

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

## Reports from the Chairs of Commissions

**Action Requested:** The World Conservation Congress is requested to RECEIVE and CONSIDER the reports of the Chairs of the Commissions.

### Background

The intersessional reports from the Chairs of IUCN's Commissions for the period 2005–2008 are attached as follows:

- Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Commission on Education and Communication
- Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
- Commission on Environmental Law
- Species Survival Commission
- World Commission on Protected Areas

## **Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) Report 2005–2008 by the Chair, Hillary Masundire**

This report summarises some of the key activities, achievements and challenges of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) in the intersessional period 2005–2008.

### **The CEM Mandate**

The World Conservation Congress in Bangkok approved the CEM Mandate with the **Mission**:  
*To provide expert guidance on integrated approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.*

The **Vision** of CEM is a world in which *Healthy ecosystems support life and sustain development.*

The **Goal** is to facilitate the process of having *integrated ecosystem management mainstreamed worldwide.*

In order to achieve the above, the CEM **Objective** was *to promote the adoption of, and provide guidance for, the application of the Ecosystem Approach in the management of landscapes and seascesapes.*

The work of CEM was organized thematically and regionally.

There were five **Themes**, each headed by a Theme Leader:

- Promoting the understanding and application of the Ecosystem Approach
- Restoring ecosystems and landscapes
- Improving knowledge on ecosystem services and their valuation
- Developing and disseminating indicators of ecosystem status
- Developing and disseminating tools of ecosystem management

The work was organized regionally, and each region was headed by a Regional Vice-Chair. Regions are:

- Southern Africa
- Eastern Africa
- West Africa
- North Africa and West Asia
- South-east Asia
- South Asia
- Japan
- China
- Eastern Europe
- Western Europe
- North America
- Meso America
- South America

The Theme Leaders and Regional Vice-Chairs constituted the **Steering Committee** together with the Commission's Deputy Chair.

### **Progress**

Below is a selection of some of the achievements of CEM since 2005.

The Commission held three Steering Committee meetings each accompanied by a technical workshop:

- 2005 Colombo, Sri Lanka – Workshop on “*Response to Disasters: applying the ecosystem approach in recovery from disasters*”. This was in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004. The workshop was co-hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka and the IUCN office in Colombo.
- 2006 Amman, Jordan – Workshop on “*Drylands, a hidden wealth*”. The workshop focussed on management and restoration of dryland ecosystems and prepared input into the International Year of Deserts celebrations in Algiers, Algeria, December 2006. The workshop was co-hosted by the Government of Jordan and the IUCN Regional Office for WESCANA.
- 2007 Villa de Leyva, Colombia – Workshop on “*Application of the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America*”. The workshop was co-hosted by the Government of Colombia through the Alexander von Humbolt Institute and the IUCN Regional Office for South America (SUR).

Each of the workshops highlighted the efficacy of applying the Ecosystem Approach in various circumstances. The need for more guidance on how to apply the Ecosystem Approach was emphasized by participants in each of these workshops. Over the last seven years, CEM has held similar workshops in Malaysia, Thailand and Botswana.

Also vitally important to the future better functioning of the Commission was the action taken by the Secretariat to develop a new database for CEM (which makes it easier to identify members' qualifications and experience more effectively) and to have the entire membership re-register on the system with new information.

**1. The Ecosystem Approach** is the main focus of the Commission's activities. Under this theme CEM strengthened its relations with:

- The **CBD** which will review the application of the Ecosystem Approach at COP 9 in Bonn, Germany in May. Preparing for this COP, the SBSTTA 12 (Paris, July 2007) requested the Executive Secretary to:
 

*Invite, subject to available resources, the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN CEM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, to provide their perspectives on approaches to build capacity to understand, interpret and apply the ecosystem approach, and provide information on opportunities for funding, human and other resources for enhancing application of the ecosystem approach. (Paris, France, July 2007).*
- In Paris at CBD SBSTTA 12 (July 2007) the Ecosystem Approach thematic leader conducted a pre-meeting training session for delegates on the Ecosystem Approach, in English and French, and also ran a well-attended side meeting on “*The Ecosystem Approach – practical application experience*”.
- Training on the Ecosystem Approach was invited from CEM at the “Information sharing and Best Practice workshop” for the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Tanzania National Parks, in Serengeti National Park (May 2006). Such training was also invited to help the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ecosystem Goal Team devise a *Primer in Ecosystem Approaches to management for coastal and marine resources* (December 2005).
- **UNCCD**, CEM participated at the COP in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006:
  - Promotion and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach as a global policy for drylands management on a landscape scale. Provision of planning and management guidance addressing specific dryland conservation and development needs.
  - Advancement of knowledge and understanding of the role and values of dryland ecosystem services.
  - Support for multilateral processes towards sustainable livelihoods and conservation of ecosystem functions in drylands.
  - In December, 2006, CEM also participated in the celebrations/commemorations of the International Year of Deserts (IYD) in Algiers, Algeria.

- **South America** – Several workshops were organized, some in collaboration with SUR and other Commissions to consider issues such as:
  - Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach in corridors and protected areas
  - Application of the Ecosystem Approach in the National Programme of Protected Areas
  - Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach in Wetlands management
- **South and South-East Asia** – Activities have centred on applying the Ecosystem Approach in two contexts:
  - The integrated management of wetlands in the Mekong delta and more widely in Vietnam. Field level Ecosystem Approach workshops were held in the delta in 2006, and a follow-up high-level workshop aimed at policy change took place in Hanoi in January 2008. Presentations about CEM's work in this area were also made at the most recent "Asia-Europe Environment Forum" meeting (Jakarta 2005).
  - IUCN CEM was invited to help plan and implement a training of trainers' session for islanders from the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans (in Bangkok, December 2006) to help prepare the CBD paper on "The Ecosystem Approach and Small Islands" for SBSTTA 12 in 2007.
- **Southern Africa**
  - One of the main CEM activities in southern Africa was the development of the Okavango Delta Management Plan – a very good example of a Government-Commission partnership. The plan was launched on 2 February 2008, as part of the World Wetlands Day commemorations.
  - CEM has been actively supporting regional initiatives in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- **Eastern Europe** – The second international workshop on European Green Belt in Estonia, "The first Fennoscandian and Baltic States Green Belt" meeting, took place in Lahemaa National Park in Estonia in close cooperation with the University of Life Sciences, Tartu. The vision of the European Green Belt initiative is to create the backbone of an ecological network, running from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea – a global symbol for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development.
- **Western Europe**
  - Policy developments in Europe and the Arctic with regard to the Ecosystem Approach to the management of marine areas. The European Union is preparing a new directive (Marine Strategy Framework Directive – MSFD) that constitutes a legal and practical implementation of the Ecosystem Approach for the marine areas.
  - A conference on Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries was held in Bergen in September 2006. This was organized by Norway and Iceland with technical support from FAO.
- **North America** – Various representational roles, for example:
  - At the WCPA conference aimed at revising guidelines for applying protected area management categories leading to the new "Draft Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories".

## 2. Indicators of Ecosystem Status

*Measuring the State of Nature: Concepts and Indicators*, Prague, 19–20 October 2006. The workshop brought together a group of experts on indicators who discussed the challenge of developing ecosystem-level indicators of the status of the world's ecosystems. This follows up well after the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reports. There is potential for collaboration in this initiative with other organizations such as UNEP-WCMC, the Society for Conservation Biology, The Nature Conservancy, other IUCN Commissions, etc.

### 3. Ecosystem Restoration

- *Forest Landscape Restoration* – Developing ways of restoring ecosystems at a landscape scale (because it is at this scale that key ecological processes and biodiversity conservation operate), linked with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration – a loose network of like-minded organizations with an interest in forest landscape restoration (IUCN, CBD, World Bank, UK Forestry Commission, FAO, US Forest Service, ITTO, Ghana Forest Research Institute and others).
- *Landscape restoration tool* – A computer-based decision-support tool for planning restoration at landscape scale, to facilitate discussions between stakeholders which will lead to decisions based on a fuller understanding of options and consequences of different choices. The tool has been field tested with CEM members in northern Thailand (2006) and training sessions have been run at the Geography Department, University of Chiang Mai on how to use it (2007).
- A special Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration, organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and co-sponsored by CEM, was held in Korea in May 2007. Over 400 participants attended and two books are being planned. These are likely to be published by Springer.
- CEM is part of the “Business and Biodiversity Consortium” and is helping to develop a new restoration and conservation initiative with HOLCIM, a large multinational quarrying and cement company.

### 4. Ecosystem Services

During the reporting period, this theme focussed on three objectives:

- To stimulate and facilitate the incorporation of ecosystem services and values into ongoing case studies on ecosystem management and stimulate the development of new case studies.
  - In 2005/2006 a Pilot Survey of Case Studies on the role of Ecosystem Management in providing Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Livelihoods was carried out.
  - There are several projects under way in this activity, including a project on Ecosystem Restoration in Baviaanskloof, South Africa, called PRESENCE (Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital in the Eastern Cape), in which many local partners participate. There are good opportunities to establish a long-term engagement in the area through a Research Village providing facilities for students and other researchers applying the Ecosystem Approach and the concept of Ecosystem Services to ecosystem restoration.
- To develop guidelines and handbooks for ecosystem service assessment, valuation and financing in collaboration with other IUCN programmes and regional offices.
  - A curriculum was developed for training in better understanding ecosystem services and values, initially focussed on wetlands but this can be expanded to other ecosystems in the future.
  - Courses were given for the Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project, organized by Wetlands International in Kenya (November 2006) and Senegal (May 2007), and the Korean Wetland Economic Evaluation Training Course, organized by the UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project (October 2007).
  - Guidelines for Wetland Valuation were written for RAMSAR/CBD (2006) and for Payments for Ecosystem Services (together with the IUCN-WANI programme).
- To facilitate access to available data in close collaboration with existing databases and clearing house websites such as [www.naturevaluation.org](http://www.naturevaluation.org).
  - A database with over 200 case studies was developed which will serve as a basis for selection of, and communication about, a series of showcases to concentrate CEM’s work and strengthen links with local members, in the field of ecosystem services, valuation,

- financing (PES) and links with livelihoods and poverty alleviation (i.e. the Ecosystem Approach).
- Contact was established with Conservation International (CI) to develop a link between the CEM case study database and the CI Internet mapping interface on Ecosystem Services. The progress with this activity will be presented at the next World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.

## 5. Tools for Ecosystem Management

- Developed an operational remote sensing tool that can be used to assess the efficacy of the Ramsar Convention and other environmental agreements.
- Demonstrated a link between rapid urban growth and rainfall patterns. The aim of this tool is to identify the impact of large-scale land conversion on regional and local climatology.
- Developed a learning module for the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) that provides an overview of ecological data that can be derived from remote sensing and a survey of ecological models that apply remote sensing data.

## Publications, Presentations and Papers

- Andrade Pérez, Angela. (ed.) 2007. *Aplicación del Enfoque Ecosistémico en Latinoamérica*. CEM-IUCN. Bogotá, Colombia. CEM/PNUMA/INSTITUTO HUMBOLDT/TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL (case studies presented during a workshop held in Villa de Leyva, Colombia and to be translated into English in 2008).
- Bi-monthly electronic newsletter "Ecosystems" which is translated by CEM volunteers into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, and is used by IUCN Regional and Country Offices to reach out to IUCN members.
- Biodiversity & Livelihoods – Where the Ecosystem Approach can take us. A report by the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. September 2006.
- De Groot, Rudolf, Mishka Stuij, Max Finlayson and Nick Davidson. 2006. *Valuing Wetlands: guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services* (66 pp). Ramsar Technical Report No. 3, CBD Technical Series No. 27.
- Hasan, Nordin (2008 forthcoming). *Promoting the Ecosystem Approach: Case Studies from CEM Members*, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge.
- Kaufmann, R. K., Seto, K. C., Schneider, A., Zhou, L., and Liu, Z. "Climate Response to Rapid Urban Growth: Evidence of a Human-Induced Precipitation Deficit," *Journal of Climate* 20(10): 2299-2306.
- Lamb, D., Erskine, P. and J. Parrotta. 2005. Restoration of degraded tropical forest landscapes. *Science* 310: 1628-1632.
- Masundire, H. M (2007) *Applying the Ecosystem Approach to IWRM: a case for the Zambezi River Basin*. Paper presented at the "Stakeholder Dialogue, participation and networking initiative of the IWRM Strategy for the Zambezi River Basin. Vic Falls, Zimbabwe, 27–29 November 2007.
- Masundire H M (2007) *Applying the Ecosystem Approach in Major Water Infrastructure Developments*. Keynote paper presented at the SADC/EAC/NEPAD/AMCOW/UNEP Regional Seminar on Major Water Infrastructure Developments in Africa: balancing economic, environmental and social aspects for sustainable outcomes. 25–27 July 2007, Swaziland.
- Masundire, H M (2006). Opportunities for Synergies in Planning and Implementing Projects for Biological Diversity and Combating Desertification in Africa. Paper presented at UNU/CCD Conference on Drylands to mark the International Year for Deserts, Algiers, Algeria, December 2006.
- Masundire H M (2006). *Which place for Biodiversity in EU Development Cooperation?* Keynote paper to the conference on Biodiversity in European Commission Development Cooperation, Paris, France, September 2006.
- Mulder, I. & M. Zylstra. 2006. Pilot Survey of Case Studies on the role of Ecosystem Management in providing Ecosystem Services (Nov. 2005–Feb. 2006).

- Mulder, I. Global Survey of case studies on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) funded by Forest Trends (March–September 2005)
- Recovery from the Indian Ocean Tsunami – Guidance for Ecosystem Rehabilitation incorporating livelihoods concerns. Information paper. February, 2005. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
- Remm, K.; Kùlvik, M.; Mander, Ü.; Sepp, K. (2004). Design of the Pan-European Ecological Network: A national level attempt. Jongman, R.H.G.; Pungetti, G. (eds.). Ecological Networks and Greenways. Concept, Design, Implementation (151-170). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Seto, K. C. and Fragkias, M. 2007. "Mangrove conversion and aquaculture development in Vietnam: A remote sensing-based approach for evaluating the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands," *Global Environmental Change* 17: 486-500.
- Shepherd, Gill (2006). El Enfoque Ecosistémico: Cinco Pasos para su Implementación. UICN, Gland, Suiza y Cambridge, Reino Unido. x + 30 pp.
- Shepherd, Gill (2008 forthcoming). 'Using the Ecosystem Approach as an analytical tool: case studies from Central America, Africa and S.E. Asia'. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. viii + 150 pp.
- Smith, M., de Groot, D. and Bergkamp, G. (eds). 2006. PAY: Establishing payments for watershed services. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, ISBN 13: 978-2-8317-0958-1 (82 pp.)
- Sudmeier-Rieux, K, H Masundire, A Rizvi and S Rietbergen (eds) (2006). *Ecosystem, Livelihoods and Disasters: an integrated approach to disaster risk management*. IUCN/CARE/IMWI.
- Verschuuren, B. Development of a Clearing House on Valuation and Financing of Water Ecosystem Services (July 2005–March 2006), funded by IUCN-WANI.

# **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) Report 2005–2008 by the Chair, Keith Wheeler**

## **Introduction**

The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) has worked for the past four years, since the Bangkok Congress, to fulfil the mission it adopted for this quadrennial period, namely:

To champion the strategic use of communication and education, and provide leadership in creating an institutional locus for learning that will help *to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.*

In undertaking this mission, the Commission has strengthened its role as an international body of experts and practitioners in the areas of sustainability communication, education and learning. CEC members act as advocates in these areas to support and strengthen IUCN's global mandate.

CEC created a work programme to achieve the above mission, focused around three programmatic areas:

1. World Conservation Learning Network (WCLN)
2. Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)
3. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

This report provides an update on progress in each of these areas.

During the four-year period of 2005–2008, CEC membership and governance structure has been dynamic. There was a change in the Chair position in early 2005 when Denise Hamu, who held the position for five years, stepped down and was replaced by CEC Deputy Chair Keith Wheeler. In subsequent years, the structure of the Commission evolved, while maintaining a strong thematic focus on the three areas noted above. The official Steering Committee of the CEC includes 15 appointed Steering Committee members that ensure both thematic and regional representation in CEC programmatic and governance discussions. As the four-year period progressed, CEC strategically introduced Regional Chairs.

CEC membership increased during these four years, growing to more than 600 members with all regions represented, and the strongest membership in terms of numbers in Europe and North America. CEC has worked to achieve regional balance, and several regional events (described further below) have supported additional membership recruitment in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania. The membership gender balance is 54 per cent male and 46 per cent female.

From its core funds, IUCN provided an annual budget of Swiss francs 203,000 for the Commission Operating Fund, as well as budget allocations for Headquarters staff. In the period 2005–2008, the staff supported increased from 1.9 staff in the last intersessional period to four staff members contributing to the support for CEC global functions by the end of 2008. Also during this period, the CEC budget with funding from SIDA supported part-time staff in the Bangkok Office of IUCN for two years. Additional monies were leveraged to execute specific CEC projects including toolkits, guidelines publications, and meeting support for an approximate total raised of Swiss francs 70,000. These figures do not include the significant voluntary time that CEC members have contributed to the work of the CEC, the IUCN Programme and its members.

## **Highlights of progress and results**

### **Objective:**

**KRA 5.3E – Leadership in Sustainable Development: by 2008 the World Conservation Learning Network is operational with practical courses for professional development, drawing on knowledge within the Union, key stakeholders and universities as partners in the initiative.**

**Progress and results:** Throughout this four year period, CEC worked to establish the World Conservation Learning Network (WCLN) in several IUCN regions around the world. New networks in the USA and Canada drew on existing networks of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and a series of regional relationship-building and learning events were run to initiate similar networks in other regions. These regional networking and exchange events were held in Meso-America (2005), Southern Africa (2006), and the Arab Region (2007), and will be held in Australia/New Zealand (2008). To support these events, a series of scoping studies have helped gauge the key actors and salient issues in each region. WCLN activities have concentrated on two themes. The first is to identify existing networks and to encourage the establishment of new regional networks. Building links between these networks is a longer term goal. A second, more formal activity revolves around development plans for an IUCN Institute. In 2006 IUCN signed an MOU with the United Nations University (UNU) to establish the Institute with plans to deliver on-line courses from network partner institutions at the post-graduate level. The learning objectives and curriculum for options within this credential will reflect the KRAs as set out in the 2005–2008 IUCN Programme, “Many Voices, One Earth”. The overall objective of these two related activities is to provide to practitioners worldwide current knowledge, in an on-line format, from accredited institutions in both informal and formal structures. Underlying each of these activities is the need to improve dialogue and share knowledge amongst individuals and higher education institutes in all world regions to enhance capacity development for sustainability.

The key actors of the WCLN include the UNU through its degree granting partners, IUCN CEC, with the support of its two WCLN Chairs from the University of Western Washington (USA) and Royal Roads University (Canada), and the established network of HEIs in each region. Over 100 Deans and decision makers from international HEIs signed on to the WCLN concept at the Bangkok Congress in 2004. At the end of 2008, the certification system will be in place and recruitment for the first cohort of professional students into the Institute WCLN will begin.

Together with the World Bank’s Global Learning Network, the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative, University of Loja-Ecuador, IUCN-SUR and IUCN-ORMA, a model for building capacities for local governments was designed, and a distance course on Water and Local Development, responding to IUCN main areas of expertise, was implemented influencing 150 participants from the Andean region. Due to positive first results, the course will be adapted for the Mesoamerican region.

**Objective:**

**KRA 4.3 – Advocacy. By 2008, IUCN is a recognized source of knowledge and motivation to support a programme for communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA), linking the major environmental conventions with regional agreements and the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and IUCN is a major partner in ESD and CEPA work programmes.**

**Progress and results:** CEC has been active in the areas of CEPA and ESD throughout this four-year period with some major products delivered that have leveraged the significant expertise of the CEC network and partners.

For the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, CEC was a partner in a two-year process to understand the needs of governments and partners in the Asia region in terms of implementing ESD, and how they could contribute to the Decade. The UNESCO Bangkok Office launched a region-wide project: “Asia-Pacific Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Indicators Project” with Japanese Funds in Trust and Australia’s Macquarie University. The project’s iterative process involved CEC members in the Oceania region as well as members of the global CEC network. The project developed and published the *Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators*, as well as a *Quick Guide* to the guidelines in English and in Spanish. The full documents can be found at: <http://www.iucn.org/publications/>.

IUCN through CEC joined the Ubuntu Alliance and signed the Ubuntu Declaration in 2006 which is focused on promoting Education for Sustainable Development globally. As a part of its role in the Alliance, CEC sits on the Ubuntu Committee of Peers which is developing a Regional Centres of Excellence network, curriculum development activities, and overseeing monitoring and evaluation for the network.

CEC's work with CEPA supports implementation of the environmental conventions, and during this four-year period, one priority focus was on Article 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Seven CEC members participate on an ongoing basis in the CEPA Informal Advisory Committee to the Executive Secretary of the Convention, which meets twice a year. Operationalization of Article 13 is now supported by a CEPA Toolkit, which CEC produced for the CBD. More than 100 CEC members contributed to the toolkit during its two years of development. The toolkit was published on-line as a web resource and initially distributed among 750 experts from Asia, Africa and Latin America on CD-ROM in 2007. A hard copy of the toolkit is produced by the CBD Secretariat and disseminated in 2008 among CBD focal points and NBSAP coordinators worldwide. The CEPA Toolkit has been presented at various major events of environmental educators and communicators and, originally produced in English, is being translated into Spanish, and other language versions are being explored. A blog managed by a CEC member supports discussion around the toolkit's use and application, and more general discussion of CEPA. The full text of the CEPA Toolkit can be found at: <http://www.cepatoolkit.org/>.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is the focus of the next CEPA Toolkit, to be completed in 2008, which addresses CEPA Action Planning for National CEPA Focal Points and will incorporate the expertise of CEC members.

The Global Environmental Citizenship Project in Latin America has also been a major contribution to CEC's work with CEPA. This project is a region-wide effort to engage citizens in sustainable development in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme and Global Environmental Facility. It has worked with a wealth of stakeholders to design and produce education and information materials, training strategies and support resources that promote understanding and action pertaining to biodiversity, ozone depletion, international waters and climate change. School certification is now being explored.

CEC also participates, through its members and Steering Committee, in a number of high level events and intergovernmental process discussions around ESD and CEPA internationally, with expertise developed through these processes unlocking further opportunities for inputs and contributions.

**Objective:**

**KRA 6.5 – Empowerment: By 2008 IUCN Global and Regional Programmes are supported to develop capacity in environmental and sustainable development education and communication in order to promote learning and to empower stakeholders to participate in achieving IUCN's mission. In the IUCN project and programmes, strategic communication planning is integrated in the inception phase.**

**Progress and results:** CEC members were drawn into service to provide guidance, advice and support in implementing strategic communication planning and learning within IUCN Global and Regional Programmes and the work of members and Commissions. For example, CEC delivered and supported the communication and capacity development work of the IUCN Dinaric Initiative, the IUCN Ecosystems Programme, through a project on capacity development for Small Island Developing States, including a capacity assessment and participation in an informal advisory group. CEC also provided support in strategic communication planning for IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme initiative on Biodiversity Guidelines for Hotel Managers, and in protected areas for the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and influenced the Latin American Parks Congress (Bariloche 2007).

CEC members held workshops on strategic communication planning and learning at major international events including the World Environmental Education Conference (Durban 2007), the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Education (Ahmedabad 2007), the IUCN Pakistan International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Karachi 2007), the Countdown 2010 Partnership Planning Meeting (Brussels 2007) and the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (Trondheim 2007). CEC invited IUCN Regional Offices and their networks in WAME and The Mediterranean Centre to participate in a capacity development and networking opportunity on "New Learning in the Arab Region". Through these and other activities, CEC shared expertise on learning and communication with partners and also developed opportunities to collaborate and build relationships with these IUCN stakeholders for potential further interaction.

## CEC Website and Communications

The CEC website has been transformed into the CEC portal, which is an interactive membership space that is used to share news, post member profiles, support collaboration, and catalogue CEC's many multi-media learning resources. A new feature included in 2007 was a database of systems thinking for sustainable development resources. Other new features include links to blogs and wikis by CEC members, and to other relevant websites for the latest information. This is also shared through the newly established (2006) CEC online monthly newsletter, which includes news from CEC members, articles on CEC's main themes, and announcements of events, awards and professional development opportunities. The CEC website can be found at: [www.iucn.org/cec](http://www.iucn.org/cec).

## CEC works on Deep Change

CEC has developed an organized interest in how processes of change towards more sustainable development are created and managed. During this four-year period, CEC started to look at how change occurs, in terms of social science research, and the role of communication and learning in this change. CEC members produced a White paper on Redefining Capacity Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (available on the CEC portal). CEC organized a meeting of change practitioners in November 2006 to learn about how social change, institutional change and individual behaviour change is being fostered and championed around the world. Concrete signs of change have been taking place in learning and educational practice; this *New Learning* for sustainability was the topic of meetings and papers given by CEC members at a number of international and regional events. One of the outcomes of this focus on deep change is the development of a new work area for the 2009–2012 CEC Programme that focuses on facilitating change.

## Conclusions

CEC has worked in this period to be an initiator of practical products, a significant partner, and a service provider. These roles have allowed CEC members to be a part of a diversity of activities and processes that serve to underline the importance of education, learning and communication as the link between knowledge and action, i.e. the link between the knowledge of the Union and the action that it must take to have the most impact in the world. Overall, the contribution of the Commission has been felt through its work to:

1. Establish concrete linkages between universities to offer an accredited, IUCN co-branded professional development certification in sustainable development for practitioners;
2. Participate actively in helping intergovernmental partners operationalize their goals in incorporating CEPA for effective implementation of their environment-related conventions;
3. Involve, at the regional level, IUCN Commission members, organizational members and IUCN offices in discussions around new learning and capacity development through the process of establishing the World Conservation Learning Network;
4. Experiment with new media and social network tools and build capacity in their use within the network, to improve strategic broadcasting of sustainability messages;
5. Engage communication and education professionals in the broader work of the Union, and draw upon their knowledge and expertise to strengthen IUCN's work internationally.

## Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Report 2005–2008 by the Chair, Taghi Farvar

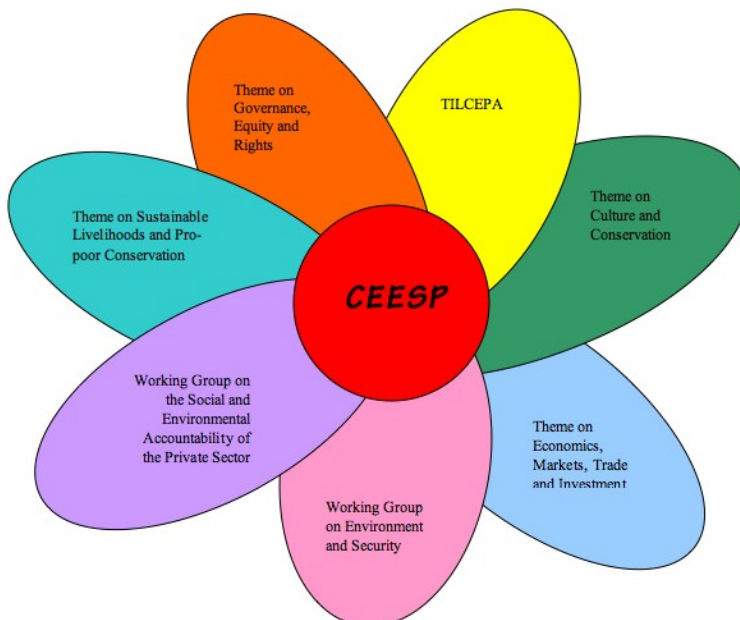
The mission of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), adopted at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, is to “contribute to the IUCN Mission by providing insights and expertise on ways to harmonize biodiversity conservation with the crucial socioeconomic and cultural 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 (TEMTI)
- 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 other 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 for several years been 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 organized a symposium at the meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology and a dedicated workshop in Bavianskloof Megareserve (South Africa), and produced a synthesis document on tools and mechanisms to implement a rights-based approach to conservation. The group now has 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 offered 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 area 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 operationalize the recommendation on Protected Areas and Poverty endorsed by the 2003 World Parks Congress. The Task Force has held three regional meetings and is consolidating its work plan for the next few years.

Finally, TILCEPA has remained active at the international level; it organized 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 oil spill that affected Lebanon after the war in 2006 with a subsequent follow-up mission one year later and advocacy work against activities of the Dutch bottom fish dredging fleet near the Parc National du Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania.

## **Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods**

The Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods and Pro-Poor Conservation (TSL) focused a large part of its work on supporting the organization 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, as 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 organization, which now counts hundreds of members, in particular customary mobile indigenous institutions (tribes, clans, etc.) and supporting organizations 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 organizing 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 IUCN’s Moratorium on GMOs Resolution by setting up and maintaining the IUCN website 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 Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS) together with a number of other institutions around the globe.

TSL has emphasised linkages and mutual learning among local organizations 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 marginalized 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 organized 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 World Conservation Congress in October in Barcelona.

## **Theme on Environment, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment**

The Theme on Environment, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment (TEMTI) evolved from the former Working Group on Environment, Trade and Investment. The chair of TEMTI assembled a new steering committee for the group and approached foundations with project proposals to support TEMTI's work plan. 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 Congress in Barcelona.

Meanwhile, TEMTI 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. TEMTI's Chair Alejandro Nadal participated as a member of the drafting committee of the Memorandum on Natural Resource Governance for the XXI<sup>st</sup> 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 TEMTI in Africa were undertaken. TEMTI 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*”.

## **Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) Report 2005–2008 by the Chair, Sheila Abed de Zavala**

### **1. Summary**

The Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) has experienced a transformation during the past four years.

The whole orientation of CEL's work – within its mandate – was revised. In this respect, after the post-Congress reformation of the Steering Committee in 2004, for which top professionals in the field of environmental law were called upon, the first task of the group was to analyse the most efficient way of achieving real impact through CEL's initiatives.

We started by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Commission, and drafting a strategic plan to focus on strengthening priority areas. This is how it was decided to increase our support for the work of the Specialist Groups, which act as the executive bodies of CEL.

To this end, adjustments were made so as to encourage Specialist Group members. The first step was to collect all the necessary information on the previously existing groups, their membership and the limitations that prevented them from performing in an optimal way. Next, a plan was drafted to fund the groups with an annual seed grant, which although modest, serves the purpose of covering basic functioning costs. A co-chair was designated for each group, keeping in mind gender and geographic balance.

Communication was a key topic of discussion, and a great deal of attention was placed on this subject. The Commission invested in several modern technological tools. Rules were established for the groups to systematize their contributions and make them more efficient. Annual work plans are developed by each group, and approved by the Steering Committee. This allows the groups to interact and support each other's work.

A milestone in the groups' work has been the organization of annual Chairs' meetings. This had never been done in the past, and it has proven to be key for the Chairs to get to know each other, share their views on CEL's work and discuss the possibility of joint initiatives.

Another high point has been the interaction with the Environmental Law Centre (ELC), which together with CEL, comprises the IUCN Environmental Law Programme. Activities are planned in coordination, and both bodies include each other in their projects. This new model of engagement is reflected in the decision to designate an ELC legal officer to accompany the work of each Specialist Group. This has resulted in a cooperative process that is firmer and more efficient. Together with the Centre we have carried out activities in order to prioritize our approaches and raise funds.

The members in general are encouraged to participate in one of the Working Groups. We have re-established the working group and task force categories so as to cover issues that interest a certain group of members but are not being addressed by any Specialist Group in particular.

The CEL List, a virtual forum through which all members can exchange news and information, was also re-established. This exchange has been a very positive development as members can now upload their work for other fellow members to see and have access to. This traffic has grown constantly and we hope it continues to do so.

A regional listserve for CEL members in Oceania was launched in February 2005 – a first for the Commission. This listserve is one small step in a series of exciting initiatives being promoted by CEL in Oceania, in close collaboration with other organizations to help build environmental law capacity and networks within the region for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development. At this moment, over 80 lawyers are connected through the listserve, which is managed by the New South Wales Law Society's Young Lawyers Environmental Law Committee.

One of our challenges is to nurture the next generation of environmental lawyers and in order for this to happen, we believe that we should focus on capacity building, particularly in the developing world. To this end, and in addition, commemorating one of the most important professionals in environmental law, we have created the Alexandre Kiss Prize. This Prize seeks to encourage young law professionals who wish to develop their career.

This programme is already in place and young professionals from many continents have been conducting internships at the Environmental Law Centre in Bonn and perfecting their knowledge. The selection process is carried out on an annual basis by means of a call for papers on issues that are of interest to the Union. A special category of membership was also established for young professionals, in support of this commitment.

Inter-Commission work is a new CEL initiative to be highlighted: A task force has been set up to work jointly with WCPA on legal topics that arise from the implementation of the IUCN conservation categories.

We have also made an effort to have greater interaction with the MEA's Secretariats, inviting officers to our meetings, participating at COPs, organizing side events, or collaborating in the preparation of the Union's institutional position.

CEL also adheres to the "One Programme" concept, promoting a closer relationship with the Secretariat through the Regional and Country offices. We have invited them to our Specialist Group meeting, and asked them to provide input to improve the Commission's work and the service it provides to the Union. We have also carried out case studies related to Resolutions and Recommendations of the World Conservation Congress.

The most important venture we have instigated is the CEL Helpdesk. This helpdesk is destined to serve as an information and assistance resource centre on environmental legislation and policy, to support IUCN institutional membership.

Finally, it is important to mention that CEL takes effective action with regard to accountability. From the very beginning of each accounting period, expenditures are reported to HQ with all relevant supporting documentation.

## **2. Specialist Group Reports**

### **Energy Law and Climate Change**

Co-chairs: Richard Ottinger and Wang Xi

The Energy Law and Climate Change Specialist Group has had a busy mandate.

The group has delivered a report to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University for the Government of China, on recommendations for changes in the environmental laws of China based on an evaluation of U.S. environmental laws, led by SG Co-chair Wang Xi.

Professor Adrian Bradbrook, member of the SG, presented a paper upon the request of the German Government, entitled "International Initiatives to Promote Renewable Energy" at a REN21 workshop held in Paris in December 2007 to consider the agenda for a possible new international congress on renewable energy.

The group participated and presented a paper at the Rio Conference on Sustainable Biofuels conducted by Pace Law School, Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro and the National Energy-Environment Law & Policy Institute of the University of Tulsa (Oklahoma) College of Law, co-sponsored by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law in August 2007.

A paper for the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in Mexico City in November 2008 on Energy and Poverty Alleviation is currently being drafted, as well as a paper on the strengths and weaknesses of the Kyoto Protocol CDM mechanism.

## **Sustainable Use of Soils and Desertification**

Co-chairs: Ian Hannam and Du Qun

The reporting period has seen substantial activity for the SGSS&D. Global interest continues to grow in the investigation of an international instrument for soil and there have been some new initiatives in regional and national soil legislation and policy reforms (i.e. Balkans; Central Asia). The concept of a soil protocol was discussed with officials at two Convention Secretariats and presentations were made on the concept to a number of key international soil conservation fora.

Some key activities of this group, important to underline, are:

- a) *Presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Soil Conservation Congress, May 2006*  
The Co-chair SGSS&D was invited to present the opening keynote address to the 14<sup>th</sup> International Soil Conservation Organization Congress in Marrakech, Morocco in May 2006. The 14<sup>th</sup> Congress was particularly significant with 2006 being the UN Year of Deserts and Desertification. The presentation addressed progress made by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law on the development of national and international frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of soil. The Board of ISCO forwarded a letter to the Director General of IUCN requesting IUCN to consider various options for the development of an international legislative instrument for the sustainable use of soil.
- b) *International workshop on Water and Soil Conservation Law China, August 2006*  
In August 2006 five SGSS&D members participated in a workshop in Beijing, China on the reform of the 1991 Water and Soil Conservation Law of the People's Republic of China, including Co-chairs Dr Ian Hannam (Australia) and Professor Du Qun (China); Dr Irene Heuser (Germany); Associate Professor Ken Palmer (NZ) on behalf of SGSS&D; member Assoc. Prof. David Grinlinton; and Mr Bill Futrell (USA). Associate Professor Song Ying (CEL member China), played a key role in the workshop. The workshop was jointly arranged by the Asian Development Bank and the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources. The main objectives of the workshop were to review various aspects of international and national environmental law on soil and water conservation and their relationship to the reform of the PRC 1991 Water and Soil Conservation Law. The workshop made good use of legal research materials compiled by the SGSS&D in preparing the draft Protocol for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soils, and EPLP publications No. 45 *Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Soils* and No. 52 *Drafting Legislation for Sustainable Soils: A Guide*.
- c) *Swiss Presentation, October 2006*  
Professor Ben Boer made a special presentation at a soil science conference held in Ascona Switzerland in October 2006 on the need for an international soil instrument. The presentation generated very useful discussions on various aspects of the draft Soil Protocol including the underlying soil scientific values for the development of a sound legal instrument.
- d) *Meeting at UNCCD Secretariat, November 2006*  
A meeting was held between Co-chair Ian Hannam and Mr Gregorie de Kalbermatten (Deputy Executive Secretary UNCCD) and Mr de Vanssay (from the Committee on Science and Technology UNCCD) on 14 November 2006 to provide a background briefing on the draft Soil Protocol and to follow up on items raised between Mr de Kalbermatten and Mr de Vanssay with Dr Ian Hannam at the International Soil Conservation Organization Congress in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2006. At the meeting Mr de Kalbermatten outlined suggestions for developing further legislative supportive tools to support the UNCCD synthesis process.
- e) *Presentation to American Law Institute-American Bar Association, April 2007*  
Professor Ben Boer and Mr Bill Futrell made a presentation at the American Law Institute-American Bar Association (ALI-ABA) seminar on International Environmental Law in April 2007, on the concept of the draft Soil Protocol and various national soil law issues, including specific USA soil conservation issues (see 8 below).
- f) *USA activities*  
Mr Bill Futrell, USA member of SGSS&D, has been active in the following areas:

- Communications on 2007 Farm Bill: The Bill will contain the soil subsidies and standards for the next five years. Working with a broad-based coalition of environmentalists and fiscal conservatives who want to see the conservation aspects of the act expanded;
- Presentations: Paper for the Beijing workshop in August 2006; a paper on enforcement problems for the IUCN Academy Colloquium, Pace Law School, October 2006 (to be published in the next issue of the Pace Environmental Law Review, it will be a chapter on Academy proceedings); presentation to professional staff of Assistant Administrator for Policy of the US EPA on sustainability and agriculture (focus on compliance and enforcement challenges);
- January 2007: Meeting officials from the Senate and House of Representatives Environment Committees to discuss possible strategies to affect environmental standards in the Farm Bill;
- April 2007: Hosted meeting with Dr Andres Arnalds of Iceland to discuss sponsorship and agenda items for 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Icelandic Soil Conservation Service;
- Developing a continuing legal education course on international environmental law (includes presentation on draft Soil Protocol), sponsored by the American Law Institute-American Bar Association Committee for Continuing Legal Education. Prof. Ben Boer participated as a panelist on soil legislation, as a new item on the agenda for US environmentalists.

g) *Other key activities*

Various preparatory activities have taken place in order to conduct the following activities:

- Discussions have been initiated between Professor Miodrag Zlatic, Belgrade University and SG members regarding an investigation into soil conservation laws and regulations in the Balkan countries;
- Laws, policy and institutional reform in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for sustainable land management, with United Nations University Tokyo.

Draft materials have also just been received from Chinese colleagues for the proposed publication in the IUCN-ELP Environmental Policy and Law Papers series on the “Legal and Policy Framework for Management of Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems of China”, and the editing process now begins. CEL has agreed to fund this publication.

### **Oceans, Coastal and Coral Reefs**

Co-chairs: David VanderZwaag and Nilufer Oral

The Oceans Coastal and Coral Reefs Specialist Group has replaced the previous Specialist Group on Ocean Law and Governance, established in 2003, and since then it has been very productive. The group has contributed to the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea and UN General Assembly negotiations on the Oceans and Law of the Sea Resolution. It has also participated in the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Research Workshop held in Ottawa, on 19–21 April 2007.

The group collaborated with David Freestone, editor of the *International Journal for Marine and Coastal Law*, in preparation for a special journal issue on the topic of ocean governance. Papers are being contributed by members on a range of governance topics including land-based marine pollution, shipping, regional fisheries management, regional seas cooperation and high seas governance.

In cooperation with the Mediterranean Specialist subgroup and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, the group convened a regional workshop on ‘Shipping and Marine Biodiversity’ in Istanbul, Turkey, on 21–25 September 2007. The final goal of this workshop was to assess the status and threats from shipping pollution in the Mediterranean and to develop recommendations for future national, regional and international actions to better plan and regulate shipping activities.

The group also co-organized a workshop by the High Seas Governance sub-group on ‘High Seas Governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’ which was held in New York, on 17–19 October 2007. The objective of this workshop was to bring together leading experts in high seas governance issues from academia, government and nongovernmental organizations, acting in their personal capacity, to develop a range of policy and regulatory options for the further development of the high seas regime under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## **Indigenous People**

Co-chairs: Laura Westra and John Scott

It is important to note that the Specialist Group on Indigenous People was newly established in 2006. Nevertheless, the group already has many achievements, with a significant number of activities. Among them, it is important to note that SGIP is conducting an investigation to analyze how current regimes in selected countries protect the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to conservation, including respect for indigenous knowledge and land rights.

In June 2007, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, in partnership with the Global Ecological Integrity Group (GEIG), hosted the highly successful Ecological Integrity and a Sustainable Society Conference. Members of the SGIP delivered a number of papers: SGIP Co-chair Laura Westra, a founder of GEIG, addressed the critical issue of Arctic peoples and Biodiversity – the interface between climate change and traditional ecological knowledge; SGIP Co-chair John Scott delivered an update on work related to indigenous peoples which is being carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focusing on the development of elements of a code of ethical conduct to respect the intellectual and cultural heritage of indigenous peoples; and Melinda Janki presented a case study on Guyana on the question as to whether protected areas can preserve cultural and biological diversity.

SGIP is exploring ways to assist the implementation of the next and future IUCN Programmes to be more inclusive of indigenous peoples' issues and believes that it is opportune for IUCN to build bridges and partnerships with indigenous peoples.

## **Armed Conflict and the Environment**

Co-chairs: Michael Bothe and Carl Bruch

The Armed Conflict and the Environment Specialist Group's principal objective is the assessment of experiences in post-conflict management of natural resources and the environment and the exploration of the current law questions of armed conflicts as it relates to the protection of the environment.

In order to achieve its objective, in September 2006 the group convened a seminar in Washington, DC on "Protecting the Environment in Times of War". This seminar provided a historical overview of the development of international law designed to prevent, minimize, mitigate and redress the environmental impacts of armed conflict. It also sought to highlight potential gaps in the legal and institutional frameworks governing the environment during armed conflict.

On 17–18 September 2007, the Specialist Group convened an international meeting on 'Managing Natural Resources in Post-Conflict Societies: Lessons in Making the Transition to Peace', held in Geneva in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting identified a range of post-conflict countries in which natural resources played an important role in peace building and recovery.

The Specialist Group is now forming an open-ended reflection group. Co-chair Michael Bothe started elaborating a questionnaire. Although the question of the application of the law of armed conflict for the protection of the environment has been an object of political and academic discussion for more than three decades, controversy persists which invites a fresh in-depth analysis of strengths and gaps. Based on this analysis, the Specialist Group will highlight opportunities for making recommendations for amending or developing new law and policy in the field.

## **Ethics**

Co-chairs: Brendan Mackey and Klaus Bosselmann

The work of the Ethics Specialist Group (ESG) has been focused on advancing a critical analysis of the Earth Charter and the role it can play in building credible and effective global ethics and international law. ESG members, such as lawyers, philosophers and scientists, have contributed to the growing body of academic literature on the Earth Charter. A number of conference papers, articles and books have been developed, for example, the legal status of the Earth Charter, its importance as

a covenant, and the meaning of its principles and values with respect to justice, human rights and the precautionary principle.

On behalf of IUCN, Klaus Bosselmann attended a UNESCO workshop held in Tripoli, Libya in June to launch the 'Arabian Network of Environmental Ethics' (ANEE). The workshop with participants from the Arabian region adopted the 'Tripoli Declaration' referring to the Earth Charter and further adopted a working programme for developing and implementing relevant values and principles in countries from the Arabian region.

Following up to the successful Planning Meeting held at IUCN HQ in September 2006, the Specialist Group on the 'Code of Ethics for Biodiversity Conservation' prepared a report that identified key issues and outlined the further working agenda. At a workshop held in Halifax in June 2007, it was decided to extend the scope of the Code project to incorporate basic concepts of human-nature relationships. The broader approach is reflected in the new title 'The Biosphere Ethics Project.' In September 2007 a four-day workshop under this title was held in Windblown Hill near Chicago.

A project on governance for sustainability was commissioned by the Chair of CEL to provide guidance in the area of environmental governance at global, national and local levels. The project aims for an ethically-based concept of good governance reflecting the normative characteristics of sustainability.

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

Co-chairs: Ricardo Lorenzetti and Kenneth Markowitz

The Enforcement and Compliance Specialist Group counts as a great achievement the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN Academy on Environmental Law Colloquium that focused on environmental compliance and enforcement. This event brought together more than 220 representatives from 45 countries and 60 universities. The Colloquium was held at Pace Law School in White Plains, New York, in October 2006. It concluded with several action items designed to enhance compliance and enforcement that are included in the "Outcomes" document.

Work is well underway on two books that will result from the Colloquium; the first, the Proceedings of the Colloquium that will feature approximately 25 papers that were presented at the event; and the second, a Compendium that will include a collection of enforcement and compliance reference materials from several different countries.

### **Judiciary**

Co-chair: Vladimir Passos de Freitas

The aim of the Judiciary Specialist Group is to promote and support the role of judges in Environmental Law through capacity-building initiatives. In 2007, the group grew with the admission of new members, from Argentina, Brazil, Spain and Tanzania. The goal is to receive new ideas and new experiences.

In June 2007, some members of the group, such as Nicolau Konkell Júnior (Brazil) and Nestor Cafferatta (Argentina) participated, along with 80 other judges, in a seminar on Environmental Law, held in the city of Paraty, Brazil, which proved to be very useful for all the participants.

The next goal of the group is to reactivate the IUCN Judicial Portal, so that judges from every country will be able to have access to a number of judicial decisions from different Courts, which may serve as a foundation for similar decisions in other countries, members of Civil Law or Common Law. One of the goals is to attract to the group more judges from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The group has organized a contest addressed to judges for papers on environmental law. This contest was launched in December 2007, and is having a good response from judges from all over the world.

### **Water and Wetlands**

Co-chairs: Rosemary Lyster and Marta Rovere

In consultation with ELC, it was agreed in 2006 that the Working Group would draft model water legislation which could be referred to by any country seeking to either introduce water legislation or

amend its water legislation. A draft Model Water Law document was prepared by Rosemary Lyster and circulated to the group on 12 January 2007.

Marta Rovere circulated the draft Model Water Law document to the Spanish speaking group, who comprise the 'Foro de Especialistas de Aguas de Sudamérica' and are members of the Specialist Group on Water and Wetlands. Since then, Marta has been working closely with the regional group to develop responses to the document. ELC and Marta Rovere have worked with the expert body on several water projects and expert fora, where they discussed and made proposals to improve water legislation and water policies.

In October 2007, Marta Rovere, Alejandro Iza and Sheila Abed presented the outcomes of an IUCN project on glaciers during the II Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas held in Bariloche, Argentina.

In another activity of the group, Rosemary Lyster and Marta Rovere both provided comments on the draft Water Law of Costa Rica, as requested by the IUCN Regional Office for Mesoamerica (ORMA).

### **Protected Areas**

Co-chairs: Melinda Janki and Rodrigo Agostinho

The Specialist Group on Protected Areas (SGPA) was re-formed with a new mandate following the CEL Steering Committee in May 2007 in Sao Paulo, where the new Co-chair Rodrigo Agostinho was designated.

The SGPA has provided advice to the IUCN Regional Office in Bangkok on comparative connectivity issues, with Liliana Maslarova providing advice on Eastern Europe.

Both co-chairs delivered papers to the Latin American Parks Congress. Rodrigo Agostinho spoke about issues relating to protected areas in Brazil. Melinda Janki delivered a paper on governance and protected areas, using the protected area established by the WaiWai community over their lands in southern Guyana as an example of good governance.

### **Trade and Environment**

Co-chair: Marie Claire Segger

The Trade and Environment Specialist Group (TESG) would like to take note of the latest scientific understanding of the systemic relations between ecosystems and human well-being. As they did 20 years ago with climate change, the scientific community is calling our attention to a major, global environmental issue that needs urgent attention: ecosystem degradation and socio-ecological resilience.

Moreover, TESG wants to look at local dynamics. There are many experiences around the world related to sustainable production, consumption and livelihoods, in which trade plays a central role. These experiences or strategies of socio-ecological resilience are treated as particular or idiosyncratic projects with little national projection, and hence are politically fragile. TESG wants to look at this kind of cases and determine which normative environments support them and which undermine them, and then assess trade rules accordingly.

On 4 October 2007, the first of two papers prepared by the TESG was presented during the II Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas held in Bariloche, Argentina. This paper explores ecosystem services flow in international trade, in particular virtual flows not captured by the market, and will serve as a basis for discussions on how the international trading regime can better respond to the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge posed by global ecosystem change.

The second paper, which is still under development, will explore the normative conditions under which successful local sustainable development strategies, that have international trade as a central element, operate. This paper includes information gathered from a number of local experiences and is meant to provide a foundation for a discussion on how trade rules can be made to work in favour of such local and sustainable endeavours.

## **Forests**

Co-chairs: Prof. Nii Ashie Kotey and Prof. Paulo de Tarso

In January 2008, the new Specialist Group on Forests was launched, and the number of members is increasing daily. The co-chairs are now collaborating on the development of a work plan.

## **CEL and WCPA Task Force on Protected Areas Law and Policy**

Co-chairs: Melinda Janki and Ben Boer

In 2006 the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and the Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) established a joint Task Force on Protected Area Law and Policy.

The Task Force is focused on analysing existing governance in protected areas and providing advice on improving governance models. The general objective of the Task Force is to identify the legal principles and mechanisms that should be applied using the IUCN management categories, including providing guidance on legal mechanisms for recognizing privately owned, co-managed and community conserved areas. The specific objectives of the Task Force include analysing the legal issues raised by private/community owned/managed protected areas and proposing legal solutions to accommodate rights and enforce responsibilities. The Task Force will facilitate interaction between and conduct of workshops for members of the Task Force, protected area managers and legal researchers.

In the past year, groundwork research based on the Task Force's terms of reference has been carried out under a project established at the University of Ottawa in collaboration with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, with a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), as well as research support from Parks Canada.

In 2007 the IUCN Environmental Law Centre initiated a major project on protected area legislation. The Task Force studies currently being carried out through the SSHRC will also be used to support that project.

As case studies are developed and further research is done, material will be placed on both the CEL and WCPA websites for the use of the Task Force. The website material will also be accessible to other researchers working in this field.

## **Task Force on the Arctic**

Chair: Wolfgang Burhenne

The Task Force on the Arctic was created by the Steering Committee Meeting in South Africa in 2005. Its aim is to monitor the evolution of the discussions concerning the Arctic legal regime, and to be attentive to developments in which CEL could play a useful role.

The Task Force on the Arctic was invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, in August 2006, which included on its agenda the question of strengthening the Arctic legal regime. This was an opportunity to present the 'issue-oriented approach' taken by the CEL Expert Meeting. The Kiruna Conference Declaration recommended 'to initiate, as a matter of urgency, an audit of existing legal regimes that impact the Arctic, and to continue the discussion about strengthening or adding to them where necessary'.

Another event where the Task Force was represented was the Arendal Seminar on multilateral agreements and their relevance to the Arctic, held in September 2006 at the initiative of UNEP-GRID-Arendal and the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians for the Arctic Region. The Seminar followed up on the Kiruna 'audit' proposal and developed a set of recommendations on ways and means to ascertain the effectiveness and relevance of MEAs in the Arctic, and to examine the need and options for improving the existing regime.

All in all, and because of the political difficulties involved in improving the legal regime for the Arctic, the role of the CEL Task Force can only be to support action geared at improving participation in and implementation of the relevant global regime. This could be, for example, as proposed in Kiruna, through a UN Treaty event at the United Nations aiming at increasing ratification of global treaties

affecting the Arctic, as well as supporting the issue-oriented analysis which might clarify how best the regional regime can be strengthened.

### **3. IUCN Academy of Environmental Law**

Co-Directors: Jamie Benidickson and Ben Boer

The IUCN Academy of Environmental Law was launched by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law in 2003 as an autonomous network of university-based environmental law centres and academic experts, with the objective of undertaking academic research, studies and conferences on the further conceptual development of environmental law, in support of the mission of the IUCN and its Environmental Law Programme.

Since the last World Conservation Congress in 2004, the Academy's Secretariat has been established at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa with the continuing financial support of Environment Canada, Health Canada, Hydro Quebec and others, together with the provision of office space, administrative and accounting services by the Faculty of Law. An internationally recruited co-director, Ben Boer, was appointed by the Faculty as a visiting professor, to join Jamie Benidickson, who had been appointed as a director at the 2004 Bangkok Congress. The Academy Secretariat appointed a full-time manager, Carolyn Farquhar, in 2007. The Academy has considerably developed its membership base, with over 70 universities representing some 400 environmental law professors from around the world. A special effort is being made to ensure that institutional memberships are generated from under-represented regions.

Major annual colloquia have been held in China, Kenya, Australia, USA and Brazil and the next five have been planned for Mexico, China, Belgium and South Africa. Annual volumes of edited colloquium papers continue to be published through Cambridge University Press.

The Academy's Teaching and Capacity-Building Committee is focused on the provision of greater academic support for environmental law teachers involving improvement of services through the Academy's website, linking with the IUCN Environmental Law Programme website on teaching and capacity-building initiatives, and the development of a structure for the delivery of "teaching the teachers" courses. These academic capacity-building courses will be conducted in consultation with IUCN Regional Offices in the relevant region wherever possible. In early 2008, a survey was conducted with all of the Academy's member institutions to gauge the needs of environmental law professors for curriculum development and academic capacity-building programmes.

The Academy's efforts in research have included a major Strategic Research Planning Workshop at the University of Ottawa in April 2007 and a seminar on Climate Change Law in Vancouver in October 2007. Its new Research Committee has begun to explore a major research project on climate change, including a substantial conference on the topic in 2008 involving professors from a wide range of universities, members of the CEL Specialist Group on Energy Law and Climate Change, and other partners. The Committee has also begun to explore the possibilities for an Academy Environmental Law Journal and annual academic awards programme.

A major project on academic curriculum development was conducted from 2006 to 2007, with financial support and close involvement of the UNEP Environmental Law Programme. Phase Two of the project involves the pilot testing of the curriculum and materials by Academy member institutions in a number of regions, and is planned for 2008.

In early 2008, a new Governing Council was elected, comprised of representatives from each of the IUCN Regions, together with CEL Chair Sheila Abed, the Head of the IUCN ELP Alejandro Iza, and the Academy's Co-Directors as *ex officio* members.

Working with its member institutions, the Academy is building its website into a major resource for academic teaching and research in all aspects of environmental law, linked to the IUCN ELP website as far as possible. For further information on the Academy, see <http://www.iucnael.org>.

# **Species Survival Commission (SSC) Report 2005–2008 by the Chair, Dr Holly T. Dublin**

## **Introduction**

This report begins with a thank you to the Wildlife Conservation Society, the MAVA Foundation, the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria, the Chicago Zoological Society and Conservation International. Without their financial assistance, I would not have been able to undertake the role of SSC Chair in a full-time capacity as was deemed necessary by the SSC Steering Committee at the end of the 2001–2004 intersessional period. Having a first-ever, full-time Chair for the 2005–2008 intersessional period has, I feel, been of great benefit to the Commission and helped us to better meet the expectations of our members and others in IUCN and beyond.

## **SSC Mandate, Strategic Plan and Priorities**

During the 2005–2008 intersessional period SSC, with support from the Species Programme, continued to implement its 2001–2010 Strategic Plan. This report discusses our accomplishments for the period 2005–2008, in line with the Commission Mandate approved at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as additional priorities.

### **1. Commission Mandate**

SSC serves as the principal source of advice to the Union and its members on the technical aspects of species conservation. It seeks to mobilize action by the world conservation community for species conservation, in particular for those species threatened with extinction and those of importance for human welfare.

### **2. SSC Vision**

A world that values and conserves present levels of biodiversity.

### **3. SSC Goal**

The extinction crisis and massive loss in biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility, resulting in action to reduce this loss of diversity within species, among species and of ecosystems.

### **4. SSC Objectives**

- Decisions and policies affecting biodiversity influenced by sound interdisciplinary scientific information.
- Modes of production and consumption that promote the conservation of biodiversity adopted by users of natural resources.
- Capacity increased to provide timely, innovative and practical solutions to conservation problems.
- Greater commitment among the scientific community to the conservation, sustainable use and management of biodiversity, and integration of findings across disciplines increased and promoted.

### **5. Priorities for the 2005–2008 intersessional period**

In addition, and upon my election I made a firm commitment to a number of new and ongoing processes in the SSC. These included:

- (a) Restructuring the Commission and its Secretariat support to facilitate the integration of SSC members' and Specialist Groups' work with the outputs of the SSC Strategic Plan (2001–2010) and IUCN Key Result Areas (2005–2008);
- (b) Re-appointing the Specialist Group (SG) Chairs on the basis of criteria developed by the Consultative Group on Commissions, recommended to the IUCN Governance Task Force and later adopted by Council;
- (c) Continuing to respond in tangible ways to the recommendations outlined in SSC's "2001 Study on Voluntarism" and the "2004 External Review of IUCN Commissions";
- (d) Assisting in securing support for the implementation of the Species Information Service to enable it to reach its full potential;
- (e) Forging stronger and more synergistic partnerships and joint programmes of work with our "sister" Commissions, the Secretariat, the regions, the thematic programmes and with relevant institutions and individuals outside IUCN; and
- (f) Investigating the merit and feasibility of SSC hosting a Commission-wide meeting for the SG Chairs to re-focus our efforts on species conservation, celebrate their enduring achievement on behalf of IUCN and provide them with thanks and recognition.

## 6. Achievements

Our achievements for the quadrennium are notable; only some can be highlighted here.

### **The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and Assessment Work**

The heartland of the IUCN SSC and Species Programme is our work on monitoring the status and trends of global biodiversity. The Species Programme has provided an increasing level of support to the SSC during this intersessional period. Dr Jane Smart, appointed as Head of the Species Programme in 2005, has assisted me in building collaboration between the IUCN SSC and the IUCN Species Programme. Our joint efforts have resulted in a number of successes during the reporting period and those directly relating to the IUCN Red List include:

- (a) *Annual Launches of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™*  
The IUCN Red List launch every year generates the largest media coverage of any of IUCN's products. The update on the status of the world's species is eagerly awaited by media across the world and each year the media coverage of this event is larger than the year before – in 2007 this even included considerable television coverage.
- (b) *Global and Regional Assessments*  
Utilizing our improved data handling system (the Species Information Service), a concerted effort has been made to increase the number of species that have been assessed through the IUCN Red List process. Assessments of entire taxonomic groups allow a better understanding of their global status. The Global Amphibian Assessment, undertaken in the last intersessional period, was the first such assessment and led to the publication of a comprehensive book in 2008. The Global Mammal Assessment was also completed in 2008. This ambitious task was accomplished through extensive workshops and consultations with SSC mammal Specialist Groups and will be profiled at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. Other global assessments completed in the intersessional included cycads, conifers and the world sharks, rays and chimeras. Regional assessments carried out included a European Mammal Assessment and several assessments of taxa in the Mediterranean; a series of freshwater assessments have linked species to the livelihoods of those who depend on them.
- (c) *Prioritization for Plant and Invertebrate Assessments*  
One of the biggest challenges in species conservation is the assessment of neglected but vitally-important taxa, including plant and invertebrate species. The sheer numbers of species in these taxonomic groups make representative assessments extremely challenging, and therefore carefully-considered prioritization exercises are required. Much of the 2005–2008 intersessional work on plants and invertebrates has been spent on these prioritization exercises. Prioritization

helps to ensure that the most important species are assessed first – in the case of plants it was decided that those species important for human use and consumption should be accorded the highest priority. Prioritization also helps to ensure that assessments are sent in to the Red List Unit in a predictable manner and format to avoid overwhelming staff and creating a backlog of assessments. Unfortunately, funds for these assessments are not always evenly matched with SSC's priorities but we endeavour to expand our assessment work for these speciose but important groups.

(d) *Delivering Key Biodiversity Indicators*

The SSC Biodiversity Indicators Sub-Committee is responsible for overseeing our contributions to species-based indicators for all relevant policy and management needs. At present SSC is working on indicators for trends in biodiversity using the IUCN Red List Index (RLI) and Sampled Red List Index (SRLI), as well as for sustainable use by 2010 and is hoping to increase our ability to track changes in the impacts of alien invasive species and climate change in the future. Based on taxonomic groups that have been assessed at least twice, the IUCN RLI and SRLI monitor trends in the status of species over time. To date, IUCN RLIs have been developed for all bird species from 1988–2008, for all amphibian species from 1980–2004 and mammals from 1980–2008. These indices show continuing deterioration in the status of birds and amphibians worldwide. SRLIs have been completed for all vertebrate species, including freshwater and marine fish, reptiles, reef-forming corals, odonata and freshwater crabs. The IUCN RLI has provisionally been accepted by the United Nations as a biodiversity indicator for Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability. A final decision will be taken in 2008.

*Other technical work with the IUCN Species Programme, IUCN Regional Offices, other IUCN Commissions and other IUCN Thematic Programmes*

Our commitment for the 2005–2008 intersessional period to “forge stronger and more synergistic partnerships and joint programmes of work” with various parts of IUCN (see 5e above) resulted in some pioneering projects and informed guidance on best practices. Among others, these initiatives included:

i. *Climate change and differential species vulnerability*

To date, the likely impacts of climate change have been based either on isolated case studies, or on large-scale “envelope” modelling. An empirical approach across large numbers of species to gain an understanding of which species are likely to be most vulnerable to climate change, and in what ways, had not yet been undertaken. So our work provides an essential step if biodiversity conservation planning strategies are to incorporate mechanisms for adapting to impacts in a meaningful way. In 2006, we submitted a two-year proposal to the MacArthur Foundation to conduct such a study and we were successfully awarded US\$ 400,000.

ii. *Joint WCPA/SSC Systematic or Area-based Conservation Planning Initiative*

Starting in 2005, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the SSC decided to undertake a joint initiative to produce guidelines on systematic conservation planning (otherwise referred to as area-based planning of landscapes). The idea was to bring together strengths from the two Commissions in land planning approaches to secure the long-term conservation of biodiversity values and assets. The guidelines will be launched at World Conservation Congress in Barcelona as a joint WCPA/SSC product. We hope to stimulate their further development and implementation there through a series of workshops and capacity building opportunities.

iii. *Engagement with the Business Sector – The Power of IUCN's Value Proposition*

The past four years witnessed a dramatic increase in the need for direct engagement between the business sector and SSC expertise in mitigating potentially harmful impacts of business activities on species. Our engagement required careful and constant liaison with the Business & Biodiversity Programme and many of our Regional Offices around the world – a true demonstration of the power of IUCN's “One Programme” delivery. One example of SSC's ability to positively affect business operations was in India where the approved expansion of a port had the potential to impact marine turtle populations in the area. SSC's Marine Turtle Specialist Group was able to contribute to a strong partnership between IUCN and the developer involved. The provision of sound and impartial scientific advice is a great strength of the SSC and we anticipate an ever-increasing demand for this in the years to come.

iv. *Sustainable modes of consumption and production*

One of SSC's four primary objectives focuses on the sustainable use of species and remains a core focal area for our work. Many SSC Specialist Groups must deal with the significant challenges presented when species are threatened by unsustainable practices yet are needed by humans for their health and livelihoods. One example in this regard is the work of the SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group which has been instrumental in this reporting period in developing the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP). Another example is our Cat Specialist Group who were invited by the Chinese State Forestry Administration to comment on China's reassessment of the 1993 domestic ban on the trade in tiger parts and derivatives. With a surplus of captive-bred tigers in China's "tiger farms" now in excess of 5,000 animals, the pressure to re-open the trade is seen to place unpredictable risks on the highly-threatened remaining populations of tigers in the wild. Such issues involve consideration of the complex dynamics between supply and demand as well as balancing deep technical understanding with diplomacy in our multi-cultural world – these are strong skills which the SSC has and provides to IUCN.

*Providing Technical Support to Multilateral Environmental Agreements*

One of SSC's most fundamental roles is to provide sound, scientific information and advice to relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This reporting period saw meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) for three of our most important policy fora:

1. *The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) CoP7 – Nairobi, Kenya, 2005*  
The meeting covered many topics of interest to SSC, including debate about listing gorillas and basking sharks on CMS Appendices as well as proposed resolutions and recommendations on climate change, by-catch and adoption of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use. Highlights from SSC's direct involvement in CMS were signing and active participation in the coordination and implementation of the MOU and Strategic Plan of Action for West African elephants, which includes 13 range States, and the MOU and Action Plan for the conservation of saiga antelope with Mongolia, Uzbekistan and WWF International. We maintain very regular communication with the CMS Secretariat on matters of mutual concern.
2. *The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) CoP8 – Curitiba, Brazil, 2006 and CoP9 – Bonn, Germany, 2008*  
Of particular note at CoP8 was the demand for indicator work to focus on highlighting the relationship between biodiversity and the alleviation of poverty, particularly the contributions that biodiversity provides to ecosystem goods and services. This provided SSC with clear direction to continue to develop our nascent work on sustainable use indicators, including those on biodiversity used in medicines and human food, the proportion of products derived from sustainable sources, and changes in the status of species threatened by trade. Discussions in the side events we hosted also reflected a clear recognition of the need for both the IUCN Red List Index and the Sampled Red List Index. Further interest and support was expressed for the development of important post-2010 indicators including those on climate change, disease, and the loss and fragmentation of habitats and ecosystems. We have made a substantial contribution to the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation showing how the work of the SSC SGs contributes to the achievement of all the targets and new assessment tools under development were showcased at CBD CoP8. At CoP9 IUCN presented a more detailed synthesis of all the work being done to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.
3. *The Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) CoP14, The Hague, Netherlands, 2007*  
As we have done for many years, the Species Programme in collaboration with SSC members and Specialist Group Chairs produced the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices for CoP14. SSC was directly involved in issues of species trade and conservation including a focus on: sharks, sturgeon, paddle fish, toothfish, Asian big cats and rhinos, African elephants and rhinos, Tibetan and saiga antelope, freshwater turtles and tortoises. There were numerous proposals for the listing of species in the CITES Appendices and many other issues, including the links between CITES-traded species and human livelihoods and, importantly CITES's own Strategic Vision (2008–2013) and its link to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other policy instruments. The CoP was preceded by a three-day African Elephant range States meeting in which SSC's African Elephant Specialist

Group continues to play a central role. The work of IUCN, SSC and its Specialist Groups, in particular, was repeatedly commented on from the floor.

## 7. Governance

An important part of our success in achieving these commitments resulted from strong leadership and good governance, including:

- (a) *Active participation on Council by the SSC Chair and external review of the Commission*  
I attended all Council meetings in the 2005–2008 intersessional period and served actively on the Programme and Policy Committee, the Governance Task Force and the One Programme Working Group of the IUCN Council. My performance as Chair was appraised (as per Regulation 78. c) and the Commission was externally reviewed (as per Resolution 19.2).
- (b) *A highly productive Steering Committee*  
One of SSC's main strengths is its highly technical, very experienced Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consisted of 18 members, who ranged from high-level academics to the leaders of several leading international conservation organizations. Despite their commitments to their paid positions, the members were totally committed to their respective roles and work assignments on the SSC Steering Committee.
- (c) *Fully operational Sub-Committees and Task Forces*  
Part of the SSC's success this intersessional period resulted from the work of several exceptional sub-committees and task forces – each mandated with a specific purpose. Three taxonomic sub-committees were formed, namely the Invertebrate, Marine and Plant Conservation Sub-Committees. These three taxonomic Sub-Committees were tasked to represent the interests of their respective components of the SSC network, help to prioritize their work, and improve their strategic engagement with SSC and other parts of IUCN. Three thematic Sub-Committees were formed, namely the Biodiversity Assessments, Biodiversity Indicators and Sustainable Use Sub-Committees. These Sub-Committees played very specific roles in the SSC, overseeing and guiding our work in some of our most critical areas – Red List assessment, maintenance of the Red List standards, development of crucial policies on data sourcing and use, the development of species-based indicators and our cross-cutting work in the field of sustainable use. Several short-term task forces were established over the intersessional period, the most important being the SSC Restructuring Task Force which handled the issue of 5a, above.
- (d) *Appointment of SG Chairs*  
The appointment of the 109 SSC Specialist Group Chairs, Co-chairs and Red List Authorities against a formal SSC Terms of Reference went smoothly. Most of these were completed by the end of 2005 with various adjustments since then due to resignations and attrition. The Commission lost some very distinguished and valued members of the network in this period due to ill health, others passed away. Most of our appointed Chairs performed satisfactorily in their unique role as leaders of groups of unpaid experts giving of their time to IUCN – a task not to be underestimated.
- (e) *Establishment of the Membership*  
Each Specialist Group Chair is mandated to appoint the membership of his/her respective group. As of the end of January 2008, a total of 7,495 SSC members were registered on the Commission Registration System – a figure which increases regularly with the appointment of new members.
- (f) *First-ever meeting of the SSC Specialist Group Chairs*  
A major achievement of the 2005–2008 intersessional period was the first-ever meeting of the SSC Specialist Group Chairs, which took place February 2008 in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. It was designed to celebrate the voluntarism of the Chairs and acknowledge their enormous contribution to global species conservation over the last six decades. The meeting, attended by the majority of SSC as well as the leadership of the IUCN Secretariat from headquarters and regions, was a resounding success. Redesign of SSC, IUCN policy, the World Conservation Congress, tools for species and area-based conservation planning, communications,

networking and many other issues were discussed – allowing the Chairs to share their knowledge and experience with each other.

(g) *Redesign for Future*

With SSC being almost 60 years old, and having expanded organically during that time, there were some concerns as to whether coordination and support of the >7,500 members and ~109 groups was still viable. Questions were also raised as to whether SSC can lead itself and others into the future while still maintaining credibility as the authoritative provider of species-related scientific information – particularly in the face of our increasingly politicized world and the complexity of the challenges we face. For these reasons, the SSC Restructuring Task Force was established in 2005. The Task Force reviewed the many external and internal evaluations and needs assessment studies that SSC and IUCN have conducted over the last 10 years, as well as the SSC Voluntarism Study of 2001 and a telephonic survey with our SG Chairs in 2007 for this work. The Task Force concluded that it was time to redesign SSC to better ensure its ability to contribute its collective power to a rapidly-changing world. Based on the pressure-state-response model, which underpins our new Strategic Plan, the fundamental concept of the redesign separates the SSC Red List assessment activities from our work on analysing threats to biodiversity and mitigating these threats through our collective conservation actions. This shift further ensures the independence, objectivity and credibility of our Red List process.

## 8. Finances

The finances of SSC remain a challenge. The Commission Operations Fund is insufficient for the governance needs of the Commission and the Office of the SSC Chair. Likewise, the core funds allocated to the Species Programme do not cover even the core functions of maintaining the Red List standards, producing the annual Red List, or providing the necessary support to the Commission. External donor funds for the programmatic contribution of SSC must be raised from external sources in an increasingly competitive and biodiversity “unfriendly” funding environment.

- (a) The Commission Operations Fund has increased from CHF 267,000 to 297,000 per annum over this intersessional period. These funds contribute to the running of the SSC Chair’s Office and the governance of the various SSC Sub-committees. Despite the tight allocation, we have aimed to carry forward some funds each year in order to secure ourselves for larger requirements such as the SSC Specialist Group Chairs’ meeting and our Commission contribution to the World Conservation Congress.
- (b) As agreed by the SSC Steering Committee in 2006, all carbon emissions from travel paid for by the SSC Commission Operating Fund are now offset using the IUCN Carbon Fund. The offset amounts for travel paid for by the Commission Operations Fund average approximately CHF 2,500 per annum – hardly significant but at least a gesture of intent.
- (c) As mentioned at the beginning of this report, funds from the Wildlife Conservation Society, the MAVA Foundation, the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria, the Chicago Zoological Society and Conservation International were crucial to my being able to become a full-time Chair for SSC. It also allowed me to hire a part-time Senior Commission Officer and covered some of my travel expenses.
- (d) The Species Programme currently receives core funds from IUCN of approximately CHF 1,000,000 per annum – less than 1% of the overall budget of IUCN. These funds are used to leverage approximately four times this amount from external donor sources. IUCN’s project-driven funding model continues to place major constraints on the ability of the programme to provide the core support required by the Commission.

## 9. Conclusion

Adhering to IUCN’s “One Programme” vision, SSC and the Species Programme have now revised our Strategic Plan for Species for the intersessional period 2009–2012 to be more directly linked to the vision, goals and thematic priorities of IUCN. The Plan will be accompanied by a four-year operational plan. Finalization of the strategy and operational plan coincides with the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.

The 2005–2008 intersessional period, despite financial constraints, has been one of many victories, large and small, for SSC and the Species Programme. Many initiatives were started, now successfully brought to fruition. Successful planning and strategic thinking all through the period has placed us in an excellent position to face new challenges in the next intersessional period and beyond.

# **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Report 2004–2008 by the Chair, Nikita Lopoukhine**

## **Introduction**

WCPA is IUCN's worldwide network of protected area experts. Its mission, as confirmed at the Bangkok World Conservation Congress in 2004, is: **to promote the establishment and effective management of a worldwide, representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.** In pursuing this mission, WCPA aims to become the world's recognized source of guidance, support and expertise on protected areas. WCPA has a fully integrated programme with the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas (PPA), in line with the "One Programme" concept of IUCN. The main area of focus for the Commission in the 2004–2008 period has been on the implementation of the outcomes of the 2003 World Parks Congress and the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Accordingly, this report will briefly highlight key achievements during the 2004–2008 period.

These priorities guided the design and appointment of a Steering Committee and the development of an IUCN-WCPA Strategic Plan. This Report is aligned along the key strategic directions of the Strategic Plan and the Commission's regional structure.

## **Conserving Biodiversity – Marine priority**

Working alongside and in support of partners on marine protected areas (MPA) actions across the oceans of the world, initiatives undertaken included holding a global MPA Summit in Washington, DC in 2007. A resulting coalition secured joint resources from IUCN members (CI, TNC, WWF US) to establish a WCPA Marine MPA Coordination Officer post. Membership in WCPA Marine was expanded significantly to include members in over 50 countries. Through a grant from the Packard Foundation a business plan was drawn up, including a funding strategy. WCPA Marine played a major role in the planning and implementation of the first International Marine Protected Areas Conference (IMPAC) in Australia.

WCPA Marine launched an action plan (in all three IUCN languages) that includes the implementation of a marine web portal for MPAs to strengthen the effectiveness of MPA networks. Further, with Google and National Geographic concerted efforts have been launched to enhance public access to, and understanding of, MPAs and progress on implementing MPA networks. Work commenced on a quality assured "Wet List" of protected areas that can be used for global reporting and analysis on MPA progress.

## **Conserving Biodiversity – Mountains priority**

The period was marked by the tragic loss of stalwart Commission members Mingma Sherpa and Chandra Garung.

The retention and motivation of 500+ WCPA Mountains Biome experts was achieved in part through: providing an active listserv and a newsletter "Update" on mountain issues; sponsoring three international fora facilitating connectivity conservation in mountains; and publishing three publications: *Guidelines for Planning and Managing Mountain Protected Areas* (in English, Russian and Spanish), *Managing mountain protected areas: Challenges and responses for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and *Managing Protected Areas: A Global Guide*.

## **Science, Knowledge and Management**

With over 130 WCPA members this Strategic Direction also incorporates task forces on Protected Area Categories, Protected Landscapes, Wilderness, and Information Management. A program on alien invasive species and protected areas was also launched.

A particular focus within the period was the project “*Enhancing our Heritage: monitoring and managing for success in natural World Heritage sites*”. Working with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre the project tested the IUCN-WCPA Management Effectiveness Evaluation Framework in nine world heritage sites in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Projects to extend application of the methodology to other world heritage sites, as well as other protected areas, are underway. Also, the *Global study on management effectiveness of protected areas* in collaboration with the University of Queensland, WWF International, The Nature Conservancy and UNEP-WCMC has compiled information on assessments of over 6000 protected areas in more than 80 countries. Results were reported at the CBD second meeting of the Ad Hoc Protected Areas Working Group meeting in Feb 2008 and will serve as an indicator for the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project.

WCPA members have conducted training and capacity building workshops for management effectiveness evaluation in Europe, West Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia. The objective is to develop a network of people who have the knowledge and capacity to assist countries in meeting their management effectiveness commitments under the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas.

The Categories Task Force is revising the guidelines to the IUCN protected area management categories in response to the Amman IUCN Congress resolution. The objective is to clarify application of the category system in light of current issues, changing attitudes and conditions within protected areas. A “summit” on the categories was held in Almeria, Spain, in 2007. The revised Guidelines are to be finalized in time for the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.

The Wilderness Task Force (WTF) launched a new website to update membership, post documents (including a growing library of wilderness materials – maps, laws/policy statements) and request/obtain comments on draft documents. This Task Force produced the Handbook on International Wilderness Law and Policy and launched The Wild Planet Project, an overview on wilderness conservation. The WTF also planned and implemented the very successful 8<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress (Alaska) and began planning for the 9<sup>th</sup> Congress in Mexico in 2009.

## **Capacity Building**

The Protected Area Learning Network (PALNet) [www.parksnet.org/](http://www.parksnet.org/) was launched with great success at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Latin America Protected Areas Congress. This virtual platform allows all people related to protected areas to have easy access to a collective database where documents, projects and experts can easily be found.

A series of workshops on the review of, and capacity-building for, the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity were held in: Cape Town, South Africa, India and Sabah, Malaysia. These involved WCPA Regional Vice Chairs, IUCN members, the CBD Secretariat and a range of other partners

The Sustainable Financing Task Force completed a global survey of PA funding and expenditure in 2007. The outcomes yielded a median figure of \$9.04 invested per hectare per annum on existing protected areas, though the costs were highly variable, both within and between countries. Through the survey it became obvious that governments continue to fund PAs in the context of entire budget relativities rather than on a needs basis. The survey underlined the importance of governments continuing to fund protected areas as a public good. A 2007 meeting in London showcased protected area programs funded by carbon offset funding. Standards are needed for universal application to ensure recognition of the value of such programs.

The Tourism Task Force provided advice on request on a variety of issues and determined that a global collection of park tourism data is feasible and this will be pursued. Linkages between tourism and financing protected areas were explored and the results were presented at the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas meeting in Rome in a paper entitled “Improving protected area finance through tourism”. Other publications included *Tourism and Protected Areas: Benefits Beyond Boundaries*.

## Governance, Communities and Livelihoods

Jointly managed by WCPA and CEESP, the focus was on promoting multiple forms, and the good governance, of protected areas, in particular national and local implementation. The “IUCN protected area governance matrix” was published. The concept of protected area governance, through both “type” and “quality” considerations was refined. Technical support, numerous workshops and missions were carried out within a dozen countries. Advances under the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas with regard to community involvement in PA governance and CCAs was tracked.

The understanding and widespread application of, Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) were significantly broadened. Regional reviews of CCA status and needs were carried out. Papers, cases studies and information were made available. A Global Alliance in support of Community Conserved Areas is evolving out of an international workshop on CCAs, in Turkey.

Capacity building was addressed by developing regional learning networks for co-management of protected areas with indigenous peoples and regional networks. A new curriculum was established for PA managers in West Africa, and testing it was carried out at both classroom and field level in Morocco.

Publications included *Protected Landscapes and Agrobiodiversity Value, and Community Conserved Areas: a review of status and needs after Durban 2003* and *CBD COP7 2004 Preliminary Synthesis*.

A WCPA Task Force took responsibility for implementing WCC 3.063, “Cities and Conservation.” The Task Force concentrated on the key role of protected areas in connecting urban people to nature, and in providing nature services to cities and their residents. This exploratory effort focused on urban protected areas and on building connections with urban institutions.

## Regional activity highlights

Continued attention was paid to strengthening the network by selective recruitment and strengthening communications among members within Regions. Specific initiatives include having the Government of Benin declare a protected area day, and a week of exhibitions on this theme. A number of WCPA best practices guidelines were translated into Russian, Thai, Bahasa and Arabic, considerably broadening the outreach and application of these publications

Numerous workshops and congresses were organized by WCPA Vice Chairs and publications realized over the period. These were undertaken through partnerships and a wide range of sponsorships. Reference below to WCPA Regions provides the link for following up with the Regional Vice Chair.

- *Managing Protected Areas in Times of Change: Leadership in Governance of Protected Areas.* WCPA Caribbean
- *Protected Areas: buffering nature against climate change. Proceedings of a WWF-Australia and IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Symposium.* WCPA Australia New Zealand
- *Proceedings of the Regional Conference and the Kinabalu Action Plan.* WCPA South East Asia
- *Gap Analysis for terrestrial protected areas.* WCPA South East Asia
- *Case studies on protected areas management in SEA.* WCPA South East Asia
- *Assessment of Institutional Arrangements of three pilot protected areas in SEA.* WCPA South East Asia

Regional Vice Chairs were active in providing technical assistance on: implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas; capacity building, including establishing training centres and focusing on training the trainer approaches; World Heritage management; specific protected area issues; the updating of the World Database on Protected Areas; in country reviews on protected areas; gender issues related to protected area management; management effectiveness assessments; securing financing for, in particular, indigenous communities involved in protected area management; connectivity conservation; gap analysis on both marine and terrestrial interests; opening lines of communication with local communities around PAs; establishment and management of protected areas; trans-boundary protected areas.

WCPA was increasingly called upon to provide a service of Verification and Certification for assessing PA establishment and management against IUCN Categories.

## **World Heritage**

WCPA continued to contribute to the evaluation and monitoring of natural World Heritage sites around the world as contemplated in the World Heritage Convention, while simultaneously seeking to improve performance. An independent evaluation of IUCN's work on World Heritage was undertaken, and is being implemented as funding becomes available. Particular effort has been placed on developing an independent fund for natural World Heritage, capacity building for WCPA members carrying out field missions, and encouraging the use of World Heritage sites as models to promote the benefits of effective protected areas for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

## **International events with prominent WCPA representation**

- CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on PAs, Montecatini (June 2005) – Featured side events and Chair's plenary address
- First Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC), Australia (October 2005) – Co-sponsored by WCPA
- Conservation and Sustainable Use in Protected Areas and Corridors, Brazil (October 2005) – Co-sponsored by WCPA
- 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP8) to CBD, Curitiba, Brazil (March 2006) – Featured side events by WCPA
- 8<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress, Anchorage, Alaska (November 2006) – Organized by WCPA Wilderness TF, Plenary address by Chair and release of Trans-boundary book edited by Deputy Chair
- Brazilian Protected Area Congress (June 2007) – Plenary address by Chair and other WCPA members
- Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (September 2007) – Plenary address by Chair and a final synthesis by Deputy Chair
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Congress, Bariloche, Argentina (October 2007) – Programme organized by WCPA featuring many WCPA members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on Protected Areas, Rome (February 2008) – Training workshops organized by WCPA
- 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of CBD, Bonn (May 2008) – Featured side events by WCPA

## **Significant other initiatives**

An annual World Protected Leadership Forum was held and organized by IUCN WCPA/PPA with a host country Park Agency. CEOs from across the world used the opportunity to bring forward their preoccupation and share solutions as well as provide input to IUCN on the priorities faced by the leading protected area agencies of the world. Canada, Mexico and Scotland hosted the first three fora.

South Africa hosted a meeting in Cape Town of invited participants at the Durban+5 meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the commitments coming out of the Durban World Parks Congress and to set directions for the next five years as well as begin to formulate ideas for the next World parks Congress.