



The Ecosystem News is CEM's quarterly newsletter

September 2011

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CEM activities



33rd CEM Steering Committee Meeting, Idaho, USA

The 33rd CEM Steering Committee meeting was held from 8-9 September in Moscow, Idaho followed by a workshop on "*Communities and Ecosystems in Transition*" which was hosted at the University of Idaho School for Outdoor Sciences in McCall, Idaho. The main discussions during the SC meeting were CEM's plans for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in September 2012. Additionally, a work-planning session to provide CEM with a strategic focus for the next IUCN inter-sessional programme (2013-2016) was also conducted. The Steering Committee discussed the nomination of candidates for election as Commission Chair and conveyed to the Chair their wish that he stand for re-election which he has accepted. Commission Chairs may serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms. Minutes of the meeting will be available on the website as well as information and presentations made during the workshop, in October 2011. [contact](#)



CEM, CATIE and other key partners discussed in Costa Rica issues related to Ecosystem Based Adaptation

With the participation of Angela Andrade, Deputy Chair of CEM and Bernal Herrera-F, Chair of CEM-Mesoamerica and Director of Latin American Chair of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors in CATIE, last June 21-22, 2011 an international workshop "Guidelines for Ecosystem-based Adaptation" was held in Costa Rica, with the participation of climate change experts from 8 different organizations: Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN), CATIE, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, Consulting Group on International Agricultural Research, BirdLife International, IUCN-Mesoamerica, IADB and Care. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss mechanisms for mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation into decision making processes and project planning. Workshop results will be used to develop guidelines for the development of projects and conservation policy. The guide will contain a matrix based on standard principles, criteria / attributes and indicators, which facilitates the understanding of how the 12 Principles of the Ecosystem Approach could be applied in projects. Publication of the guidelines will be finished by the end of current year. [click](#)

Society for Ecological Restoration, World Conference in Merida, Mexico, August 2011

This conference was held in Merida on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. CEM members organised a special session on 'Building Resilience during Restoration'. Presenters included Angela Andrade, Vera



Lex Engel, Gill Shepherd and David Lamb. Resilience is the capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate or adapt to disturbances and to retain the same structure, functioning and feedback mechanisms. Its importance lies in the fact that it provides a degree of 'insurance' so that ecosystems can withstand and recover from unexpected changes or disturbances. The idea of building resilience makes intuitive sense but there is a good deal of uncertainty about how this might be done in practice. Subsequent discussions concerned just how much diversity is needed to promote resilience and the trade-offs that landholders might have to make between increasing resilience and maximising productivity. There was also discussion about whether resilience should be sought primarily at a local area or whether it might be achieved at a larger landscape scale. [contact](#)



Holarctic Steppe Group News

The State National Nature Park "Buiratau" was established in 2011 to conserve the unique steppe ecosystems of Central Kazakhstan Uplands (Kazakh Melkosopochnik). The total area of the National Park is 88 968 ha. The Park is arranged in transitional zones between moderately arid and dry steppes in Akmola oblast (60 814 ha) and Karagandy oblast (28 154 ha). Floristic diversity of the park is represented by more than 450 species of plants including more than 30 rare and endangered species. Fauna of the park includes 45 species of mammals (including the most northern and isolated Yereimantau wild sheep population), 227 species of birds (e.g. little bustard, sociable lapwing, steppe eagle, imperial eagle, common crane, demoiselle crane and others). Since ancient times the Kazakh steppe has had an important economic and environmental role, and steppe protected areas are important core areas of the developing steppe ecological network (ECONET). [contact](#)



Mediterranean-Type Ecosystem Thematic Group: Report on International MEDECOS XII Conference

The international MEDECOS conferences on the ecology, biodiversity, and conservation of Mediterranean-climate ecosystems began in 1971 in Valdivia, Chile. Since that time the conferences have rotated among the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. This year marked the 40th anniversary of MEDECOS and was celebrated by MEDECOS XII held September 6-9 on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. The conference attracted over 300 ecologists, resource managers, and conservation biologists from 14 different countries. The theme of MEDECOS XII, "Linking Science to Resource Management," emphasized the need for international collaboration to address global problems in ecosystem management. The final day of MEDECOS XII provided an opportunity for interactive panel discussions of global lessons learned in the conservation of Mediterranean-climate ecosystems. An overview was presented of IUCN's programmatic goals for 2013-16 and current MTEG projects supporting those goals. Interested participants were encouraged to join MTEG by sending a CV to [Chen Yin](#)



Upscaling the Ecosystem Approach – challenges and opportunities

CEM participated in a seminar which reflected on 15 years of Ecosystem Approach (EA), from being "done by scientists in protected areas" to wider uptake, especially through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Implementation has been constrained by operational issues such as tools, scales, circumstances, rationale and added value. Outputs will be packaged for target audiences (e.g. practitioners, policy-makers, economics and planning). CEM Thematic Group Lead Olivier Hamerlynck made a [presentation](#) based on a survey of the 75 EA members and suggested moving into the wider development landscape, strongly advocating amongst the sectoral powerhouses and building capacity at sub-national levels. It also recommended tailoring issue-oriented responses for decision-makers, institution-building and establishing links with governance (empowering weak stakeholders) and highlighted the need for a precautionary approach on the excessive dollarization of ecosystem services. [Contact](#)



Social Entrepreneurship: An approach to link science and innovation for a greener economy

Dr Nidhi Nagabhatla is researching the frameworks of social entrepreneurship and its newer dimension that has diversified beyond the image of philanthropic voluntary not-for-profit ventures to address a social problem and create social capital towards an approach that is not necessarily without a return of investment and targets the unleashing of science, innovation and technology towards addressing social and environmental issues. The approach is shaping the understanding of business ideas and economically viable ventures around the globe. How these ventures are further facilitating that concept of environment (climate finance) in the economies of scale. It is observed that clarity, coordination, capacity, capital and leadership are the forerunners of the approach to take the center-stage towards a greener economy. [contact](#)



Better late than never: Let's rise to this challenge

Wular lake, the largest freshwater lake in India and a Ramsar site, is a critical source of livelihood for more than 10,964 households. Fisheries, harvesting water chestnut for food and other economically important species are the major activities for the locals. Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), is a recent invader of the Himalayan valley, recorded for the first time in Wular Lake, in 2008. Alligator weed ranks among the most problematic aquatic weeds in the world and is a pest in 30 countries. Three years of monitoring reveals that the weed is in an early stage of expansion, with the potential to have detrimental effects on the overall biodiversity of the lake. There is an urgent need for a 'Maintenance Control' programme that would keep the weed at the lowest possible level. Currently, such a programme can be accomplished via hand destruction of the weed. Otherwise, the rapid expansion of alligator weed will most likely cause the need for a major chemical and biological control programs. [contact](#)



Habitat conservation for Red Sea Spinner and Bottlenose Dolphins

The story of Samadai reef, south of the Egyptian Red Sea, started back in the summer of 2002/2003. The Marine Parks Authority (EEAA), in cooperation with local NGOs (Abu Salama, HEPCA), had established a site management plan and special guidelines for the visitors following a joint research program conducted in collaboration with Italian marine science institutes, to monitor the numbers/behaviour of dolphin populations. The results of the management plan and visitors guidelines showed increase in numbers of adults/calves. Following the success of this initiative, another project is currently being implemented to monitor various dolphin species, cetaceans' ecology and distribution in Egyptian waters, and to enhance public awareness about this amazing wildlife. Currently, Samadai reef is one of the world's most important habitats where over 100 individuals have made it a permanent home. [click](#)



New series of GDI Working Papers now available for comments

The Green Development Initiative (GDI) is aiming to increase the level of private sector financing for biodiversity through a voluntary, transparent, accountable, market-based scheme which will enable funding to support conservation and development outcomes on the ground. The GDI intends to establish a green development certification system for land management. Such a scheme will facilitate international funding to reward land managers directly for their efforts to conserve biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably and equitably, and promote economic and social development. We now have a series of GDI Working Papers available for review and comment! [click](#)

IUCN



Reminder - Call for contributions for the Forum in Jeju

The Call for Contributions for the Forum segment of the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress is open! The Congress will take place 6-15 September 2012, in Jeju, Korea and you are invited to propose events for the Forum, the part of Congress which is open to all (7-11 September 2012). Read the [instructions](#) carefully before submitting your event, to ensure you maximize the chance of your proposal being selected. [Click here](#) for the latest updates and information about the Congress, and to access the Call for Contributions. The call will remain open until 15 October 2011.



IUCN Awards: Call for nominations

Nominations are sought for the IUCN awards which will be presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6-15 September 2012.

- Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal
- The John C. Phillips Memorial Medal
- Honorary membership of IUCN

The deadline for all nominations is 30 September 2011. Full details [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)

Announcements



Off the Shelf – September 2011

The September edition of IUCN's publications newsletter, *Off the Shelf* is now available. Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.



EcoSummit 2012, Columbus, Ohio, USA - Registration Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for EcoSummit 2012. Register by Friday April 27, 2012 for the reduced delegate rate. EcoSummit 2012 will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Come hear Nobel Prize laureate Elinor Ostrom, Pulitzer Prize winners E.O. Wilson and Jared Diamond, Kyoto Prize winner Simon Levin, Stockholm Water Prize laureates Sven Jørgensen and Bill Mitsch, and many others in the first conference ever linking the Ecological Society of America (ESA), The International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) and the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SER). For full details and to register [click](#)



3rd Expert meeting of the Green Development Initiative

The meeting will take place from 09-11 October in Nairobi, Kenya. It will focus on the preparation of the first edition of the Green Development Land Management Certification Guidance Document. If you would like to participate, please contact [Francis Vorhies](#)



Greening Academic Institutions in Pondicherry, India

Preparatory field work for the campus sustainability project was started in greening Pondicherry university campus and the neighbouring institutions. This will facilitate energy/water /soil/biodiversity conservation and sustainable waste management by the application of selected Eco technologies. We are in the process of seeking funds from appropriate funding agencies from India and abroad. [contact](#)

Publications



Nagabhatla Nidhi, Sonali S. Sellamuttu, A. Ghosh Bobba, Max Finlayson, Rohan Wickramasuriya, Martin Van Brakel, S. Narendra Prasad and Chiranjibi Pattanaik 2011. Insight to Ecosystem Based Approach (EBA) at Landscape Level Using a Geospatial Medium. Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing. Springer (Earth and Environmental Science). Available online from 25th June 2011. [click](#)

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Cazzolla Gatti R., 2011, Evolution is a Cooperative Process: The Biodiversity related Niches Differentiation Theory (BNDT) Can Explain Why, Theoretical Biology Forum, 1/2011(104), 35-44 [click](#)

Murali, J and G. Poyyamoli, 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* 1 (2), 155-164

Poyyamoli, G 2011. Community Based Eco Cultural Heritage Tourism for Sustainable Development in the Asian Region: A Conceptual Framework, *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development (IJSESD)*, 2 (2), 66-80. DOI: 10.4018/jsesd.2011040106, ISSN: 1947-8402, EISSN: 1947-8410

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