



# Ecosystem News

June 2010 | Volume 2

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## CEM Activities

### CEM Steering Committee meeting in Guinea Bissau

The CEM SC met in Guinea Bissau from 11 – 12 April, 2010 in Bissau, Guinea Bissau. The Steering committee and Secretariat provided updates on CEM's activities and updated the 2010 workplan. Despite having to postpone the planned associated workshop to develop mining codes for extractive industries in West Africa, the meeting was otherwise a great success, and the [minutes](#) are now available.

### CEM Nominates Steering Committee Representative for Oceania

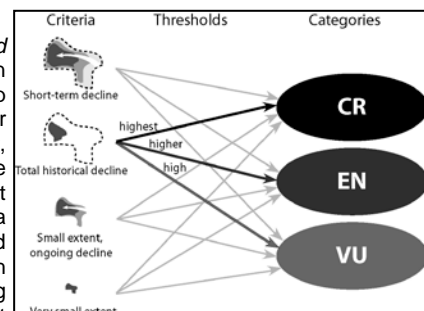


CEM has invited Mr. Kelvin Passfield to be its SC Representative for Oceania. Kelvin has a B.Sc. in Fisheries Technology from the Australian Maritime College, and Master's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. He considers Rarotonga in the Cook Islands as his home, but has lived and worked in a number of Pacific Island Countries, including Fiji, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. He has also worked on marine ecosystem related projects in South East and South Asia. Over the past 20 years Kelvin has gained extensive experience throughout the Asia Pacific region, working in coastal ecosystem management, fisheries development, fisheries and environmental policy and sustainable livelihoods. He has worked with Pacific Island Governments, national and international NGOs, and UN agencies, and has developed a strong interest in the sustainable use of natural resources to support livelihoods of coastal communities. He is married and has four daughters.

As with all Commission SC positions, Kelvin's appointment will need to be approved at the next Council meeting. Contact [Kelvin Passfield](#).

### Draft Categories and Criteria for a Red list of Ecosystems coming soon.

In response to Resolution 4.020, *Quantitative thresholds for categories and criteria of threatened ecosystems*, adopted during the IV World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008), the CEM Ecosystems Red List thematic group has led the development of a draft document, to be available soon for comment. A team of 21 scientists from 9 countries authored the document, currently in review at a major scientific journal. Proposed thresholds are expected to be applicable to terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, at multiple scales ranging from local to global. Proposed categories and criteria are based on historical and current rates of change in the distribution and function of ecosystems, and combine the existing species-based system with both theoretical and empirical ecosystem science (see Figure). Global testing of the proposed system is expected to result in a complete version by the next World Conservation Congress to be held in Korea in 2012. Contact: [Jon Paul Rodriguez](#) or [Kathryn M. Rodriguez-Clark](#)





#### Initiating Work on a Green Development Mechanism

CEM member, Francis Vorhies, who serves as the coordinator of the Green Development Mechanism 2010 Initiative, released an information document on the Green Development Mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity meetings in May 2010. The document includes a list of 20 FAQs explaining what the GDM is and it provides a brief overview of consultations to date, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Meeting on a Green Development Mechanism which concluded that "A key role for a GDM would be to establish a crediting scheme to identify and verify the biodiversity and/or development outcomes of projects..." The GDM will seek to mobilize private sector finance to mitigate biodiversity loss, much as the Clean Development Mechanism has done to mitigate climate change. Whereas biodiversity finance has traditionally come from official development assistance and philanthropic grants, a GDM would mobilise private finance by linking biodiversity supply with biodiversity demand through a market mechanism. By establishing a standard and accrediting process to certify the supply of biodiversity-protected areas and by facilitating a functional market, a GDM would enable the sale of certified biodiversity conservation to willing buyers, including businesses and consumers. Between now at the CBD COP10 in October in Nagoya, Dr Vorhies and colleagues in many organisations are working on building political support for a GDM. [Further information](#)

#### Addressing Climate Change in Coastal Communities of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada is implementing a new project on climate change and integrated coastal management. The project aims to strengthen the resilience of individuals and communities, and to integrate long-term sustainability of communities living in these vulnerable ecosystems. This will be achieved through participative action research, co-production and co-construction based on scientific and local knowledge of the socio-ecological system. Nine community partners and 22 researchers will establish and implement a holistic approach to coastal and watershed management to address issues such as accelerating erosion and increased storm activity due to climate change. For more information, contact the co-directors: [Dr. Steve Plante](#), or [Mrs. Chantal Gagnon](#) of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability



#### Island Rescue Initiative

The Island Arks Symposium, Australia's first National island conference was held in December 2009. Speakers from all over Australia shared their expertise on island issues including indigenous cultural values and partnerships, visitor management, invasive species, threatened species and ecosystem recovery, and conservation planning. Australia has custodianship of one of the most diverse array of island ecosystems of any country in the world, with islands from the tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans to the Southern Ocean. Island Rescue is an initiative that emerged from the Symposium. It identifies the need to transition to integrated management of islands to encompass environmental, social and economic targets including: protecting island biodiversity through improved biosecurity; supporting

indigenous Australians and creating sustainable indigenous employment; reducing the pressure of low value, high impact mass tourism; enhanced conservation management of a national network of Iconic Island refugia; dealing with the impacts of climate change. Contact: [Derek Ball](#)

#### Managing Invasive Species in Western Ghat Mountains, India

The Foundation for Research and Sustainable Development has been working to conserve mountain biodiversity in the Western Ghats Mountains in India, by focusing on *Shola* forests, which are threatened by invasive species (mainly *Lanata camara*) and other introduced exotic trees. Shola forests are tropical montane forests interspersed with grasslands at altitudes of 1500 m and above. The Foundation has recently completed a biological survey on the invasive species in Southern Tamil Nadu, India with the support of the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), Japan. Spatial mapping of potential distribution of invasive species using remote sensing and GIS techniques is being carried out. Contact [Parama Ananda](#)



#### Biodiversity Monitoring with synergy between *in-situ* and satellite approach in the Mediterranean Ecoregion



Field and remote sensing survey techniques are being utilised to better understand the biodiversity of the Mediterranean region in order to assist the authorities in conservation efforts for the area. An innovative approach named *Bio-monitoring* has been utilised to describe flora and fauna, ecosystems and habitats, monitoring threatened species and population trends, evaluate biodiversity indexes (creating a new one called "*Biodiversity area index*", R. Cazzolla, 2009) and ecosystem assessment, verify presence of unclassified species, provide information on invasive species, evaluate the impact of climate change on species and ecosystems and create a database of the Flora and Fauna of the Ecoregions. We associated this data to GIS analysis to provide maps, interactive layers for Google Earth and specific satellite analysis (e.g. rebuilding natural corridors, prevent deforestation and detect fire). Contact [Roberto Cazzolla](#).

## What's Happening @ IUCN?

### Inauguration of The IUCN Conservation Centre

With the opening of its new Headquarters building, IUCN has transformed its current headquarters into a Conservation Centre which has set a benchmark in sustainable construction. The new building incorporates a series of innovative green building techniques while operating within tight cost constraints. The expert team on sustainable architecture (architects, partners, consultants and engineers) have designed and constructed the building to meet three ambitious environmental building standards – LEED Platinum, Minergie-P and Minergie-Eco. The Centre also houses The MAVA Foundation and The World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA). The inauguration of the building will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, in conjunction with the IUCN Council meeting. [Further details](#)

## Announcements & Events

The new **IUCN corporate brochure** is now available in English, French and Spanish. Download a PDF from the IUCN website: [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Espagnol](#)

**The 7th Conference on Ecological Restoration** will take place from 23 to 27 August 2010 at the Palace of the Popes in Avignon (Southern France). This event is organised by the Society for the Ecological Restoration (Europe) every two years. The last in Gent ([www.ser2008.org](http://www.ser2008.org)) received more than 450 participants. Between 500 and 800 international specialists in restoration students are expected in Avignon 2010.

**A Natural Resources' "Power of Spirit" initiative and a newly released "Water & Music" DVD** were presented at the UNESCO sponsored "Music as a catalyst for environmental awareness" forum in Geneva, Switzerland earlier this year. Music, art and stories can be used in sustaining watersheds and the people who need them. Upcoming projects include children's book series "Natures Way" with the pilot edition of "Reflections" for K-12 & the child within. To support this initiative contact [Susan Lisa Toch](#).

**International Polar Year** has a new web site for its Oslo Science Conference 8-12 June 2010 - <http://ipy-osc.no> More than 2000 papers are listed on the site and abstracts will be posted in a few days. The Conference will be opened by HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and closed by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. The conference aims to sum up polar and cryosphere science and prepare the way for a "knowledge to action" meeting in Montreal 2012.

### Global Change and the World's Mountains' conference, Perth, Scotland, UK, 26-30 September 2010

Over 600 abstracts were submitted on a very wide range of themes, ranging from paleoecology to globalization, with a particularly large number relating to mountain ecosystems, land and water resources; 450 have been accepted for oral and poster presentation. It is expected that at least 400 people will attend the conference. It will be opened by the Scottish Minister for the Environment, and will include plenary presentations on a wide range of themes by global experts from five continents, as well as 42 parallel sessions. The final plenary session will bring the outcomes together and then consider how to move forward with the important task of ensuring that mountains are appropriately considered in the process leading up to the Rio+20 meetings in 2012 - and beyond\* For more information, see [www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010](http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010)

## Publications

Convenient Solutions to an Inconvenient Truth: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change. World Bank [Link](#)

Biel, Karl Y., Nonomura, Arthur M., Benson, Andrew A. And Nishio, John N. (2010) *The Path of Carbon in Photosynthesis. XXVI. Uptake and Transport of Methylglucopyranoside Throughout Plant*, Journal of Plant Nutrition, 33: 6, 902 — 913

Price, A.R.G., Harris, A., McGowan, A., Venkatachalam, A.J., Sheppard C.R.C. 2009. Chagos Feels the Pinch: assessment of holothurian (sea cucumber) abundance, illegal harvesting and conservation prospects in British Indian Ocean Territory. Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems. DOI: 10.1002/aqc.1054.

Price, A.R.G., Harris, A. 2009. *Decadal Changes (1996-2006) in Coastal Ecosystems of the Chagos Archipelago determined from Rapid Assessment*. Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems 19, 637-644

Sheppard, C., Al-Husiani M., Al-Jamali, F., Al-Yamani, F., Baldwin, R., Bishop, J., Benzoni, F., Dutrieux, E., Dulvy, N.K., Durvasula, S.R.V., Jones, D.A., Loughland, R., Medio, D., Nithyanandan, M., Pilling, G.M., Polikarpov, I., Price, A.R.G., Purkis, S., Riegl, B., Saburova, M., Namin, K.S, Taylor, O., Wilson, S., Zainal, K. 2010. *The Gulf: A Young Sea in Decline*. Mar. Pollut. Bull. 16, 13-38.

Venkatachalam, A. J., Price, A. R. G., Chandrasekara, S., Senaratna Sellamuttu, S. 2009. *Risk factors in Relation to Human Deaths and Other Tsunami (2004) Impacts in Sri Lanka: the fishers'-eye view*. Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems 19, 57 – 66.

## 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

### Steering Committee

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