



The whole IUCN-community of Guinea Bissau where I am staying at present, went off to Brazzaville for the Regional Conservation Forum. Here in Bissau I don't have the access to the internet as I do back in The Netherlands, so I apologise beforehand for activities by CEM-members reported to me by email, that I may fail to inform you about in this flash report. It will be mainly about myself, and in particular about the last council meeting that I attended and the subsequent discussions about the future IUCN-programme.

CEM matters

It was CEM's turn to present to Council its progress since last year. After a short introduction about the structure of CEM, last year's highlights were mentioned such as our work on Climate Change, Fisheries, the Red List of Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction with specifics about the Mexican Gulf Oil Spill. I informed councillors about the workshops our members co-organise, the CEM-publications, and so on. I ended with a number of slides to show how we work with other partners within IUCN and outside the Union. In order to provoke discussions (which cruelly failed last year), I identified some frustrations from my side. It did not work. Very few questions were asked, and some of my frustrations even brought angry reactions that I had to soften afterwards. A (somewhat shortened) version of my presentation will be available on our web-page. Please feel free to use it when you yourself need material for a presentation about our commission.

From the Thematic Groups

Alex Moiseev from IUCN-HQ, is leading the process towards a new intersessional IUCN-programme to be proposed at WCC-Jeju. I had an inspirational session with Alex, Karen Sudmeier and Ed Barrow with his staff on how to structure the EMP/CEM programme for the period after Jeju along the proposed lines of the new programme. I know the time is getting very short, and it is holiday season, but I would like to see all thematic groups coming forward with a short note in which they structure their ideas for the future of their theme in the same way as we did in Gland. Ed has already produced a short guidance note on this that I will send to all thematic group leads.

From the Regions

IUCN's Regional Conservation Fora where the next intersessional programme is being discussed are taking place all over the world. Our Commission is represented at each one of these strategic meetings where we hopefully can enrich the deliberations with our expertise and our innovative and out-of-the box thinking. Attending these conferences is putting a heavy drain on our commission's financial resources, but it is worth it! So far I have had reports back from Samira Omar (whose institute hosted the RCF for West Asia), and from Hillary Masundire and Jean Ngog Nje (for the RCF from West and Central Asia). I myself hope to attend the meeting in Rabat for North Africa and the Mediterranean. During the Bonn-RCF, I plan to be in the USA because of our next Steering Committee meeting, but Kalev Sepp and Dominique Noome have kindly agreed to represent us at the RCF for Europe. Anyone that I might not have mentioned yet: I apologize. CEM and IUCN are indebted to all of you for your readiness to contribute, and I hope to catch up on this in the upcoming flash reports.

General IUCN-matters

Sue Mainka, Gland's "first lady on Science", organises monthly discussions on emerging issues that could be of interest to the Union. In May it was about religion and conservation. Sue sent me a number of peer-reviewed recent scientific publications that were discussed at the meeting. A summary with the conclusions of the meeting is on IUCN's website. Tom Baugh, CEM-member from the USA, read this summary and shared his rich thinking with us. I find Sue's formula for these discussions highly interesting, and I invite CEM members to check regularly IUCN's website for the results of these discussions. My suggestion to discuss next time "Sports and Conservation" was adopted. I know we have expertise on this topic in our commission, and I hope that you can contribute to this meeting (by teleconference or otherwise).