



The Ecosystem News is CEM's quarterly newsletter

March 2011

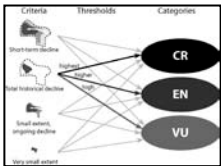
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CEM activities



CEM SC meeting and workshop on Integration of EBM Principles into River Basin and Mangrove Management Plans

The CEM SC met in Suva Fiji from 28 February to 4th March, for progress reporting on 2010 workplan, establishing priority activities for 2011 and co-hosting a workshop on *Integration of EBM Principles into River Basin and Mangrove Management Plans*, which was organized by IUCN Oceania Regional Office. The workshop was based on an IUCN Water and Nature Initiative ([WANI](#)) project. WANI works towards managing and protecting water reserves and heritage for the future benefit of all. Stretching across 5 continents in 12 river basins, WANI works with governments and local communities to use and manage water resources more sustainably. WANI aims to help reduce poverty and protect the environment by helping people to manage river flows and improving access to all communities. Minutes of the meeting and proceedings of the workshop will be available from the CEM website soon. [more](#)



IUCN Ecosystem Redlisting

In February, 2011, draft categories and criteria for an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems were published in *Conservation Biology*. The article is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#), as well as summaries in [Bahasa Indonesian](#), [Chinese](#) and [Danish](#). The next stage is to begin testing the category and criteria thresholds outlined in Table 1 of this article using as many case studies as possible. If you have data on ecosystem change and would like to try out the categories and criteria, please let us know! [more](#)



Implementation of Discussion Platforms on Ecosystem Management: Issues at the XIV Congress of the Mesoamerican Society of Biology and Conservation, November 8th - 12th, 2010 Costa Rica

The XIV Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation with the 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. CEM for Mesoamerica, 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. [more](#)



CEESP Sharing Power Conference, January 2011: Because the Planet cannot Sustain the Current Development Model

Kelvin Passfield and Radhika Murti represented CEM at this conference which was held from 11th to 15th January in Whakatane, New Zealand. A key focus was the need for all citizens, especially indigenous peoples, to play a greater role in the conservation, sustainable use and good governance of bio-cultural resources, through sound national and international policies. The conference included a panel discussion where the six IUCN Commissions, including CEM, provided information on the roles and ongoing work of the Commissions. [more](#)

Members' initiatives



SER Side Event at CBD COP10

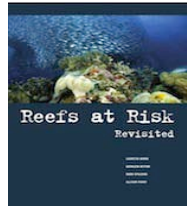
On 20 October, 2010, SER hosted a Side Event highlighting the multiple co-benefits of ecological restoration entitled: "Restoring Ecosystem Services: A cost-effective, participatory approach to conservation, climate change, and community development." The Side Event was a resounding success with over 60 attendees! Mike Wong, Executive Director of Parks Canada's Ecological Integrity Branch, served as the moderator with presentations by the SER Chair, Jim Harris and Vice Chair, Keith Bowers; the Ramsar Deputy Secretary General, Nick Davidson; Karen Keenleyside, also of Parks Canada's Ecological Integrity Branch, and SER's Chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network, Dennis Martinez. The Q&A session following the presentations was lively with significant audience participation, and the event provided an opportunity to highlight SER's collaborative relationship with Parks Canada as well as announce the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention. [more](#)



Oil Spills or Earthquakes: Exploring Trans-boundary Ecosystem Alternatives – A community-based initiative

What does the Puget Sound Inside Passage have to do with the Yangtze River Headwaters; a deadly Refinery explosion after cited hazards, and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill? The sinking Oil Rig on April 22 coinciding with Earth Day, and the devastating March Tsunami so close to World Water Day seem uncanny. With mounting earthquake tolls, global nuclear risks, increasing health and financial hardships, we need to ask again— Could these destructive events have been prevented?

www.ANaturalResource.com [more](#)



Three-quarters of world's coral reefs at risk owing to coastal development, watershed and marine-based pollution, overfishing and climate change.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) representatives attended the launch of the 'Reefs at Risk Revisited' report at simultaneous events held in Washington DC and London. Along with coastal and island state government representatives, scientists and policy makers, WCS heard presentations from lead authors on the new, detailed assessment of the status of and threats to the world's coral reefs. [more](#)



Identification and setting-up marine parks for Natura 2000, Croatia

The purpose of this EU-funded programme is to contribute to finalizing the marine part of the NATURA 2000 network in Croatia (an obligation of Croatia as a country acceding to the EU). The Natura 2000 Network is a Europe-wide ecological network of nature conservation areas and is the EU's main instrument for ecosystem management. Over 25,000 sites are included in the Network so far. In total, they cover 20% of Europe's land area and an important part of the surrounding seas. This makes it the largest network of conservation areas anywhere in the world. [more](#)



Workshop: Ecological Restoration for Continental Conservation

On November 15-18, 2010, the Society for Ecological Restoration and the Wildlands Network jointly sponsored a workshop at the High Lonesome Ranch in DeBeque, Colorado to examine the role of ecological restoration in continental-scale conservation efforts. This workshop was an important step toward fostering a productive synergy between the fields of restoration and conservation and establishing shared goals and a bold vision upon which to build. Participants had the opportunity to experience firsthand the

kind of large-scale, integrated vision underlying the workshop, since the 300-square-mile High Lonesome Ranch itself lies within an envisaged conservation corridor stretching the length of the Rocky Mountains. This setting made the workshop especially dynamic, as it provided a source of ideas and inspiration and allowed participants to see how these efforts look on the ground. [more](#)



Rangeland management in Kazakhstan.

A roundtable on "Challenges and solutions for sustainable use of rangeland resources" was sponsored by a joint project of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, UNDP/GEF, GTZ/BMZ during 23 - 24 November 2010 in Astana (Kazakhstan). Discussions focused on sustainable pasture resource management to improve welfare of rural population and protect the ecological integrity. Participants defined challenges of using the pastures in Kazakhstan and innovative ways to address them. Kazakhstan's land area is made up of almost 70% of pasture and due to an unsystematic economic use under-utilization and overexploitation (close to human settlements and wells) are widespread. Pasture restoration is a key priority for Kazakhstan. [more](#)



Use of Geoinformatics for Sustaining Forest Rights

The Forest Rights Act 2006 in Maharashtra India recognizes 13 types of forest rights (FRs) in favour of forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. Confirming a land-use that prevailed prior to 13th December 2005 was a major challenge since for qualifying for cultivation rights, forest land had to be under self-cultivation prior to that date. The challenge was successfully met by the use of geoinformatics operationalized by the Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), Pune, India. [more](#)



SER Statement Delivered in Working Group II on the CBD Future Work Programme

Keith Bowers, on behalf of the Society for Ecological Restoration, made an intervention at the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2010 Conference of Parties to emphasize, endorse and encourage the use of ecological restoration as a science driven, cost-effective, participatory approach to enhancing biodiversity values, improving the delivery of ecosystem services for sustainable livelihoods, and mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. We very much welcome the increased emphasis on ecosystem restoration, as stated in Agenda Item 4.3 a (ix), and as just recently noted by both the delegations of Norway and Canada, as an important mechanism for assisting the Parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention. [more](#)



Classification and criteria for evaluating environmental significance of vegetation communities as a basis for designing ECONET in the steppe zone

Establishment of ecological networks and providing transport and functional unity of the remaining sections of natural vegetation in the steppe zone, especially in strongly fragmented areas of the steppe landscape and with increasing anthropogenic impact, provides a fundamental challenge for conservation of steppe biodiversity strategies. Identifying the structural elements of ecological networks with the presence of indicator objects such as species and habitats that have high environmental significance is impossible without a classification of plant communities and their quantitative characteristics. A classification of steppe vegetation in the Don basin within the Rostov region has been established recently and assessment of environmental significance of isolated communities of species has been carried out. In the framework of the EU project "Sustainable Integrated Land Use of the Eurasian Steppes" (2007 - 2009), a network of protected areas (ECONET) has been established in the Azov and Lower Don regions (Russia, Rostov region) together with cross-border ecological corridors on the border of Ukraine (national level ECONET). [more](#)

IUCN



Nature+ drives next IUCN Congress

With only 18 months to go until the next IUCN World Conservation Congress starts in Jeju, IUCN and the Republic of Korea have launched the logo and theme of the Congress. The stunning new logo represents nature and its beauty in a positive and enlightening way and incorporates traditional indigenous Korean patterns. The Congress theme Nature+, is a simple and memorable slogan that captures the fundamental importance of nature and its inherent link to every aspect of our lives. [more](#)



IUCN welcomes 'Forests 2011' - International Year of Forests

The world's forests are essential to life in all its diversity and to attaining humanity's biggest goals such as reducing poverty, curbing climate change and achieving sustainable development. Throughout 2011 IUCN will work towards making sure that forests deliver their maximum potential for human well-being and biodiversity conservation. [more](#)



'Ecosystems and Human well-being', IUCN's Thematic Programme Area 4

The tag-line, has been hard to translate into concrete action. 'Food security' has been selected as the new focus because it helps IUCN to promote conservation with other policy makers more effectively. The link from ecosystems to food security has three pathways: On-farm food - Food is grown on farms located in ecosystems. (This is not IUCN's comparative advantage but on-farm food is all anybody else thinks about, so it is our starting point); Factoring in the whole ecosystem; Much food comes from off-farm locations - from rangelands and forests, to streams and the sea. Farms often supply only carbohydrates, while the essential protein, minerals and vitamins for healthy food security come from other ecosystem resources; Ecosystem services- All food security is underpinned by the capacity of ecosystems to deliver a full range of services. This aspect of food security is IUCN's strongest suit and we have a real duty to make these values more explicit to land-users and policy-makers. [more](#)

Announcements



Call for Interest: IUCN CEM Coastal Marine Project Framework

The marine and coastal group of CEM is looking to develop Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) activities on territorial seas and coastal catchment ecosystems. A two phased approach is suggested, with Phase 1 scoping out the current situation and preparing a 5 to 25 year outlook. Phase 2 would then work with the IUCN Secretariat, regional offices and partners, as well as other IUCN Commissions, to raise funds and in kind support for projects to implement and advance coastal and marine EBM and to achieve coherence and mutual coordination of marine and coastal actions. Further information can be obtained from marine and coastal group leader Dr Richard Kenchington. [more](#)



The Society for Ecological Restoration has opened the Call for Abstracts and Early Registration for SER2011 World Conference on Ecological Restoration to be held August 21-25 in Merida, Mexico.

SER2011 will be an important forum for addressing the global challenges of biodiversity and habitat loss, climate change, and sustainable development. It will provide a global venue for professionals, researchers, students and the public to come together, learn and share their knowledge and experiences, and identify practical solutions for restoring nature and sustaining critical ecosystem goods and services. [more](#)



International Conference "Ecosystem Services: from Science to Practice"

From 4-7 October 2011 the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) will organize its 4th International conference on "Ecosystem Services: from Science to Practice", in Wageningen, The Netherlands, chaired by Rudolf de Groot, IUCM-CEM Global theme leader on Ecosystem Services. Key-outputs of the conference will be the launch of a Global Network of expert-groups and key-sites in all major biomes on ecosystem services research, management and restoration, and the launch of the Ecosystem Services Valuation Database (ESVD), partly as a result of the Global TEEB-study (www.teebweb.org) and as contribution to the newly created Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). CEM members are very welcome to participate in the conference and/or actively contribute to these key-outputs. [more](#)

II Iberian Meeting on Subterranean Biology will take place from 2nd to 4th of September 2011 at the Aveiro University (Portugal)

This event is organized by researcher of CESAM- Aveiro University (Portugal), Azores University (Portugal), Natural History Museum of Valencia (Spain) and Universidad de La Laguna (Spain). The first Iberian Meeting on Subterranean Biology took place in Valencia (Spain) in 2009, with 130 participants. The event is organized under the auspices of the International Society for Subterranean Biology. [more](#)

CEM-NAC Coordinating Gulf of Mexico Symposium at the 2011 World Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Merida, Mexico

CEM-North America & Caribbean is coordinating a symposium to take place in August 2011 at the [World Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration \(SER\)](#) in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. The one-day symposium "Roadmap to Restoring the Ecological Health of the Gulf of Mexico after the BP Oil Spill" is being organized as a key 'stepping stone' event to contribute to proceedings of the 2011 Summit on the State of the Gulf of Mexico to be convened in December by Harte Research Institute in Houston, Texas. A joint session with SER, an IUCN member, the symposium will include scientific and policy discussions about the prospects for restoring Gulf of Mexico ecosystems damaged by the largest oil spill in U.S. history—the Deepwater Horizon oil spill—which occurred on April 20, 2011. CEM-NAC members coordinating the symposium are Charlotte Moser, Senior Policy Advisor, [Ecologic Institute US](#) and Keith Bowers, President, [Biohabitats](#).

XXXII International Course in Protected Areas: Effective Management under the context of Landscape and Global Change from June 6-30th 2011.

The course is organized by The Latin American Chair of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors "Kenton Miller" of CATIE in Costa Rica and it will be taught in Spanish. [more](#)



The Large Herbivore Network newsletter is now available. The interactive network has experts working with 35 species of large herbivores in 57 countries of Eurasia. [more](#)

Publications

George, B.P., R Inbakaran & G Poyyamoli, 2010. *To travel or not to travel: towards understanding the theory of nativistic motivation*, *Tourism*, 58 (4), 395-407, [more](#)

Murali J & G Poyyamoli, 2010. *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*, 1, 2(2), 155-165 [more](#)

Alexander, R & G Poyyamoli, 2011. *Biodiversity Conservation through Environmental Education for sustainable Development - A Case Study from Puducherry, India*, *International Electronic Journal of Environmental Education*, 1 (2), 97-111. ISSN: 2146-0329, [more](#)

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Irfanullah, Haseeb Md., Azad, Md.A.K., Khan, A.K.M. Kamruzzaman and Wahed, Md.A. 2011. *Floating Gardening in Bangladesh: a means to rebuild lives after devastating flood*. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge* 10(1): 31-38. [download](#)

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Reboleira A.S.P.S., Borges P.A.V., Gonçalves F., Serrano A., Oromí P. (2011) The subterranean fauna of a biodiversity hotspot region - Portugal: an overview and its conservation. *International Journal of Speleology*. 40, 1, 23-37. [download](#)

Chandra A (2010) A Deliberate Inclusive Policy (DIP) Approach for Coastal Resources Governance: A Fijian Perspective [download](#)