



Ecosystem News

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New RVC Western Europe

Jabier Ruiz-Mirazo is a 32 year-old forest engineer who works for the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Granada. He graduated (with Distinction) from Madrid Polytechnic University in 2004, with a thesis where the concept of ecosystem naturalness was revisited from a Mediterranean perspective and innovative actions were proposed to manage a planted coniferous forest towards greater levels of naturalness. Subsequently, his work in research has mostly been focused on the integration of livestock grazing into Mediterranean forest management. More specifically, he has studied the potential and limitations of using targeted livestock grazing to reduce fuel loads and wildfire risk in Andalusia (Spain). Jabier has worked in other countries worldwide and has participated in multiple conferences and international workshops. As regional vice-chair for Western Europe, he looks forward to working in close collaboration with CEM members in the region to promote scientifically and technically sound ecosystem management. Contact: [Jabier Ruiz-Mirazo](#)



“Threatened Ecosystems, Vulnerable People” CEM Side event at CBD CoP10

Angela Andrade (CEM Deputy Chair), Neville Ash (Head, IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme), Bernal Herrera-Fernández (CATIE, Costa Rica) and Jon Paul Rodríguez (CEM Ecosystem Red List Thematic Group Leader) led a CEM Side the Event “Threatened Ecosystems, Vulnerable People,” during the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan. The primary objective was to launch two flagship products of the Commission: the new book “Building resilience to Climate Change: Ecosystem based Adaptation and lessons from the field” (edited by Andrade, Herrera-Fernández and Roberto Cazzolla), and the proposed categories and criteria for the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (by Rodríguez and others). About 80 people attended the event, with important feedback for implementing the Red List Initiative. A film on ecosystem restoration by John Liu was presented and copies were distributed on DVD to anyone interested. Contact: [Angela Andrade](#) and [Jon Paul Rodríguez](#)

North American and Caribbean region catalyzes Inter-Commission working group on the Recovery of the Gulf of Mexico

A meeting of interested parties from the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) regional networks and the Secretariat office in Washington, DC, in August concluded that an Inter-Commission collaboration could make a meaningful contribution concerning the recovery of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Since that meeting substantial progress has been made. The working group has been established, including Roger McManus (SSC), Scott Hajost (CEL and CEM), Cyril Kormos (WCPA) and Steve Edwards (CEM). The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is supportive and is being kept apprised of progress. In addition, collaboration with the Harte Research Institute a conference on the State of the Gulf is being planned for October/November 2011. Molly Madden, a law student, and Charlotte Moser of the Ecologic Institute have volunteered to contribute to the initiative. Kelly Logan, a CEM sponsored intern in the IUCN DC office, along with Molly are making good progress in documenting federal regulatory responsibilities for the Gulf recovery and documenting the broad range of constituents engaged in the Gulf, including Federal, State, NGO, and scientific institutions. This background information will be invaluable in informing and guiding policy makers and future actions in the Gulf. Dr Chris Parsons, a CEM member, has been nominated to serve on the National Academies OSB Ecosystems Study Advisory Group. Chris chairs the marine section of the SCB - an IUCN member and is a member of the CEM. Contact: [Steve Edwards](#)

Selective Fishing and Balanced Exploitation in Relation to Fisheries and Ecosystem Sustainability – CEM side event at CBD CoP10



Life in harmony, into the future

The CEM Fisheries Expert Group (FEG), coordinated by EBCD organized a scientific workshop on Selective Fishing and Balanced Exploitation in Relation to Fisheries and Ecosystem Sustainability in Nagoya (Japan, 14-16 October 2010) and presented its conclusions in a side-event during COP 10. The 18 participants revisited, from an ecosystem point of view, the conventional selectivity paradigm used by fisheries management and conservation. A range of population and ecosystem models concurred in the conclusion that that this piecemeal strategy was unlikely to maintain ecosystem structure and functioning and needed to be replaced by a balanced harvest strategy characterized by the redistribution of harvest impacts on more trophic levels, species and sizes, proportionally to their natural production, reducing excessive impacts where they are currently occurring. There is ample evidence that single-species approaches are inadequate to reach ecosystem objectives but next efforts will focus, inter alia in collecting more empirical evidence to confirm these model-based conclusions. Contact: [Serge Michel Garcia](#)

Ecosystem Service Indicators Workshop

Ecosystem services gain increasing attention within the scientific community, by policy-makers and from the private sector. As ecosystem services comprise multiple dimensions and scales which are usually not measurable directly and require unifying approaches, indicators have been suggested to capture the complex benefits provided by ecosystems to human society. Therefore, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, located in Cambridge convened an Ecosystem Service Indicators workshop (Murray Edward College, Cambridge, 16-18 November 2010), with the support of SwedBio. The workshop's aim was to synthesize and reflect on lessons learnt for developing and mainstreaming indicators for ecosystem services at different scales. The workshop was well attended and included representatives of international bodies (CBD, EEA, Ramsar, and Birdlife International) as well as experts spanning several continents and areas of expertise. IUCN was represented by Dr. Sue Mainka (Head, Science and Learning, IUCN) and CEM by Dr. David Vačkák (Charles University in Prague). Contact: [Dr. David Vačkák](#), [Matt Walpole](#), [Claire Brown](#) or [Abisha Mapendembe](#).

CEM-Mesoamerica and partners promote ecosystem management issues at the XIV Congress of the Mesoamerican Society of Biology and Conservation

The XIV Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation was a regional event that was held during the month of November in Costa Rica. This congress brought together more than 400 scientists, professionals, practitioners and students from various countries in Mesoamerica. This event is held every year and is organized by the Mesoamerican Society of Biology and Conservation. The congress theme "Conservation and development: a Mesoamerican proposal in the face of global change" reflected the real and current challenges associated in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and sustainable development in the face of global threats such as natural habitat loss and climate change. Under the Congress theme, CEM, CATIE and other partners organized three scientific symposiums: Applications of Ecosystem approach in protected areas and biological corridors, the IV Mesoamerican Symposium of Biological Corridors and the 1st Symposium of Sustainable Forestry Management. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity to exchange applications and experiences on the key themes and generate ideas for possible contributions on how to reduce the impact of these global changes on biodiversity and human populations as well as explore the role of conservation science in policy formation and effective practice in the Mesoamerican Region. Symposiums' conclusions will be published shortly by CEM and Mesoamerican Society of Biology and Conservation. [More](#)

Global Change and the World's Mountains, 27-30 September 2010

The aims of this international conference, organized by the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI, Scotland and the Mountain Research Initiative, were to present, evaluate and synthesize progress in understanding of global change in mountain regions since 2005; and to work proactively on a global agenda for research and action relating to global change and mountain regions. It attracted about 450 participants from 60 countries and successfully achieved its aims, with 12 plenary presentations and over 300 oral presentations in 42 parallel sessions for the programme ([More](#)). A CD of extended abstracts can be ordered free from [Angela Paterson](#); all oral presentations will soon be available [online](#), including a catalogue of participants and research summaries. The plenary presentations will be published in 2011 as a special issue of Mountain Research and Development (www.mrd-journal.org), which will include the presentations from the final plenary session addressing the range of papers at the conference. A similar conference may take place in 2015. Contact: [Martin Price](#)

Community-based wetland management at Goot Ting marshes, northeast Thailand: implications for policy and practice

Wetlands cover around 36,616 km² or 7.5% of Thailand's land area. The majority of the 42,000 wetland sites have no formalised, legal protection. This research reports on a new wetland management approach for communities to manage a seasonally inundated wetland, Goot Ting marshes, in Nong Khai Province, northeastern Thailand. Activities undertaken

under this initiative comprised participatory research on the natural resources to identify the biodiversity values and users within the wetland. The boundary and two recognised zones of the community-managed wetland were demarcated. Each zone had specific rules drawn up. Two new institutional bodies for community wetland management – at provincial and wetland level – were established for the management of Goot Ting marshes. This grass-roots initiative provides strong impetus towards a new community-based, conservation agenda for wetland management. Thailand should adopt suitable community wetland legislation and formulate community wetland policy, recognising customary rights to govern and manage wetlands. Contact: [John Parr](#)



Addressing Climate Resilience in Coastal Communities of the Kapoe Estuary at the Andaman Coast, Thailand

CRISTAL (Community-based Risk Screening Tool: Adaptation and Livelihoods) was applied to assess the climate resilience of coastal households which are mangrove dependent, in a reef to ridge approach, to include the watershed ecosystem while assessing climate related risks for the communities around Kapoe Estuary in Thailand. The direct use value from fishing, collecting and *Nypa* palm thatching activities; and indirect use value from cage culture were also determined for the mangrove estuary. The area belongs to a larger Ramsar site and had been affected by the tsunami in December 2004. The study concludes that both the Ramsar wise use concept and the reef to ridge approach look beyond ecosystem boundaries not only for

ecological linkages but socio-economic benefits and values. Contact: [Lara Esser](#)

Assessment of land use and land cover dynamics in the Mkomazi sub-basin, Tanzania (1987–2008)

Changes in land use and land cover can have significant consequences on the livelihood of humankind. Evidence indicates that changes in land use and land cover have a direct relationship to many of the earth's fundamental characteristics and processes, including productivity of the land, interrelationships between atmospheric processes, and terrestrial processes. Although Mkomazi sub-basin plays both economical and ecological roles by supporting livelihood and conservation in Tanzania, the carrying capacity of the basin has been exceeded culminating into land use conflicts. The study hypothesizes that anthropogenic factors including policies influence land-use and land-cover change. Data pertaining to land use and land cover were obtained from multi-temporal satellite imagery (Landsat) and a fieldwork. Preliminary results suggest a considerable land-use/cover change with an increase in cultivated area. The results of this study could be utilized by land use and natural resources planners for better planning and utilization of resources in the Mkomazi sub-basin.

Contact: [Remigius Rushomesa](#)

Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World

In some circles, the debate over what to do about climate change continues. Yet species, ecosystems, glaciers, weather systems, and more are already changing and approaching a tipping point. Climate change adaptation experts Drs. Lara Hansen and Jennifer Hoffman contend we can't afford to wait for a definitive decision on how to tackle these changes because they're already happening. Action is needed now. In *Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World*, they offer a way forward. With climate change forcing us to transform the way we envision, prioritize, and implement conservation and management of natural resources, addressing these threats cannot simply be an afterthought, but must be integrated into the very framework of planning and implementation. *Climate Savvy* is a guide to bridging the gap between what scientists and practitioners each know and putting that combined knowledge into practice. The authors consider the implications of climate change for key resource management issues of our time: invasive species, corridors and connectivity, ecological restoration, and pollution. Based on collaboration with a wide range of scientists, conservation leaders, and practitioners, they offer general guidance as well as practical steps and strategies that can help conservationists and natural resource managers cope with this new reality. Learn more at www.climatesavvy.org.

What's Happening @ IUCN?



Departure of Head of Ecosystem Management Programme

Neville Ash left IUCN at the end of November to pursue a new challenge as Chief of the Biodiversity Unit at UNEP, Nairobi. Neville joined the Ecosystem Management Programme, which is the secretariat for CEM, almost three years ago to head the Programme. He has made major inputs to IUCN's work on climate change coordination, islands, drylands, and disaster risk reduction, as well as representing the interests of ecosystem-scale biodiversity in the Union and serving as the HQ focal point for the Commission on Ecosystem Management. While IUCN and CEM wish him all the best for his new role, he will continue to engage with CEM as an invaluable member.

Interim Head of Ecosystem Management Programme

Edmund G.C. Barrow has over 25 years of experience of working with community based natural resource management and sustainable development (agroforestry, participatory natural resource and forest management) in different ecosystems (in particular dryland and forest ecosystems) in Africa. He currently works with the Eastern African regional office of IUCN and coordinates their work in forest and dryland conservation together with social and livelihood issues. Edmund has extensive practical field experience in a number of long term projects with both NGO's and as part of bi-lateral assistance programmes (for example in Turkana, Kenya), where a significant effort is placed on capacity building and empowerment, and, as a result he is an accomplished trainer and facilitator. He combines this experience with the ability to inform and influence policy at national and regional levels. More recently his work has increasingly focused on the linkages between people's livelihoods (poverty reduction, risk mitigation, and exploring economic opportunities) and their natural environments to demonstrate the importance of environmental assets at different levels (rural community, political and at macro-economic planning). [Contact](#)



Announcements & Events

Off the Shelf newsletter provides the latest information on IUCN's publications. The December issue is now available online. [Click](#)

Niger Bird DataBase website

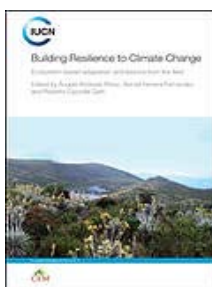
The new, bi-lingual Niger Bird Database website, <http://www.bromus.net/nibdab>, was recently opened. The site aims to promote the knowledge and conservation of the birds of Niger. Geo-referenced and dated observations can be entered, analysed and shown on maps with a few clicks of the mouse and minimal typing. The site can also be used to call up site and block lists, and to find out where to look for those species that you have wanted to see for so many years. On 18 November 2010 the database held 27,930 records of 465 species from 133 half-degree blocks in Niger. Many of the species are migrants from Europe. In addition the site contains: a checklist of the birds of Niger; bird pictures from Niger; literature references and links. In preparation: a section on contacting other birders in Niger; a section showing how ringed and satellite-tracked birds have connected Niger with more than 80 other countries; a section on names for birds in Zjerma, Haoussa, Gourmantché etc. The software is easily adapted for use in other countries and for other animal and plant groups. Contact: [Joost Brouwer](#), NiBDaB manager, [Ulf Liedén](#), NiBDaB site designer and webmaster



The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is an innovative community website for people working to manage the natural environment in the face of climate change. Initiated by EcoAdapt and Island Press, CAKE is a *free* online resource where you can access information, tools, and best practices for making your work climate savvy. CAKE connects people engaged or interested in adaptation to communicate, share ideas, and collaborate with like-minded peers, and participate in a broader adaptation network. The pieces of CAKE include case studies demonstrating how others are including the reality of climate change in their work, a virtual library of useful adaptation resources, a community section with an expert advice column, a directory of professionals interested in or practicing on-the-ground climate change adaptation, and a tools section full of useful online resources for adaptation planning and implementation. Whether you are actively engaged in adaptation or are new to the concept, you will find CAKE invaluable. It's your online adaptation destination. Find out more at www.cakex.org

SER2011 World Conference on Ecological Restoration – August 21-25, 2011 – Merida, Mexico. The theme of SER2011 is "Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture". [More](#)

Publications

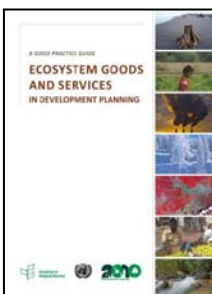


Ecosystem Management Series 9

Building resilience to climate change : ecosystem-based adaptation and lessons from the field

Andrade Pérez, Angela; Herrera Fernández, Bernal; Cazzolla Gatti, Roberto

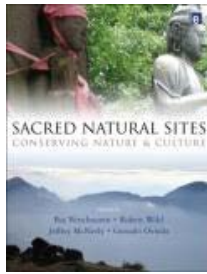
With climate change now a certainty, the question is now how much change there will be and what can be done about it. One of the answers is through adaptation. Many of the lessons that are being learned in adaptation are from success stories from the field. This publication contains eleven case studies covering different ecosystems and regions around the world. Its aim is to summarize some current applications of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) concept and its tools used around the world, and also draw lessons from experiences in conservation adaptation. [Download](#)



A Good Practice Guide - Ecosystem Goods and Services in Development Planning

Convention on Biological Diversity

Achieving biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and socio-economic development relies on a good understanding of the interdependence of all these dimensions. It can be achieved by factoring the role, use and availability of ecosystem goods and services in development planning and decision making processes. It involves strengthening the capacity of decision makers in capturing the benefits and limits of ecosystem goods and services and transforming this knowledge into concrete actions. It is for instance achieved by enhancing the integration of several sectoral plans into one multi-sectoral development strategy using the environment as a common denominator and by developing financial incentive measures based on the role and valuation of ecosystem goods and services. It also includes strengthening partnerships and collaboration between the environment and development sectors putting in place pro-active environmental measures and identifying entry points and bridges for their effective mainstreaming and implementation. This guide compiles examples and good practices that support the integration and the importance of ecosystem goods and services in both the planning and budgeting processes. [Download](#)



Sacred Natural Sites, Conserving Nature and Culture

Sacred Natural Sites are the world's oldest protected places. This book focuses on a wide spread of both iconic and lesser known ecosystems such as sacred groves of the Western Ghats (India), Sagarmatha /Chomolongma (Mt Everest, Nepal, Tibet - and China), the Golden Mountains of Altai (Russia), Holy Island of Lindisfarne (UK) and the sacred lakes of the Niger Delta (Nigeria). The book illustrates that sacred natural sites, although often under threat, exist within and outside formally recognised protected areas, heritage sites. Sacred natural sites may well be some of the last strongholds for building resilient networks of connected landscapes. They also form important nodes for maintaining a dynamic socio-cultural fabric in the face of global change. The diverse authors bridge the gap between approaches to the conservation of cultural and biological diversity by taking into account cultural and spiritual values together with the socio-economic interests of the custodian communities and other relevant stakeholders. [Order](#)

Padmavathy, K & Poyyamoli G, (2010) **Alternative farming techniques for sustainable food production**, Sustainable Agriculture Reviews, volume 7, Springer, (in Press) [Contact](#)

Murali, J and Poyyamoli G, (2011) **Developing indicators for monitoring tourism and sustainability in Rameswaram, a buffer area in the Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, India**, Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism (in press) [Contact](#)

Swati S and Poyyamoli G (2011) **Between Vulnerability and Adaptations: A Preliminary Study on Natural Hazards, Coastline Change and Environmental Migration in Satabhaya Gram Panchayat, Orissa, India**, International journal of Earth Sciences & Engineering (IJEE) [Contact](#)

Settele J, Penev L, Teodor A, Georgiev A, Grabaum A, Grobelnik V, Hammen V, Klotz S, Kotarac M, Kuehn I (2010) **Atlas of Biodiversity Risk** Pensoft Publishers. [Order](#)

Poyyamoli G, Swati S and Jitendra M (2010). **A study on the impacts of recreational boating on chosen behavioural patterns of Irrawaddy dolphins at Chilika lake, India**, International Journal of Travel and Tourism (to be published in the forthcoming issue). [Contact](#)

UNEP (2010) United Nations Environment Programme: **Dead planet, living planet: Biodiversity and ecosystem restoration for sustainable development** [Download](#)

News from other Commissions

Did you know that each of the other five IUCN Commissions also publish regular newsletters? Further news and information on the activities of each of these Commissions can be found from the following links:

- [Commission on Education and Communication](#)
- [Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy](#)
- [Commission on Environmental Law](#)
- [Species Survival Commission](#)
- [World Commission on Protected Areas](#)

CEM Governance and Thematic Structure

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Global Thematic Groups

Fisheries Expert Group
Ecosystems Redlist
Latin America Grasslands Ecosystems
Ecosystem Approach
Climate Change Adaptation
Disaster Risk Reduction
Capacity Building
Ecosystem Services
Dryland Ecosystems
Island Ecosystems
Nutrient Cycling
Wetland Ecosystems
Connectivity conservation
Mountain Ecosystems
Ecosystems and the Private Sector
Ecosystem Restoration
Urban Ecosystems
Coastal ecosystems
Holarctic Steppes

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Olivier Hamerlynck
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