



Ecosystem News

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CEM and Member Activities

CEM Steering Committee meeting in The Netherlands

The CEM SC met from 20 – 22 September, 2010 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Steering committee and Secretariat provided updates on CEM's activities and progress on the 2010 workplan. The minutes of the meeting will be available on the [CEM website](#) shortly.



Threatened Ecosystems, Vulnerable People – CEM side event at the CBD CoP, 22nd October, 16:30-18:00hrs Nagoya, Japan



Life in harmony, into the future

This event will showcase two of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management's latest flagship products: the recently-initiated process to develop categories and criteria for assessing the conservation status of ecosystems, and a new publication on ecosystems and climate adaptation – the latest in the CEM Ecosystem Management Series. The Ecosystem Red List aims to develop a globally applicable methodology to assess the status of ecosystems. The event will present an update of the proposed methodology of categories and criteria, building on experiences from the IUCN SSC Red List of Threatened Species, provide an opportunity for input, and invite testing of the proposed system. In addition, the event will also launch the latest CEM Ecosystem Management Series publication, which presents examples from around the world that demonstrate the role of ecosystems and the services they provide to support people to adapt to climate change.

Contact: CEM Deputy Chair – [Angela Andrade](#) and Ecosystem Redlisting Thematic Group Lead - [Jon Paul Rodriguez](#)

Young Professional Co-Thematic Group Lead for Disaster Risk Reduction

Alvin Chandra is a recent graduate of multiple Masters Degrees in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Policy and Environmental Management (with Distinction) from the University of Manchester (UK), University of Lund (Sweden), Central European University (Hungary) and University of Aegean (Greece). His master thesis in Climate Change Adaptation pioneered the use of Fuzzy Cognitive Method (FCM) to analyse climate change vulnerability and adaptation to manage flood risks in small island ecosystems. Alvin has previously worked as the Environment/GEF/Energy Associate for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He was largely involved in implementing UN's sustainable environment management strategies,



alongside UNDP's Climate Change Strategy across ten Pacific Island countries. As co-leader of the DRR, he intends to improve collaboration between CEM and other commission initiative such as CEC Intergenerational Partnership, mentorship for young professionals and further contribute towards knowledge management. He looks forward to working closely with CEM members on these initiatives. [Contact](#)

CEM co-hosts a workshop on Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disasters

CEM Thematic Group on DRR, led by Karen Sudmeier-Rieux, collaborated with IUCN to host the first Partnership of Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) workshop at the United Nations University in Bonn, during September 21-23. PEDRR is a partnership between UNU, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, WWF, ADPC, ProAct Network, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Global Fire Monitoring Center, the Council of Europe and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction with the core objective of enhancing the implementation of ecosystem based DRR. The PEDRR workshop focused on taking stock of the latest scientific developments on the linkages between ecosystems and DRR, and their role in reducing threats, vulnerabilities and increasing resilience of social-ecological systems; taking stock of good practices on ecosystem-based approaches for DRR; enhancing the dialogue between the scientific and practitioner communities in order to improve knowledge and practice and, identifying gaps and the way forward in enhancing ecosystem management for DRR. Workshop outcomes include practitioner based examples of ecosystem management applications for reducing disaster risk, a commitment to gathering more science based evidence and more economic valuation studies on the role of ecosystems for disaster risk reduction. Further information will be available on the [PEDRR website](#) shortly.

Combating Climate Change in the Western Ghats, India

Foundation for Research and Sustainable Development, India has been addressing the threats to mountain biodiversity in the Western Ghats – one of the global biodiversity hotspots, through raising awareness at relevant international gatherings. Information papers have highlighted impacts of invasive species in mountain ecosystems and presented the findings of preliminary investigations on the geo-chemical and physical impacts of climate change on water supplies. Pristine areas remain in the Shola forests, mainly in remote high-altitude mountain region and inaccessible valleys. With the help of the University of IOWA, USA we have been working on a strategy to initiate specific activities to facilitate maintenance, protection and conservation of endemic species in this hotspot, with a focus on endangered species. For more information contact [Parama Anandan](#)

Community Engagement for Sustainable Development in the Comoro Islands, Indian Ocean

The Engagement Communautaire pour le Développement Durable (ECDD) project's goal is to contribute to the protection of forest ecosystems and biodiversity on the island of Anjouan in the Comoro Islands, through improving resource sustainability and resilience, and through securing and enhancing the living conditions of the population in the steep and degraded areas of the island where the project works. The priority now is to address soil erosion and soil fertility through more intensive land management *on-farm* (terracing, manuring etc) and by water and stream-source management *off-farm*, so that whole water-catchments are under management. The intention medium term is to stop the continued cutting of hilltop forest for the making of new farm plots, thereby retaining habitats for key bird and mammal species. Contact [Gill Shepherd](#)



The CarboWet Network

Carbon storage in wetlands, certification and self-financing of conservation and rehabilitation!



The CarboWet Network intends to develop a network of practitioners in the field of nature conservation that would like to contribute to developing a methodology to assess carbon storage in wetlands, and to get this methodology certified, so that these carbon credits can be traded and revenue can flow back to the wetlands for management and rehabilitation. We therefore intend to develop a web-based knowledge repository on work done by the partners of CarboWet. Any entity, be it private, public, NGO, academic or an individual, can become a member of the network, and will thereby gain access to the website and the knowledge/data base. In return each member commits him/herself to make available to the network all reports, models, insights, developments and ideas related to carbon storage in wetlands. We therefore invite all interested parties to let us know whether you would be interested

to become a member of this network. Contact [Ele Jan Saaf](#)

Insuring against the risks of damage to the marine environment - A project to develop quantitative methodologies and models for the environmental finance markets.

The aim of the proposal is to contribute to establishing a framework within which it is possible to estimate the financial risks and costs placed upon offshore industry by European environmental legislation. The ultimate goal is to develop underlying quantitative models that could be used to facilitate the growing environmental finance and insurance markets. Since there is high uncertainty surrounding the extent to which offshore industries will be challenged by standards established within current environmental legislation, by establishing a methodology for assessing the risks, we aim to influence the process in a manner that will produce workable scenarios for offshore industries. The project will define the overall economic costs associated with environmental compliance in the offshore environment and will offer a structure within which different scenarios can be modeled for their economic viability and also within which new data can be assimilated as it becomes available. This project is also one of first steps in the European research community towards providing a robust economic valuation of natural resource conservation within the offshore environment. Contact [Ivelin Zvezdov](#)

Island Rescue - A 5-year Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Australian Islands

Ongoing expensive efforts to control invasive species on islands in Australia provide evidence of the need for a more comprehensive and strategic post-border biosecurity regime for islands at risk. A strategic framework has been established under the Island Rescue proposal for Australian islands, based on assessment of island biodiversity values, and a risk assessment approach to potentially invasive non-indigenous species. The initiative will be addressing the establishment of biosecurity priorities for all islands based on their ecological values, and risk assessment, progressive development of biosecurity management systems, regular surveillance of high and medium priority islands, development of best practice approaches, provision of appropriate training for island managers, establishment of ready response capabilities and a range of tailored education programmes targeted at island dwellers and visitors. If you are interested in learning about or supporting this initiative, details can be viewed on the [Island Arks website](#). Contact [Ray Nias](#)



Picture: Introduced yellow crazy ants have contributed to the collapse of the Christmas Island ecosystem.

What's Happening @ IUCN?

The IUCN Science Bulletin

This Bulletin provides a quick overview of the recent peer-reviewed literature relevant to IUCN's programme. It is not intended as an exhaustive reflection of what is happening in conservation science but rather to stimulate further exploration of science relevant to IUCN's work. The bulletins are available from IUCN's Science and Learning [website](#).



Go-ahead for a Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Governments have agreed to establish a new mechanism to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community and policymakers on biodiversity and ecosystem services, following a successful meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea in June 2010. The so-called "IPBES" - Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - will be a leading body in making scientifically sound and relevant information available to support more informed decisions on how biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved and used around the world. IUCN will continue to provide support to the creation of IPBES, at the UN General Assembly, CBD CoP10, and the meetings of the governing bodies of IPBES co-hosting UN institutions. IUCN intends to support establishment of rules and procedures for multistakeholder involvement in IPBES governance and for multistakeholder input to planning and implementation of the work programme. IUCN also intends to provide support to the future IPBES programmatic activities and is now considering options to offer to host a part of the future Secretariat for IPBES. Further information can be found at www.iucn.org/ipbes

Capacity building and transboundary nature conservation along the South Eastern European Green Belt

IUCN, together with partner organizations – DEM Macedonia, REC Kosovo and REC Albania organized a training workshop which brought together a wide range of relevant stakeholders from the project - *Capacity building and transboundary nature conservation along the South Eastern European Green Belt* regions. The audience included representatives of public administration, border police, customs, NGOs and international organizations. The training focused on issues related to management and financing of protected areas, illegal wildlife trade, wildlife monitoring and on providing for better surveillance of the border areas in civil-military cooperation. In the second phase of the project (July 2010), a group of selected participants took part in a study tour of transboundary protected area between Germany and Czech Republic. For more information contact [Tomasz Pezold](#) or visit the project [website](#).

IUCN opens a new office in Brazil

IUCN has opened a new office in Brazil, to be located in the federal capital Brasilia. Establishing a permanent institutional presence in a country that offers great opportunities and challenges in the social and environmental fields was considered essential, and IUCN's Brasilia office will address the need to effectively and efficiently implement the IUCN programme in South America. [More](#)

Announcements & Events

Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development –contribution deadline extended to 4 October, 2010

Contributions are now being sought for the IUCN-CEESP Conference, *Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development*, being held in Whakatāne, New Zealand, 11-15th January 2011. This Conference is a partnership between IUCN CEESP and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiāraangi. [More](#)

Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) tools network has been updated recently

The EBM Tools Network is an alliance of EBM tool users, providers, and researchers to promote the use and development of EBM in coastal, marine and terrestrial environments. EBM tools are software or other highly documented methods that can help implement EBM by providing models of ecosystems or key ecosystem processes, generating scenarios illustrating the consequences of different management decisions on natural resources and the economy, and facilitating stakeholder involvement in planning processes. www.ebmtools.org

Call for new wet carbon proposals

Working in partnership, Danone, IUCN and Ramsar are seeking new wet carbon project proposals, particularly large scale mangrove restoration proposals, which will deliver certified carbon credits as well as community benefits. More information including guidance on submitting a Project Idea Note (PIN) can be found at <http://wetcarbon.com>.

Publications

Tennekes H.A. 2010. The significance of the Druckrey-Küpfmüller equation for risk assessment – The toxicity of neonicotinoid insecticides to arthropods is reinforced by exposure time. *Toxicology* 276:1-4 [Link](#)

Diodato, Nazzareno, Gianni Bellocchi, 2010. Storminess and Environmental Changes in the Mediterranean Central Area. *Earth Interact.*, **14**, 1–16. [Link](#)

Rodríguez *et al.* (2011) in press. Establishing IUCN Red List Criteria for Threatened Ecosystems. *Conservation Biology*, Volume 25 (2011): in press

Urbina-Cardona, J.N. and Flores-Villela, O. 2010. Ecological-Niche Modeling and Prioritization of Conservation-Area Networks for Mexican Herpetofauna. *Conservation Biology* 24(4):1031-1041 [Link](#)

Ochoa-Ochoa, L. Urbina-Cardona, J.N., Flores-Villela, O., Vázquez, L-B and Bezaury-Creel, J. 2009. The role of land protection through governmental protected areas and social action in biodiversity conservation: the case of Mexican amphibians. *PlosOne*: 4(9): e6878. [Link](#)

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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| | | |
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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

Olivier Hamerlynck
Roberto Cazzolla
Karen Sudmeier
Sosten Chiotha
Dolf de Groot
Lene Poulsen
Arthur Dahl
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