



This is my first three-monthly flash report for CEM, and I hope it will be the last one as I intend to send you an update every month, maximum every two months!

It looked quiet at the CEM-front over the last Northern summer. It was not. There may have been few concrete matters to report, but all over the months of July and August Regional Conservation Fora were either prepared or taking place, a process that still continues. Tomorrow I will be off to Morocco to attend the RCF for Northern Africa and the Mediterranean Region in Rabat.

CEM matters

The 5th steering committee meeting was organised in Idaho, USA. Steve Edwards found the University of Moscow ready to receive us and to co-organise a workshop on Resilience of Communities that depend on the services provided by the ecosystems in which they live. We had case-studies from different parts of the world. Steve and Michael Jennings of the University of Idaho, organised everything perfectly: thanks for that. A report is presently being prepared by one of Michael's staff and will be available on the web, as will be the SC-minutes. The next World Conservation Congress in Jeju figured prominently on the SC-agenda. Steve Edwards, who holds an impressive record on organising large IUCN-events, offered to structure CEM's participation in such a way that we present a (limited) number of journeys through our actual results that will lead WCC's participants to our proposed contributions for the future programme of IUCN. Of course we accepted Steve's offer readily, and he will contact CEM's leadership shortly to see where we can logically put our efforts together in order to create the momentum for our future with IUCN and its partners.

Unfortunately, the number of nominations for the Luc Hoffmann award was rather limited and the Steering Committee decided to postpone a decision on the selection of an eventual award-winner.

From the Thematic Groups

I am very pleased to announce that -thanks to Kelvin Passfield- we found two young professionals, Rebecca Richardson and Jacqui Evans, ready to be co-chairs for our Islands Group. IUCN is reviving its islands programme, and it is important that we can provide the counterpart-expertise that they may ask for.

Sosten Chiotha has decided to withdraw as the Theme Leader for the Capacity Building Group. I understood from him that he made several efforts to mobilise his network, but with little response. That is frustrating, especially where the CBD gave CEM an important role to play in capacity building for ecosystem management!! New candidate-leaders have been suggested for this important group, but I do make an appeal to all members of this group to become more actively involved with CEM than you have done so far! Our thanks go to Sosten for his work, and I do hope that we can make better use of his expertise in the nearby future than we did so far.

The work on the Red List of Ecosystems continues to gain momentum. A number of problems were discussed and solutions tested at the workshop in Southern France.

I attended Jelena Ilić's wedding. She found a nice Dutchman and therefor the wedding-event was in a little village in the Delta of the Rhine River. As the co-chair for the Ecosystem Services Group, Jelena is very busy with the CEM-session on the large Ecosystem Services Conference that Dolf de Groot is organising this month in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

From the Regions

Masse Lô, our much appreciated steering committee member for Africa, has been nominated as CEO of ENDA, Senegal's largest NGO with activities in many parts of Africa. That is good news for Masse and especially for ENDA, but not so good for CEM. Masse had to withdraw as SC-member as he will no longer have the time available to attend to CEM-matters as he did before. Personally I am very grateful to Masse, not only for his constructive contributions to our programme, but also for his genuine concern for my well-being when I was

recovering from a life-threatening operation in Dakar. My congratulations go to Masse and to ENDA that has made an excellent choice!

General IUCN-matters

Headquarters produced an important discussion paper on IPBES (Intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). Our Union has invested a lot of time and effort and especially good thinking in this important relatively new development. IUCN deserves to get recognition from the international community for that and I hope that our members that are somehow associated to the development and implementation of this new instrument of global environmental policy, can be IUCN's and CEM's advocate.