



Ecosystem

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CEM at the World Conservation Congress



A New Chair for CEM

Piet Wit is from The Netherlands where he is the Director for Syzygy, a consultancy firm on Conservation-cum-Development and has been a member of Steering Committee of CEM since 1996, serving as deputy chair under Hillary Masundire. He has also been a member of the board of the Netherlands Committee of IUCN for 12 years. Piet graduated at Wageningen University (1971) on Range Ecology and is fluent in English, French and German (mother tongue Dutch).

Piet's priorities for CEM are to ensure that the Commission is a front player in the development of the Ecosystem Approach as it was endorsed by COP/CBD in Nairobi, input by CEM in the CBD process is solicited on a continuous basis and that CEM mobilizes its network of experts for this purpose. His vision for CEM is for the Commission to be at the cutting edge, not only of science and policy making, but also of ecosystem management *in practice*. In the confrontation of theory and practice, innovative approaches for *sustainable* conservation and development will be developed in response to concrete needs and identified opportunities. CEM will also strengthen its collaboration with other IUCN units including other Commissions and IUCN members.



CEM member IUCN's new President

Dr. Ashok Khosla is the chairman of Development Alternatives, a civil society organisation that works with sustainable development issues. He holds a BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University, UK (1962) and a PhD in Experimental Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass, USA (1971).

Dr. Khosla has been working in the environment and conservation scene for 35 years, has pioneered interface between conservation and sustainable livelihoods, carries 30 years of close involvement with IUCN (18 in the Council and 20 as Member) and has actively engaged in building links among science, policy-making and field action. In UNEP, he has worked with governments and NGOs in over 100 countries across the world to set up national agencies for environment and information. The President is widely recognized as a Bridge: between Conservation and Development, Theory and Practice, the Traditional and the New, and between the North and the South. Dr. Khosla looks forward to building on the work of previous Presidents and Councils and taking IUCN to a new and more influential level in the global architecture.

CEM sessions at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), Barcelona, 5-14 October 2008

CEM conducted six workshops at WCC on issues related to ecosystem based management. These workshops brought together a diverse crowd of scientists, practitioners and interested individuals to generate discussions on implementation, localisation, lessons learnt, capacity and partnership needs in enhancing ecosystem based management. For more information on the content and discussions of the workshops contact [CEM](#) secretariat.



The Commission also launched two publications - its Ecosystem Management Series 5 and 7: *The Ecosystem Approach – Learning from Experience and Application of the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America*

These and the other CEM publications in the Ecosystem Management Series are available on the [CEM](#) website.

The **CEM Steering Committee Meeting** minutes from WCC Barcelona, 5th October 2008, are now available from the CEM secretariat. [Contact](#)

What's Happening @ IUCN?

New IUCN Council

IUCN has a new council for 2008-2012. The work of the Council focuses on providing strategic direction for the activities of the Union, the discussion of specific policy issues and the provision of guidance on finance and the membership development of the Union. [More](#)

Resolutions and Recommendations

All the draft texts of the Barcelona resolutions and recommendations, in English, have been posted on the [IUCN website](#). The final texts in the three IUCN languages will be posted online early 2009.

Integrating ecosystems, disasters and climate change adaptation

IUCN has undertaken a situation analysis to identify needs and gaps in its organisational capacity to address disasters and climate change adaptation. Different types of disasters, such as recurrent flooding versus conflict-related disasters, have required regional offices and thematic programmes to develop a variety of responses. IUCN is uniquely positioned to integrate ecosystem management, livelihoods, community vulnerability, climate change adaptation and disaster management. In addressing community vulnerability and resilience to disasters and climate change, IUCN recognizes that strong partnerships are required between donors, governments, disaster management authorities and environmental authorities. IUCN is already working closely with UNEP and ISDR to advance common goals under the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (<http://www.preventionweb.net>).



Several regional partnerships to coordinate environment and disaster reduction actions have been initiated, such as the recently created 3 IC, or IUCN Innovation Project: "Vulnerability and Resilience: Learning Lessons and Integrating Ecosystems into Assessment and Response". Coordinated by IUCN- Ecosystem Management Programme in partnership with IUCN regional offices and in close collaboration with CEM, the project sets out to improve IUCN's capacity to assess and address the impacts of climate change and disasters on vulnerable communities. In doing so, the project will also develop an innovative strategy for capturing lessons learned from IUCN's programme and project implementation, and develop innovative metrics to assess ecosystem-related elements of community vulnerability. IUCN will be expanding its use of **CRISTAL**, a Community Risk Assessment Tool, and working with programmes such as **Mangroves for the Future** to address disaster risk reduction.

If you would like more information on how contribute to this effort, please contact [Neville Ash](#), Head, Ecosystems Management Programme.

Announcements & Events

CEM supports Biodiversity Seminar in India, 8-9 January 2009

National Seminar on Emerging Issues in Biodiversity Management, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India, Commission on Ecosystem Management, IUCN and Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, India. 8-9 January, 2009, Tamil Nadu, India.

This seminar proposes to bring together academia, officials, activists and policy leaders to discuss the critical problems that constraints biodiversity management. There is an obvious need to strengthen the biodiversity management regime by addressing the larger socio-economic problems that are at the root of biodiversity crisis. The seminar intends to analyse the policies, acts, land tenure, ecosystem services, use of biotechnology, intellectual property rights etc. in biodiversity management and articulate the options for solutions. [Contact](#)

The Society for Ecological Restoration International 2009 Conference, 23-27 August 2009, Perth, Western Australia

Symposia, organized oral sessions, special sessions, and workshops are now being planned for the SER International 2009 Conference. For detailed conference information, please visit <http://www.seri2009.com.au>. For additional information, feel free to contact the organising committee seri2009@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Property Rights & Sustainability Conference

The University of Auckland Faculty of Law and the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law will host a conference on property rights and sustainability 16-18 April 2009 in Auckland. The conference will bring together leading academics, judges, government

officials, policy analysts and practitioners to examine the future of property rights within the context of sustainable development. [More](#)

Attention all ecological modellers

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is working on a concept called the Model Web as a path towards gradual development of a modelling infrastructure to help predict and assess change and answer "what if" questions; creating such a modelling infrastructure is a long-term vision. A model web is composed of existing, loosely coupled models that developers have retrofitted for interoperability and that communicate using web services. The web would grow incrementally, organically, and opportunistically within a simple framework of guidelines and standards, much like the World Wide Web. Interested in adding your model? Contact Gary Geller, NASA Ecological Forecasting Program, gary.n.geller@jpl.nasa.gov

Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) call for proposals

HELP is a cross cutting and transdisciplinary initiative of the United Nations Educational Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) led by the International Hydrological Programme. The HELP network allows the possibility of sharing experiences in the implementation of integrated water resources management. The HELP programme provides activities to increase the dialogue between several "water-related" communities in order to better integrate land-water resources management (i.e. scientists, lawyers, managers, economists, stakeholders) and is currently calling for proposals for the third phase. [More](#)

Publications

Nagabhatla, Nidhi; Finlayson, Max; Senaratna Sellamuttu, Sonali; Gunawardena, A. 2008. **Application of geospatial tools to monitor change in a micro-tidal estuary for the purpose of management planning.** *Ceylon Journal of Science (Biological Sciences)* (ISI), 37(1):pp 73-86

Nidhi Nagabhatla and S. Seneratna Sellamuttu. 2008. **Political Ecology of Wetland Management: the post aquaculture demolition case of Lake Kolleru in India.** *Revista Geográfica Académica* (2)1:pp10-19 (<http://geograficaacademica.webng.com>).

Geller, GN and F Melton 2008. **Looking forward: Applying an ecological model web to assess impacts of climate change.** *Biodiversity* 9: 79-83

Ecosystem Management Series no. 5 – The Ecosystem Approach – Learning from Experience

In recent years CEM has conducted a series of case studies which have followed the application of The Ecosystem Approach in the context of projects or other land management initiatives. The publication presents 5 such case studies and the authors assess the extent to which the Ecosystem Approach principles endorsed by the Convention on Biological Diversity had been useful and robust. Available from September 2008 from [CEM](#) website.

Ecosystem Management Series no. 7 – Application of the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America (Spanish and English)

The publication is a collation of selected case studies which are representative of the application of the Ecosystem Approach under different ecological, social, economic and cultural contexts in Latin-America. The Spanish version is available from the [CEM](#) website and the English version will be available from August 2008.

EcoTip from MyGreen IUCN!

When holidaying...

Always buy locally made souvenirs. Souvenirs manufactured elsewhere involve fuel costs and unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and do not benefit local communities.

