reporting with geographical ecosystems as basic units. Within IUCN, CEM should act as a catalyst for better integration across programmes and Commissions to fully mobilize IUCN in the global implementation of the EA.

### **Gill Shepherd, United Kingdom**

**Position:** Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute, London  
(This is a Professorial post-retirement affiliation)

**Professional background:** Gill Shepherd has a doctorate in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics. She has over 35 years of developing country experience, 25 of them spent on tropical forests. For the last 25 years she has worked forest policy and environment issues, with a special focus on improved rights and engagement for local people in tropical forests. For much of this period she worked at the Overseas Development Institute, where she founded and led the forest policy programme from 1985–2002, and ran the Rural Development Forestry Network. She has worked in more than 24 developing countries, predominantly in Africa and Asia, establishing common ground between natural scientists, social scientists, policy makers and local people in pursuit of social and environmental sustainability. In that period she has undertaken work for a variety of multilateral, bilateral and NGO agencies. In 1994 she won the Society of American Foresters' Award for Outstanding Contributions to Tropical Forestry, and she served on the CIFOR Board of Trustees from 1996–2002, chairing it for three of those years. She speaks French, Italian, Arabic and kiSwahili.

### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Since 2003 has worked more and more on ecosystems as an organizing principle for conservation, as the Thematic Leader on the Ecosystem Approach for IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management
- For the last two years has also worked as the thematic leader on 'Poverty, Livelihoods and Landscapes' for the Forest Conservation Programme
- Ran or co-ran sessions on poverty, conservation and livelihoods at the Durban World Parks Congress, 2003
- Co-ran sessions on the Ecosystem Approach at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in 2004
- Has been influential in greatly raising the profile of IUCN's work on the Ecosystem Approach with the CBD and in having IUCN identified as a key source of future guidance to the Convention
- Was a member of a small group formulating the Commission's plans for 2009–2012, and became the main drafter and producer of the final Plan of Work
- Helped to identify, focus and draft proposals for the Commission's six sessions at Barcelona World Conservation Congress in 2008
- Spoke on Poverty and Climate Change at IUCN's Annual Partners' Meeting, Gland, October 2007

**Institutional support:** none.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** The Commission's overarching task, in collaboration with other Commissions, with IUCN's Regional Offices and with in-house Programmes at IUCN Headquarters, is to work towards the application of ecosystem management approaches to problems in a wider range of contexts. In CEM's view this means attempting to integrate conservation and livelihood issues in multifunctional landscapes, where a patchwork of different kinds of land-use, ranging from protected areas to farmland, form a contiguous whole.

CEM's membership is small and competent, but members have not been sufficiently actively involved in Commission activities over the last few years. There is also a need to augment Commission membership among the ranks of researchers, officials and others whose interests in ecosystems do

not only come from a formal conservation background. The CEM and EMP programme of work for the 2009–2012 period will bring an ecosystems focus to the five main themes chosen by IUCN for the period, and will seek every possible way of actively engaging its membership in aspects of these five themes.

CEM also has a commitment (to the CBD among others) to produce manuals to guide practical implementation of ecosystem approaches for different audiences and in different settings, and will focus carefully on the relevance and appropriateness of its outputs, as it works.

**IUCN's themes, and CEM's proposed contributions to them, are as follows:**

- *Conserving diversity*: CEM will contribute to IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for sustainable natural resource management which incorporates biodiversity conservation.
- *Climate*: Working at a range of policy levels and across a range of policy responses, from mitigation and adaptation strategies to carbon offsets, CEM will seek to assess options, and to work with stakeholders to manage for climate change impact at ecosystem and landscape level.
- *Energy issues*: From the point of view of sustainable ecosystem use and management, new and old energy sources are significant. While biofuels will be more and more significant in some parts of the world, traditional bioenergy sources (charcoal and fuelwood) will continue to be important in many contexts, particularly for poorer households and particularly in Africa. Ecosystem approaches will be valuable for generating baselines against which environmental, economic and social impacts can be assessed, and corrections applied using adaptive management techniques.
- *Managing ecosystems for human wellbeing*: Sustainable development has to be ecologically sound and socially responsible, and not merely economically viable. Development policies and strategies need to support vulnerable stakeholders, including women, in their attempt to manage ecosystems sustainably for better livelihoods.
- *Greening the world economy*: Ecosystem goods and services and their contribution to human wellbeing have been consistently overlooked in mainstream economics. But current challenges – and above all those posed by climate change and adaptation to it – force a more profound appraisal of the role of natural resources in all life, and all economic calculations. There is an urgent need for IUCN, with inputs from CEM, to review existing methods for assessing ecosystem value and their contribution to the economy, and to develop them further. Until national accounts cease to take the subvention from nature as a free good, economic drivers will continue to send false signals.

**Piet Wit, The Netherlands**

**Current position:** Director Syzygy, a consultancy firm on Conservation-cum-Development

**Professional Background:** Piet Wit graduated at Wageningen University (1971) on Range Ecology. His first assignment as the Head of the Forest Herbarium Ibadan (Nigeria) was the start of a career which brought him to over 40 countries, with focus on West Africa, Europe and Central Asia. Highlights in this career were his work at the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon (training staff from francophone Africa), DELFT HYDRAULICS (integrated water management projects), IPC Groene Ruimte (vocational training for water, land and forest management), the Hustai National Park Project in Mongolia (reintroduction of the Przewalski Horse) and the Dutch Army in Uruzgan, Afghanistan (application of the ecosystem approach to the development of agriculture). Piet Wit has shown himself to be able to bridge the gap between theory and practice, between policy makers and field managers linking human and natural sciences across such different sectors as the military and the conservation community.

**Relevant experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Member of Steering Committee of CEM since the Montreal World Conservation Congress, serving as deputy chair under Hillary Masundire
- Member of the board of the Netherlands Committee of IUCN for 12 years
- Numerous identification, formulation, backstopping and evaluation missions for IUCN-executed projects, a/o the Waza-Logone project (Cameroon), the West-African Wetland Programme, the

Coastal and Marine Zone Programme in West Africa, The Okavango Delta Management Plan (Botswana), the Uganda Wetland project, Rufiji Delta and Floodplain (Tanzania), etc.

- Integrated water management projects in The Netherlands, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Egypt and Kenya
- Forest certification missions in Gabon and in Cameroon
- Integrated coastal zone management in India, The Netherlands
- Integrated rural development projects in Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mauretania
- Training and managing of training institutes in Senegal, Cameroon, The Netherlands
- Integrated conservation and development projects in Mongolia (Przewalski Horse), Guinea Bissau (Chimpanzees), Mauretania (Guelb-Er-Richatt), Cameroon (Sudan zone), Zambia (Kafue Flats), China (Middle-Yangtze wetlands), Tibet (Qomolangma Nature Preserve)
- Policy making, national/provincial action plans in Mauretania, Chad, Mongolia, Senegal, Afghanistan
- Member of the board of Hustai National Park Trust (Mongolia) and the Foundation for Reserves of Przewalski's Horse (The Netherlands), both IUCN members
- Fluent in English, French and German (mother tongue Dutch)

**Institutional support:** As an independent consultant, Piet Wit is able to spend 3–9 months of his time (depending on the sponsoring funds) on CEM activities. Syzygy will provide the office facilities. Sponsoring of an eventual CEM-chairmanship by DGIS and the NC-IUCN is foreseen. A sponsorship would include the promotion of the ecosystem approach in the regions and by the theme leaders.

**Future priorities of the Commission:** CEM is a front player in the development of the Ecosystem Approach as it was endorsed by COP/CBD in Nairobi. Input by CEM in the CBD process is solicited on a continuous basis. Our strength should be our capacity to mobilize our network of experts for this purpose.

The mobilization of the basis of CEM needs improvement. We have to be at the cutting edge not only of science and policy making, but also of ecosystem management *in practice*. In the confrontation of theory and practice, innovative approaches for *sustainable* conservation and development will be developed in response to concrete needs and identified opportunities.

CEM should strengthen its collaboration with other IUCN units. In the first place with the Ecosystem Management Programme where CEM and EMP are two sides of the same medal, but also with other IUCN Commissions. Our thematic groups can deliver valuable products like indicators (with SSC), ecological networks (with WCPA), instruments (with CEC), ecosystem products and services (with CEESP), integration of the Ecosystem Approach in environmental law (with CEL), etc.

Important will be to improve the “servicing of the membership” of IUCN. Regional Vice-Chairs and Thematic Leaders will be stimulated to organize regular contact between IUCN members within their constituency and bring them in contact with CEM members to develop new opportunities to apply the Ecosystem Approach in sustainable conservation.

Fund raising will be a major task of the Chair and his steering committee members, as the operating funds available within IUCN just cover the needs of a functional worldwide steering committee.

## COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (CEC)

**Keith A. Wheeler, USA**

**Current position:** President, Foundation for Our Future and Chairman and CEO ZedX Inc.

**Professional background:** Keith A. Wheeler has over 32 years of professional experience in the field of conservation and the environment. This includes work at the local, national and international levels with governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. He holds undergraduate degrees in Biology and Chemistry and graduate degrees in Environmental Science and Soil and Water Conservation. As President of the Foundation for Our Future he provides leadership and institutional development for an international, non-governmental R&D sustainable development

organization focused on sustainable development knowledge management, organizational change management, and capacity development.

As Chairman and CEO of ZedX, he provides overall leadership and strategy development for the international state-of-the-art knowledge management and IT company that focuses on sustainable resource management through a wide range of interactive, web-based, decision-support systems designed for the agricultural, water and energy sectors. He has served as President of CFix, a conservation carbon sequestration fund that developed significant forest-based carbon offset projects in South America. He was the first Executive Director for the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN), with 46 coordinating offices and programs in over 55,000 communities in 135 nations worldwide. Additionally, he served as the Assistant Director of the Adirondack Park Agency directing the education and communication efforts in the six million acre protected area. Keith was appointed to the Public Linkage and Education Task Force of President Clinton's Council for Sustainable Development, served as Co-Chairman of the White House Conference on Partnerships for Education about the Environment and as Co-Chairman of Education for Sustainability: An Agenda for Action, a White House initiative to establish a national policy for Education for Sustainability. Keith has authored numerous peer reviewed and popular publications, including a book titled *Education for Sustainability: a Paradigm for Hope*.

#### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Member of CEC over 10 years
- Current Chair for the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Previous Deputy Chair Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Regional Vice-Chair for North America Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)
- Founding Chair World Conservation Learning Network (WCLN)
- CEC organizing committee member of IUCN Environment Centre (WSSD)
- Member of World Conservation Congress Programme Committee
- IUCN South American Parks Congress
- IUCN World Conservation Congresses in Montreal and Bangkok
- Chaired regional CEC WCLN meetings in Gland, Switzerland; Guadalajara, Mexico; Stellenbosch, South Africa; Alexandria, Egypt; and Sydney, Australia
- Worked in a team spirit with the Steering Committee, Bureau and Secretariat to guide the Commission's work, building on the strengths of CEC's past work, and initiating a strategic planning process and evaluation to improve performance. He has contributed to IUCN regional members' meetings and in the Programme Planning process of IUCN
- Mr Wheeler has been a member of Council, the Programme and Policy Committee, the Barcelona Congress Organizing Committee, taken part in IUCN reviews of Commissions and Knowledge Management, contributed to IUCN events such as the South American Parks Congress, and the Commission Chairs' meetings

**Institutional support:** Mr Wheeler stands for election with the full support of the Foundation for Our Future and ZedX Inc, providing him with sufficient time and office support to lead the Commission, travel to international meetings and Council.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication is undertaking several new initiative areas to enhance its ability to support IUCN to deliver on the 'One Programme' concept. It has gone through a thorough strategic planning process in 2007/8 and its members have redefined the CEC mission going forward to better reflect the 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs of the conservation community. The new mission states that the *Commission on Education and Communication will drive change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions and actions through enhanced communication, new learning, change management, and knowledge management.*

Our focus is strategic communication, learning and knowledge management. The following strategic key elements will serve as the core of CEC's mandate and programme of work for the next intercessional period. These key elements include:

- Facilitating the Co-creation of Sustainable Solutions
- Creating Strategic Communication Platforms

- Leveraging New Learning for Professional Development

The Commission on Education and Communication member experts will work with stakeholders in communities around the globe, WCLN partner educators and their learners, IUCN members, offices and staff, and facilitate and extend peer networking to design “next generation practices”. The CEC knowledge network will create dynamic synergies and mobilize new partnerships to drive change within IUCN and the larger conservation community.

## COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL POLICY (CEESP)

### Abdelhadi Bennis, Morocco

#### Current employment and position/title:

President of an important “Environment Club”; active member of several environmental institutions and NGOs

#### Professional experience:

- Mr Bennis is a graduate of the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l'Horticulture* (National Institute of Horticulture) of Versailles, France.
- Mr Bennis has spent his career in the public sector in Rabat, specifically in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests. He has occupied progressively more important positions, including:
  - In charge of several offices and technical services responsible for the conception and implementation of horticultural and large-scale crop production activities.
  - Head of the Agrarian Reform Division responsible for land statutes and State-owned private lands, as well as studies for land development.
  - Head of the Division for Agricultural Research and Cooperation, responsible for the conception and implementation of the national plan for agricultural research and extension. Also responsible for national and regional development, rural development, development of agricultural cooperative movements, chamber of agricultural representatives, integration of women in agricultural policy, etc.
  - In 1994, by Royal decree, appointed Engineer General with the grade of Central Director. In this capacity he was responsible for considering important case files and participating in strategic decision making for the country. He also contributed to the establishment of small businesses in rural environments.
- Mr Bennis is very active in the NGO movement both in Morocco and at the Mediterranean level. In 1986, he became the first official from the Ministry of Agriculture to campaign in an environmental NGO:
  - President of the *Association Marocaine de la Protection de l'Environnement* (ASMAPE) (Moroccan Association for the Protection of the Environment) from 1990 to 2000.
  - Member of the Bureau of the *Association Nationale pour la Production, la Protection et l'Amélioration Végétale* (ANAPPAV) (National Association for Plant Production, Protection and Improvement) from 1998 to the present.
  - President of the environmental commission and of the *Aménagement du Territoire de l'Association Ribat Al Fath pour le Développement Durable* (ARFDD) (Ribat Al Fath Association for Sustainable Development) from 2003 to the present.
  - Founding member of the MED Forum in 1995, (Mediterranean network of environmental NGOs), immediately following approval of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Barcelona.
  - Founding member of the Arab network of environmental NGOs in Cairo, from 1987 to 2000.
  - Member of the national selection committee for the Hassan II environmental prize, since 2004.

- Organizer of an Environmental Club which brings together more than one hundred environmental experts.
  - Member of the *Association Marocaine des Experts en Gestion des Déchets et en Environnement (AMEDE)* (Moroccan Association of Environmental and Refuse Management Experts), since January 2005.
  - Founding member of the *Société Marocaine des Plantes Aromatiques et Médicinales (SOMAPAM)* (Moroccan Society of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants) created in 2006.
  - Member of the *Comité National de Qualification des Associations (CNAQA)* (National Committee for the Registration of Associations) and the *Réseau national de recherche en sciences sociales (RNRSS)* (National Network for Social Science Research) created by the *Ministère des Affaires Sociales de la Famille et de la Solidarité* (Ministry for Family Social and Solidarity Affairs).
  - President of a national network of NGOs (ASP Maroc) involved in the safe management of pesticides.
  - Advisory member of the Ibn Al Baytar association for the promotion of medicinal plants and the enhancement of the Argan forest, in line with sustainable development principles.
- In his capacity as an engineer, Mr Bennis participates in various studies as an expert in environmental and agricultural and rural development issues.
  - Thanks to 40 years' experience, Mr Bennis is well-qualified to expertly fulfil the role of President of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). His qualifications include a passion for nature, good grasp of general knowledge, team spirit, as well as a talent for analysis, synthesis, innovation and communication. He also has extensive knowledge of environmental, economic and social issues, as well as of regional, national and rural development issues. He also has a strong interest in gender issues. Finally, he is familiar with multilateral environmental agreements and the institutions responsible for their implementation.

#### **Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:**

Mr Bennis is:

- In his capacity as a member of ASMAPE and the Ribat Al Fath Association for Sustainable Development, an active member, since 1990, of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and participates in most of the international and regional meetings.
- A very active member of the Moroccan National Committee for IUCN.
- A supporter of the creation of the IUCN Centre in Malaga.
- Actively involved in strengthening cooperation with other IUCN members in the Middle East and Mediterranean Regions.
- A supporter, since the IUCN Montreal Congress, of the integration of economic and social considerations in biodiversity strategy.
- The IUCN representative to the national biodiversity commission of Morocco.
- The author of an IUCN study on aromatic and medicinal plants in Morocco.
- The author of a draft for an IUCN Programme of Action in North Africa.
- Co-producer of an IUCN project for the integration of rural women in biodiversity management in Morocco.
- A supporter in Morocco of several IUCN mission-related activities, including the *Prix National du Développement Durable* (Moroccan national sustainable development prize); and the organization of a national conference to integrate the Johannesburg findings and the Millennium Development Goals into Morocco's development policies.

**Institutional support:** Currently retired, Mr Bennis is prepared to assume the presidency of CEESP. His association is making available to him the facilities necessary for him to accomplish this mission (office, computer, e-mail address, website, fax and telephone). He will also be able to count on the support of several institutions.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** Mr Bennis is of the opinion that the CEESP priorities should depend, on the one hand, on its official mandate, as defined by IUCN's decision-making bodies. On the other hand, it needs to analyse its current modus operandi and take stock of the results of its work,

in order to build on its strengths and overcome its weaknesses. Any such evaluation needs to be participatory and involve all the members of CEESP.

Priorities also need to be set in relation to the economic and social considerations defined by the Millennium Development Goals and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. They also need to be in line with the topics currently under discussion (COP 9) by the Convention on Biological Diversity. These include:

- i. access to and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources (at the international level, etc.)
- ii. the protected areas “Life Web” initiative
- iii. agricultural biological diversity (pollinators, soils, biofuels, etc.)
- iv. the 12 objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- v. invasive alien species
- vi. forest biological diversity (genetically modified trees, role of forests in climate change, etc.)
- vii. measures to encourage and incite action
- viii. the ecosystem approach (simplification, economic valuation, etc.).

Mr Bennis believes that the overarching objective of CEESP should be the search for human well-being, in all regions of the world. This will require the adoption of a cross-cutting approach to reconcile humans with nature through the harmonious integration of three elements: the rational management of terrestrial and marine natural resources, the optimum use of economic and financial tools, and finally, the struggle against poverty. These are the three pillars of the concept of sustainable development.

Once the concept has been accepted, CEESP must concentrate its efforts on devising and promoting practical mechanisms to make this concept a reality in the daily lives of all the world’s citizens, through a framework aimed at encouraging solidarity between countries from the North and those from the South.

In order to achieve this, CEESP will need to work closely with IUCN members to develop action plans, gather information, build capacity, encourage community participation and incorporate gender questions in its work.

The CEESP Steering Committee needs to be fully aware that the successful realization of its mission requires four incontrovertible pre-conditions; these are:

- i. the development of a long- and short-term vision and action plan;
- ii. the strengthening of synergies with IUCN management, Secretariat and other Commissions;
- iii. the strengthening of cooperation and partnerships with other international organizations engaged in the management of natural resources (FAO, WHO, UNESCO, World Bank, WTO, etc.); and finally
- iv. the decentralization of its activities through the devolution of responsibility to its members under the guidance of the regional vice-presidents.

In order to carry out such an ambitious programme, CEESP will require considerable financial means. The Steering Committee will need to mobilize itself to raise funds both from IUCN as well as various donors.

## **Richard A. Cellarius, USA**

**Current position:** Retired College and University Professor; Affiliate Faculty, Prescott College; International Vice-President – Organizational Relations, Sierra Club

**Professional background:** Dr Cellarius has a great deal of experience in environmental sciences, education and policy, central concerns of IUCN. A major focus of his professional and volunteer efforts has been the application of environmental knowledge and understanding to environmental decision making. He has an undergraduate degree in Physics and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. Dr Cellarius has 42 years of college and university teaching experience at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, and Prescott College, Arizona, and research

experience in the natural sciences and environmental studies, including teaching and supervision of graduate students in ecology, ecological physiology, alternative energy sources, and environmental policy, history and philosophy. He has experience in the development, implementation and management of graduate education. He was Director of a Graduate Programme in Environmental Studies for four years and has been a member or chair of many academic and professional committees; he also served a term as President of the Northwest Scientific Association (USA). His professional memberships have included the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Association of Environmental Professionals, the Global Tomorrow Coalition, and the U.S. Association for the Club of Rome.

Dr Cellarius has been an active volunteer for over 40 years with the Sierra Club, one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organizations. He was a member-elected Director of the Sierra Club for 16 years, including two years as national President and 11 years on the Executive Committee. He also served as Vice President for Research, International Vice President, and Chair of the Publications and Bylaws Committees. He was a Trustee of The Sierra Club Foundation for 14 years, including two years as Treasurer.

#### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Delegate (head of delegation) 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Perth, 1990) and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congresses (Amman, 2000; Bangkok, 2004)
- Member, Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning (CESP), 1990–1996
- Member, Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP), 2000 – present, currently Vice President for North America and member of its Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods (TSL), Working Group on Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector (SEAPRISE), and Theme on Governance, Equity and Rights (TGER)
- Member, Working Group on Extractive Industries and Biodiversity (WGEIB) 2003–present
- IUCN Co-Chair, IUCN-ICMM Advisory Committee on Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity, 2004–2006
- Delegate, V<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003)

**Institutional support:** As an Affiliate Faculty, Dr Cellarius anticipates institutional support from Prescott College. Since he is retired from teaching and other major academic obligations, he is prepared to take on the position of Chair of CEESP.

**Future priorities of the Commission:** CEESP is strongly positioned to continue and build on the programme it has developed during the past eight years, providing insights and expertise and promoting policies and action to harmonize the conservation of nature with the crucial socio-economic and cultural concerns of human communities – such as livelihoods, human rights and responsibilities, human development, security, equity, and the fair and effective governance of natural resources. These are fundamental issues of concern for IUCN and therefore also for CEESP, as IUCN integrates its fundamental conservation agenda with the global concerns of climate change, restructuring energy supply systems, poverty, and globalization of trade, food supply and resource use.

To carry out its work, a fundamental priority for CEESP is to build stronger cooperative relationships, coordination of activities, and partnerships with the IUCN Secretariat, other Commissions, and other organizations, including IUCN's state and non-governmental members. It will also work to identify additional members with the expertise and skills necessary to carry out the full spectrum of its activities.

#### **Aroha Te Pareake Mead, New Zealand**

**Current positions:** Senior Lecturer, Maori Business, Victoria Management School, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW), and Co-Chair, Call of the Earth Llamado de la Tierra

**Professional background:** Aroha Te Pareake Mead is from the Ngati Awa, Ngati Porou, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Tuhoë and Tuhouangi (Maori) tribes. Her academic training is in International Relations. She has followed concurrent careers in paid and voluntary employment for over 25 years. As the

former Foreign Policy Convenor of the National Maori Congress (NMC), Aroha represented the NMC at the UNCED Prep Com. Meetings, the Rio Earth Summit and Rio +5. She has also represented her tribal community, Ngati Awa, in a diverse range of fora and international processes, including organizing international conferences within her tribal area and other local community areas as a commitment to bridging the local-global divide, by consistently bringing the “global to the local”. Aroha represents Ngati Awa on the Interim Governing Board of the United League of Indigenous Nations. Aroha is also a founding member and Co-Chair of Call of the Earth Llamado de la Tierra, a global indigenous network specializing on indigenous intellectual property policy.

She worked in policy for the New Zealand government, including managing the Natural Resources, and Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Issues Portfolios (1996–2004) of the Ministry of Maori Development for over 15 years. During this time, Aroha led government policy on the CBD Article 8(j) traditional knowledge and contributed to the ABS negotiations. She also had translated into the indigenous Maori language six UN Human Rights and Environment Treaties which have been published as free resources for communities and educational organizations.

In 1999, Aroha switched to an academic career at Victoria Management School where she lectures on the role of Maori values and traditional knowledge in the management of natural, cultural and human resources as well as in commercial enterprises. Aroha has also been a Senior Research Fellow at Sydney’s (Australia) Macquarie University, Centre of Environmental Law for three consecutive appointments (2003–2005, 2005–2008, 2008–2011). She is a well known national commentator on bio-cultural heritage and cultural integrity in an increasingly globalized world and has considerable networks throughout the world. She is the author of numerous papers and co-editor of the publication, *Pacific Genes & Life Patents: Pacific Indigenous Analysis and Experiences of the Commodification of Life*).

#### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Appointed Councillor for IUCN with special responsibilities for indigenous issues, served two terms 2000–2004 and 2004–2008
- Executive Committee member, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), since 2004
- Co-Chair, Theme on Culture and Conservation, CEESP since 2004
- Member, TILCEPA, CEESP, since 2002
- Member of World Commission on Protected Areas, ANZ-Australia New Zealand region as well as Oceania region
- Opening Plenary speaker at the World Parks Congress, Durban, Chaired Plenary session of the Governance Stream and sponsored three workshops at the World Parks Congress in Durban 2003
- Member, IUCN Advisory Committee on Biodiversity and Extractive Industries since 2003
- Member, IUCN/ICMM Advisory Committee on Indigenous Peoples and Extractive Industries since 2005
- Member, Resolutions Committee, World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, 2004
- Member, Preparatory Committee, World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 2008
- Co-Chair Congress Resolutions Committee, World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 2008
- Workshop participant in IUCN Global Biodiversity Forum meetings at a range of CBD and Pacific Nature Conservation meetings

**Institutional support:** VUW is providing institutional support by ‘freeing’ Aroha’s time through scheduling her teaching commitments in one trimester only. This will enable her to focus on CEESP full-time seven months and part-time for five months of the year. An office, PC, internet access, telephone, fax, photocopying will be provided as minimum support. As well, Aroha’s tribal governance structure, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa and the locally-based Maori university, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi in Whakatane, will be providing institutional support throughout Aroha’s term, but in particular during the organization of the Commission-wide Conference that Aroha intends to convene in Whakatane, if elected as CEESP Chair.

**Future priorities of the Commission:** As one of IUCN’s six Commissions, CEESP faces many challenges both internally (within CEESP and IUCN) as well as externally. CEESP’s mission is to provide “insights and expertise on ways to harmonize the conservation of nature with the crucial socio-

economic and cultural concerns of human communities – such as livelihoods, human development, equity, human rights, cultural diversity, security and the fair governance of natural resources.” Each of these components requires a comprehensive and strategic approach as well as a plan to widely disseminate research results and contribute to IUCN and international policy. This is fundamental to CEESP’s survival as a credible and constructive Commission.

The three pillars of sustainable development have not been equally attended to. The social pillar has been used as a catchall to acknowledge human interaction with the environment but in-depth analysis of the intersection and inter-dependency of the role of cultures and communities and impacts on livelihoods in conservation and development policy is largely missing from key relevant international fora and processes. The same can be said of a similar unawareness amongst many levels of civil society. The socio-economic-cultural implications of issues such as climate change, biofuels and GMOs, warrant careful consideration and CEESP members are uniquely placed to provide useful research and commentary for policy makers.

The role of the private sector in environmental policy is an area that needs to be more fully explored. IUCN needs to reach out to the non-converted, and in particular to business, but how IUCN reaches out – for what purpose and under what circumstances – needs to be more fully considered.

Working on key issues across the six Commissions is vital not only for CEESP but for all Commissions and IUCN as a whole. Aroha intends to convene a Conference in 2010/2011 in Aotearoa, New Zealand to which all Commissions will be invited to participate. The theme will be decided by an inter-Commission Organizing Committee.

Internally, there is much that can be done to strengthen the strands of CEESP themes and members and weave them into a much stronger rope. A review of membership will be crucial for CEESP in terms of ensuring an enthusiastic and evenly distributed workload across all CEESP themes.

There is much work to be done inside CEESP, and in terms of CEESP’s relationship with other Commissions and IUCN. I have a particular interest in raising the profile of the members and work of CEESP so that by the end of the 2009–2012 term, key perspectives of CEESP are acknowledged, respected and incorporated in a wide range of environment and development processes and organizations. I would also like to further develop CEESP’s analysis and advocacy of the role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development and climate change.

For further information on Aroha Te Pareake Mead refer to the following sites:

- (1) For a more detailed account of academic activity including publications:  
[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vms/staff\\_academic/MeadAroha/MeadAroha.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vms/staff_academic/MeadAroha/MeadAroha.aspx)
- (2) For a copy of Aroha’s CV and responses to the internal process for CEESP members to select a new CEESP Commission Chair, refer: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/newCEESPchair.html>
- (3) For information on Call of the Earth Llamado de la Tierra refer to: [www.earthcall.org](http://www.earthcall.org)
- (4) For information on Te Runanga o Ngati Awa refer to: [www.ngatiawa.iwi.nz](http://www.ngatiawa.iwi.nz)

## **COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CEL)**

### **Sheila Abed, Paraguay**

**Current position:** Chair of the Commission on Environmental Law of IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Executive Director of IDEA (Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental), NGO, Asuncion, Paraguay.

### **Professional background:**

- Lawyer, Universidad Nacional de Asunción, 1986. Postgraduate course in Environmental Resources’ Law in the Lewis and Clark University, Portland, Oregon, 1999 and in the Asuncion Catholic University.

- Founder and Executive Director of the Paraguayan Environmental Law and Economics Institute (IDEA, Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental), since 1996.
- Past General Coordinator of the Regional Alliance for Conservation Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCA – Alianza Regional para Políticas de Conservación en América Latina y el Caribe).
- Member of the South American coalition of NGOs and individual members known as the “Grupo Zapallar” on Trade and Environment.

On several occasions Ms Abed has represented the Paraguayan Government before the UNFCCC, and has represented civil society in the Biodiversity and Ramsar Conventions.

Ms Abed is in charge of the “Environmental Law and Policy” class of the Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering, in the Asuncion Catholic University. She also trains diplomatic personnel in the negotiation of Multilateral Agreements, as well as Judges and Prosecutors in Environmental Law Compliance and Enforcement.

She has been appointed by UNDP with the approval of the national government, to explore and negotiate the possibilities of Paraguay qualifying under the nature/debt swap programmes, with very important results.

Sheila Abed has also carried out consultancies and delivered training for the OAS, IADB and the World Bank.

She has participated in the drafting of several legislative bills: Modification of the Paraguayan Civil Code (to consider underground water as a state-owned resource), “Water Law”, “Protected Areas Law”, Biofuels Law”, “Forests Law”, “Creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources”, “Security in Biotechnology”.

Under her direction, IDEA has implemented avant-garde programmes, such as Sustainability Impact Assessments, Legal Tools for Private Lands’ Conservation, Economic Valuation of Natural Resources.

Sheila has been a pioneer in the Social Responsibility of Business topic, and she has been particularly active in the promotion of the responsible production of soybeans.

Ms Abed is co-author of eight publications. She masters the following languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese and the indigenous tongue, Guarani.

**Experience and past involvement with IUCN:** Ms Abed has been a member of the Commission on Environmental Law since the year 2000, and was elected Chair of the Commission during the Bangkok World Conservation Congress.

**Institutional support:** The organization under Ms Abed’s direction is very well positioned at a national, regional and international scale. IDEA’s greatest institutional strength is being recognized as a valid speaker in topics so varied as private lands’ conservation, trade and environment, and climate change, joining together with the most prestigious civil society organizations, several alliances, with a high level of incidence in policies. Recently IDEA opened a branch office in Montevideo, Uruguay; and special partnerships have been established with Argentinean and Mexican organizations.

Ms Abed herself is a renowned young professional with a successful 13-year trajectory in Environmental Law. Under her guidance, IDEA has received the support of prestigious private, public and multilateral agencies and organizations (AVINA, TNC, WWF, USAID, World Bank, OAS, CIDA, Siemenuu Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, etc.) for the implementation of its programmes: Environmental Law, Environmental Economics, Trade and Environment, Democracy and Participation.

**Future priorities for the Commission:**

- To encourage work within the regions by strengthening regional programmes on environmental law creating knowledge networks. To involve different parts of the Union in this effort in order to make it more efficient. To work on the development of local programmes in order to stimulate a

more adequate level of decision making related to environmental law and policy, and opening CEL's doors to sub-national governments.

- To investigate and recognize the new needs regarding the development of principles and indicators for issues such as climate change, alternative sources of energy, etc.
- To promote links among IUCN programmes and develop new engagement programmes with members in order to serve our membership better.

## **SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION (SSC)**

### **Holly T. Dublin, USA**

**Current position:** For the past four years, Dr Holly Dublin has served as the full-time Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. She has been provided an institutional home through the Wildlife Conservation Society and her office has been hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

**Professional background:** In 2002, Holly completed 22 years with WWF, devoting most of this to biodiversity, protected areas and policy work. She went on to spend two years working under the umbrella of the IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office. During that period she conducted independent evaluations and programmatic planning exercises for the Global Environment Facility, the International Finance Corporation, UNEP, WWF International and numerous other NGOs. She remains actively involved in the conservation and development evaluation community and moves with ease between the day-to-day realities of conservation practitioners and the world of international policy, its financiers and its decision makers. She has been an active player in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and is also experienced in the deliberations of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species. Her energies for and commitment to conservation at all levels are well known; her successes repeatedly demonstrated.

Holly holds an MSc. from the University of Washington and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. She is a recognized and awarded conservation biologist, having received many awards, distinctions and research grants throughout her career. She is a skilled writer and orator.

She grew up in East Africa and lived in Kenya until 2005, when she took over the SSC Chair position and was invited by the Government of South Africa to base in the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

**Experience and past involvement with IUCN:** Holly has many longstanding associations with IUCN, its members, Secretariat and Commissions.

On IUCN Council, Holly has been an energetic member of the Programme and Policy Committee, the Governance Task Force, the One Programme Working Group and the Bureau. On the regional and national level, she has worked with IUCN's offices in Asia, Africa, South America, Oceania, West Asia and Europe and is a familiar colleague to many of the staff of IUCN's global thematic programmes, Commission members and both governmental and NGO members of the Union. She has had direct interactions with the national committees including: South Africa, Canada, United Kingdom, Dutch, French and New Zealand as well as several regional committees. Over the past four years, Holly endeavoured to visit almost all the regions for work on substantive matters of the Union.

Holly's association with the IUCN Species Survival Commission began over thirty years ago when, as a teenager, she became a member of her first specialist group. Since that time she has gone on to be an active contributor to numerous SSC Specialist Groups. Since 1992 she has been the Chair of the African Elephant Specialist Group. In 1994 Holly joined the Executive Committee of SSC and was a dynamic participant in many of SSC's initiatives, leading the 2001 SSC Voluntarism study, and contributing to the development and implementation of SSC's Strategic Plan and its integration with the Intersessional Programme of the Union. Holly was responsible for organizing the first-ever meeting (in the Commission's 59-year history) of the SSC's Specialist Group Chairs in February 2008.

She is also an active member of the World Commission on Protected Areas, the Commission on Ecosystem Management and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy through the Theme Group on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas.

**Institutional support for the position:** Holly's nomination comes strongly endorsed by the Steering Committee of SSC, a number of governments, NGOs and many members of the Commission. Holly has conferred with those who provided support for her first term and they have expressed their willingness to continue for a second term. If elected she will remain on the staff of the Wildlife Conservation Society and continue to receive additional financial support from the MAVA Foundation, the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria and a number of its individual members, including the Chicago Zoological Society. The South African Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has confirmed their invitation to continue hosting her.

**Future priorities for the Commission – the vision for 2009–2012 and beyond:** Holly remains deeply committed to the direction given by the IUCN membership as far back as 1994 and recently reconfirmed in the 2007 Membership Survey that we should build on the unique value proposition of IUCN and dedicate our efforts to the implementation of the 'One Programme' approach. With special emphasis on our species, protected areas and policy work, synergies must be fostered among the three pillars of the Union. To this end, she has worked hard to engage with the IUCN Council, the Secretariat in Gland and the regions, and many IUCN members to demonstrate SSC's resolve to assist in more powerful delivery of IUCN's mission and objectives. From the SSC side, building on nearly six decades of success and the findings of several studies and external reviews, she has undertaken a dedicated initiative to better align SSC with the needs and direction of IUCN's work for enhanced impact at all levels, while retaining the unique strengths and characteristics of its expert volunteer membership.

The revitalization of SSC at all levels will ensure its position as a global leader on species conservation and its future as the custodian of the IUCN Red List – a global gold standard. SSC will strengthen its longstanding position as an objective convener, facilitator and technical advisory body, supplying the global community with information on the conservation status of species, the threats they face and the values they bring to our world.

It is the belief of the SSC Steering Committee that another four years of leadership and guidance under Dr Dublin will allow the successful implementation of the many innovative and strategic actions now underway. In the 2009–2012 quadrennium, Dr Dublin hopes to devote more time on higher-level strategic work for IUCN in addition to broader fund raising in support of the contributions of SSC – from identifying the world's most threatened species, to monitoring global trends, analysing key threats, and taking action to further the conservation of species and mitigate the global extinction crisis.

Through a revitalized SSC, priorities over the next four years will focus on:

- Building stronger, more effective partnerships between SSC, the members, other Commissions and the Secretariat (at regional and global levels), to further our commitment to and delivery of IUCN's 'One Programme' approach
- Facilitating the integration and harmonization of the work of the SSC network with the objectives and key results of the SSC Strategic Plan and 2009–2012 Intersessional Programme
- Strengthening our ability to contribute to positive conservation outcomes by improving technical, policy, fund-raising and communications support to Commission members
- Delivering a cutting-edge Global Species Assessment to the world in 2010
- Ensuring the continued delivery of the IUCN Red List Index as a measure for the new biodiversity target under Millennium Development Goal 7 (environmental sustainability)
- Enhancing communications both within the Commission and between SSC and the outside world to further understanding of the relevance of species to human wellbeing

### **Simon N. Stuart, United Kingdom**

**Current position:** Senior Species Scientist, IUCN (submitted resignation from IUCN Secretariat on 16 April 2008)

**Professional background:** Simon has been actively involved in species conservation throughout his working life. Before joining the IUCN Secretariat in 1986, Simon took undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the University of Cambridge (specializing in conservation biology), worked on the African bird Red Data book, and carried out field research and conservation in Tanzania and Cameroon. Simon was a member of the TRAFFIC Committee from 1992 to 2000, and has been a trustee of A Rocha International – Christians in Conservation since 2001. He publishes widely, including 48 papers in peer-reviewed journals (three currently under review), and six books.

**Experience and past involvement with IUCN:** Simon has held the following IUCN staff positions:

*Species Programme Officer (1986–1990).* Simon was the SSC network coordinator for 80+ Specialist Groups, assisting them with work plan targets and conservation action plans. He also undertook a biodiversity assessment of sub-Saharan Africa, and developed a conservation initiative in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

*Head, IUCN Species Programme (1991–2000).* Simon directed the Species Programme, with a focus on implementing the SSC Strategic Plan. Particular achievements included: a) development and implementation of the new Red List Categories and Criteria; development of the new CITES listing criteria; and designing and leading the first African Elephant Range States Dialogue. Simon served as IUCN's focal point for CITES, CMS and the International Whaling Commission.

*Acting Director General (2000–2001).* Simon filled this position on an acting basis at a time of financial uncertainty for IUCN. In this capacity, he participated as an advisor in the process to appoint a new Director General.

*Head, Biodiversity Assessment Unit (2001–2006).* Simon established the BAU within the Species Programme, as a partnership between IUCN and Conservation International. The Global Amphibian Assessment was completed in 2004, and the following projects were started: Global Mammal Assessment (2003); Global Reptile Assessment (2004); and Global Marine Species Assessment (2005), all carried out in full association with SSC.

*Senior Species Scientist (2006–2008).* Simon has continued to coordinate IUCN's large assessment projects (major results on mammals and marine species coming in 2008), but also serves as overall IUCN scientific advisor on species.

Simon is also *Chair of the SSC Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee* (since 2005), overseeing the scientific quality for SSC's assessment work, maintaining the *IUCN Red List* data standards, and ensuring that petitions against the listings on the *IUCN Red List* are evaluated professionally and impartially.

Simon's intimate knowledge of SSC, the IUCN Secretariat, and many IUCN members places him in a unique position to build the new partnerships that are needed to advance IUCN's agenda on species, in the context of IUCN's 'One Programme' approach. He has received support to run as SSC Chair from many IUCN and SSC members, including SSC Steering Committee members and SSC Specialist Group Chairs.

**Institutional support:** Simon expects to receive support from a number of sources, if elected as SSC Chair. He expects to be employed by a conservation NGO in the UK (under negotiation).

**Future priorities for the Commission:** Simon writes:

Since 2000, the Species Survival Commission and the Species Programme have transformed biodiversity assessments through the *IUCN Red List*. The number of species included on the list has risen from around 18,000 to well over 50,000 in 2008. More importantly, the amount of data on each species has increased massively, with distribution maps now available for over 15,000 species. I have personally reviewed over 12,000 species accounts, and this leaves me with two overriding impressions. First, we are not succeeding in the global challenge to ensure the survival of species. There are, of course, some impressive successes, but these are the exceptions. Extinction rates are rising, most species are decreasing, and the potential for species to provide sustainable benefits to human communities is being eroded – this is what I call the *Species Crisis*.

Second, as a result of SSC's species assessments, we have a much more accurate understanding of how to address the *Species Crisis* effectively. Our data provides specific guidance in terms of precise places to conserve, threats to combat, species to prioritize, and policies to pursue. Unlike the situation eight years ago, we now know what needs to be done to halt the downward slide in species.

In summary, things are getting worse. We know what to do – but we are not yet doing it.

To make real headway, SSC must work with a much broader set of partners than ever before to communicate the conservation needs, design effective programmes, build the political will, and increase the financial and human resources needed for conservation. It must also bring to bear the real power of its volunteer network. My plan is for SSC to pursue these objectives at regional and national levels, in partnership with IUCN offices, Commissions and members. I envisage a series of regional and national consultations taking place, building up to a global gathering at the proposed IUCN Species Congress at which we shall present a worldwide agenda to address the *Species Crisis*. This agenda will be built through a bottom-up process from the regions and countries, and will be underpinned by SSC's data and knowledge.

In addition to this over-arching priority, which will provide a framework for much of what SSC will do over the coming four years, I will also address the following concerns if I am elected:

- SSC's species assessment work needs to be put onto a sustainable footing. I plan to expand the number of institutions in the Red List Partnership that support our work, and will explore new options for more stable funding.
- By 2012, I want to see SSC's dataset much more broadly representative of the world's biomes and species, so I shall prioritize the completion of major assessments of marine, freshwater and dryland species, and plants.
- SSC will report on whether or not the 2010 Biodiversity Target has been achieved, through the second edition of the Global Species Assessment. We shall also expand the delivery of the IUCN Red List Index as an indicator for the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 (on environmental sustainability).
- We shall explore the factors that lead to conservation success on the ground or in the water, as a basis for developing practical guidance, linking to the ongoing work of the SSC Species Conservation Planning Task Force.
- We shall also continue to explore the importance of species for human livelihoods, and factors that determine whether or not use is sustainable.
- We shall focus on newly emerging threats for which we have no immediate remedies, such as climate change, emerging infectious diseases, and ocean acidification, and produce advice on mitigation.
- Finally, I shall implement a new structure of SSC, as developed through an open, consultative process involving key stakeholders in the Commission, and in the IUCN membership and Secretariat, to maximize our contribution to IUCN's 'One Programme' approach.

In summary, as SSC Chair, I intend to adopt an approach based firmly on partnership and participation, but to keep a clear focus on achieving SSC's goal: *The extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity will be universally adopted as a shared responsibility and addressed by concerted actions throughout the world.*

On a personal note, I realize that some have questioned the appropriateness of a former staff member running for the office of Chair of a Commission. I have thought long and hard about this, and counsel was obtained from several legal advisers who are familiar with IUCN and who have stated that there is no legal basis for objecting to my candidacy. I have handed in my resignation to the Director General and wish to assure members that my having worked for IUCN will in no way give me an advantage in the election process. It would, however, help me to be an effective Chair, as I have an intimate knowledge of all parts of the complex IUCN network.

## **WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)**

### **Nikita Lopoukhine, Canada**

**Current position:** Retired July 2005 from position of Director General, National Parks Directorate, Parks Canada Agency

**Professional background:** Nikita Lopoukhine has a Forestry Degree and a Masters in Plant Ecology. He was employed for over 37 years with the Canadian Federal Government mostly in the capacity of adviser in ecology with Parks Canada. Prior to that position he undertook biophysical inventories of parks, coastal areas and landscapes. More recently he has managed the Ecological Integrity Branch and the National Parks Directorate of Parks Canada. These latter positions provided an opportunity to lead on policy, legislation and planning for all of Canada's national terrestrial and marine protected areas. He is fluent in English, French and Russian. The past four years, Nikita has chaired the IUCN WCPA.

#### **Experience and past involvement with IUCN:**

- Chair of WCPA for past four years and member of WCPA over 15 years
- Served on a number of IUCN Council Committees in the past intercessional period
- Ex-officio member of Canadian Committee of IUCN Executive
- Past Regional Vice-Chair for North America – IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Provided for Canadian leadership of the Governance Stream at the World Parks Congress in Durban
- Member of Recommendations Committee at Durban
- Co-delivered Management Effectiveness-Ecological Integrity workshop at Durban
- Delivered the Ecological Integrity course at Durban
- Assessed the state of conservation of a World Heritage protected area in China and Australia
- Organized and delivered an Ecological Restoration Workshop at the Montreal World Conservation Congress
- Expert member of potential World Heritage global Boreal sites assessment workshop
- Assessed, for the World Bank, the state of Russia's protected areas and recommended areas for investment
- Past Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (member of IUCN)
- Led Canadian delegation on protected areas at COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur and SBSTTA in Montreal

**Institutional support:** Parks Canada has agreed to provide an office, computer, email address, fax and telephone. Nikita Lopoukhine has no financial support other than his government pension.

**Future priorities for the Commission:** WCPA is faced with identifying priorities within an international framework which it had a large hand in forging. From the WSSD targets, the Durban Recommendations and Action Plan, the recently held Durban+ 5 meeting, and Programme of Work for Protected Areas and the IUCN Programme, WCPA has a plate laden with work.

The overriding priority must focus on reinforcing the value of protected areas (PAs) as critical contributors to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainability. Achievement will be realized through further pursuing effective management, poverty alleviation through the maximization of ecosystem services, involving indigenous and local communities, and assuring linkages to broader agendas, in particular climate change adaptation strategies. Financing becomes an underpinning reality that must be addressed. A potential source of financing to be explored is the burgeoning carbon market.

The number of PAs has proliferated in the last decade. Yet, gaps of representation among important ecosystems, particularly in the marine, must be overcome.

The approach that will be pursued in meeting these priorities will be built on cooperation and partnerships. Good examples already exist with UNESCO-WHC, UNEP-WCMC. The joint work of TILCEPA with CEESP is a good example of cooperation among Commissions. Cooperation will be pursued with SSC on measuring biodiversity conservation outcomes, conservation planning. With CEL

a task force on legislative frameworks will be continued. With CEM, cooperative initiatives will be undertaken to implement the Ecosystem Approach within and beyond PA borders and in the emerging issue of ecological restoration. CEC has been working with WCPA and will continue to develop awareness of the values of protected areas. Each IUCN Component Programme and Regional Office will be asked to provide direct input on setting priorities. WCPA membership and regional structure will be reviewed to assure that the full complement of skills is in place to meet these priorities.