

This is the first “Monthly Flash Report” that you receive from me as the new Chair of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) of IUCN (“the Union”). It is my intention to produce these reports monthly as a first step to improve the internal communication of our commission.

*Acknowledgement to Hillary Masundire*

Under the inspiring leadership of Hillary Masundire CEM has made the Ecosystem Approach more accessible and palatable for policy makers and ecosystem managers. In Barcelona most sessions implicitly were dealing with ecosystems and their management. Hillary and his team have been very instrumental in achieving that focus on ecosystems. We owe a lot to them for their time and energy put into CEM and I like to thank them for the appealing results such as reflected in the excellent CEM-series of publications.

*Deputy Chair*

I am very pleased that Angela Andrade had agreed to be the Deputy Chair of CEM. You all know her well, she does not need any introduction. But I like to say that I am very much impressed by her work as Regional Vice-Chair for South-America where she furthered the application of the Ecosystem Approach through the effective mobilisation of the CEM-network. The last issue of the CEM-series gives all the details of that work.

*Steering Committee (SC)*

We need an efficient, flexible and effective Steering Committee. Pending approval by Council, I plan to install a Steering Committee of 5 members only. They will act as a sort of front office for CEM, where Regional Vice-Chairs (RVCs) and leaders of Specialist Groups with their respective network of experts may be the back-office. Besides Angela, I have approached Eddie Hegerl from Australia. Eddie was a member of the SC under the first Chair, Ed Maltby. His background is with marine ecology and he has a long history with both environmental NGOs and government agencies in his home country. I value him highly for his creativity and his loyalty to ecosystem management, and I am very happy that he is on board. I hope to be able to announce the two others next month.

I plan to organise two SC-meetings per annum in different regions of the world. Each time there should be an associated workshop on Ecosystem Management opportunities in that region. The first SC meeting will be in Gland in February next year. The second SC-meeting is likely to be in Mongolia, with a workshop on adaptation of steppe ecosystems to climate change.

*Regions*

- Bharatidasan University in India will organise a conference on emerging Biodiversity issues, in which Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, our RVC from India, will participate on behalf of CEM
- The Mediterranean Office of IUCN will organise a meeting in Malaga where cooperation with Commissions is explicitly on the agenda. I plan to participate in that meeting (planned for mid-December)
- Cooperation with CEM is going to be on the agenda of the next meeting of Directors of National Committees of Europe.

*Themes*

- The results of the Prague workshop on indicators in which a number of CEM-members participated, were presented at Barcelona. They are available at our CEM web-site.
- CEM should facilitate specialist groups that are active in themes relevant for us. The following contacts have been made:
  - An informal network on the Red List of Ecosystems. Members of this network presented case-studies from Latin-America and Southern Africa in Barcelona, and also presented draft categories and criteria for a global assessment of the threat status of habitats. A more formal approach has to be developed.
  - A network on fisheries management. This very active network contacted me in Barcelona. They look at fisheries from an Ecosystem-based Management perspective. The present RVC from Europe, Hein Rune Skjoldal, is member of this group. Formal links with CEM will have to be developed.
  - A network of young experts in Ecosystem management called “Presence”, with members a/o in Europe, Africa and Australia. We have to find ways to use this initiative to strengthen CEM.
  - A community network for the application of the EsA in Latin America, with the participation of representatives of Universities, IUCN members and other organizations from the region.

*IUCN Gland, Ecosystem Management Programme and CEM work programme*

CEM’s working relation with IUCN headquarters and our work programme in relation to that of other Commissions have been and will be discussed during several meetings in Gland.