



Ecosystem

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CEM Activities

CEM website revamped!

The [CEM website](http://www.iucn.org/ceb) has been updated! You can log on to www.iucn.org/ceb for updated information on CEM, membership and activities. Some pages are currently under construction and the Secretariat is working with thematic group leads to fill these gaps, with the objective that the website will grow considerably as a resource in the coming months.

CEM Thematic Groups

19 thematic groups have been established within CEM's membership structure. The thematic areas these groups cover will form the focus of CEM's contributions during IUCN's 2009-2012 work programme. **CEM members are urged to nominate (up to) 3 thematic groups of interest that they wish to join and contribute to.**

Thematic Group	Group Lead
Fisheries Expert Group (FEG)	Serge Garcia, garcia.sergemichel@gmail.com
Ecosystems Redlist	Jon Paul Rodriguez, jonpaul@ivic.ve
Grasslands Ecosystems in Latin America	Robert Hofstede, hofstederobert@gmail.com
Ecosystem Approach	Olivier Hammerlynck, olivier.hamerlynck@wanadoo.fr
Climate Change Adaptation	TBC
Disaster Risk Reduction	Karen Sudmeier, karen.sudmeier@orange.fr
Capacity Building for Ecosystem Management	Sosten Chiotha, schiotha@chanco.unima.mw
Ecosystem Services	Rudolf de Groot, dolf.degroot@wur.nl
Dryland Ecosystems	TBC
Island Ecosystems	Arthur Dahl, ADahl@unoq.ch
Nutrient Cycling	Arthur Nonomura, anonomura@mail.ucsd.edu
Wetland Ecosystems	Mike Acreman, man@ceh.ac.uk
Connectivity conservation	Graham Bennett, bennett@svzvgv.nl
Mountain Ecosystems	Martin Price, martin.price@perth.uhi.ac.uk
Ecosystem Restoration	Keith Bowers, kbowers@biohabitats.com
Urban Ecosystems	TBC
Ecosystems and the Private Sector	Eros Artuso, erosa@asmandc.com
Mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass connectivity	TBC
Antarctic	TBC

CEM Fisheries Expert Group

The Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) held its kick-off meeting in Washington, on May 24 and 25, immediately after the International Marine Conservation Congress. FEG members reviewed and endorsed the

terms of references developed for the group's work, in close collaboration with H.R.Skjoldal of CEM, the head of the IUCN Global Marine Programme C.G. Lundin and other IUCN experts. Discussions focused on activities identified for which project ideas will be further developed. The FEG will actively participate in the FAO CBD workshop on destructive fishing practices to be held in Rome 23-25 September. For more information contact [Despina Symons](#).



Promoting the Ecosystem Approach among Communities in East Africa

An innovative project is underway in Kenya and Tanzania to help promote biodiversity conservation, by using the ecosystem approach to link conservation with sustainable livelihoods. The project, funded by the UK government's Darwin Initiative to Dr David Harper of the University of Leicester and the ex-BBC film-maker Richard Brock (producer of David Atterborough's *Life on Earth & Living Planet*), has trained young environmental scientists to make short films using simple digital equipment, worked with local communities to identify local problems and issues, the causes and possible solutions of which can be effectively and simply shown in film and assembled films into "Film Series" with a common theme.

By the end of the project on 2010, Community-based Biodiversity Conservation Films will be an NGO registered in Kenya and a charity registered in UK. Its members will be capable of making a half-hour film for about \$10,000 - not BBC or Disney standard, but highly effective for promoting an ecosystem conservation message. Contact: [Dr. David Harper](#)



Protecting Mountain Biodiversity

Foundation for Research and Sustainable Development (FRSD) has been addressing the threats to mountain biodiversity in the Western Ghats, India. FRSD is active in the mountainous region in developing an Ecosystem Profile in Theni District of Tamilnadu, supported by the University of IOWA, USA. The project focuses on mapping vegetation with remote sensing across large spatial areas. As a member of the Mountain Forum, FRSD plan to complete a comprehensive biological survey in the Western Ghats, as a basis for initiating biodiversity conservation. Almost all the protected areas have been affected by a variety of invasive species, such as *Lantana camara* (Spanish Flag), and *Chromolaena odorata* (Christmas Bush). FRSD is eager to promote the collection and dissemination of information, create awareness, and foster appropriate technology exchange pertaining to the management of Invasive Alien Species. FRSD has been

conducting Environmental Education programmes on invasive alien species and mountain ecosystem among the indigenous communities (supported by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) Japan). Contact: [S.P.Anandan](#)

Niche-based distribution modelling for tropical conservation

Dramatic declines in biodiversity have been observed over recent decades. Although many factors have been identified, there is a lot of uncertainty about the synergistic effects between causes such as habitat loss, emergent diseases, invasive species, climate change, contaminants and direct human disturbances. An important task in tropical conservation is to understand which species are particularly vulnerable to extinction, and identify the characteristics that put them at risk. To preserve threatened and endemic species it's crucial to quantify viable population sizes, phylogenetic patterns, home ranges, geographical distributions and population structure of disturbance-sensitive species. Niche-based distribution modelling (e.g. MaxEnt, GARP) may help researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of protected areas, especially in regions lacking comprehensive databases of species distribution. Combining niche-based distribution modelling and reserve selection algorithms (e.g. ConsNet, Marxan, C-Plex) is an effective tool that should be applied in systematic conservation planning to identify and interconnect priority regions. Contact: [J. Nicolás Urbina-Cardona](#)

IUCN and CEM collaboration at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, June 2009, Geneva

IUCN and CEM collaborated to establish a strong presence at the 2nd session of The ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 16 to 19 June, 2009 in Geneva, to promote ecosystem management for Disaster Risk Reduction. The **CEM Ecosystem Management Series publication 8 "Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction"**, giving practical guidance and indicators for ecosystem management for DRR, was widely distributed and promoted. IUCN gave an official statement on the need to invest in ecosystems as a part of DRR, receiving endorsements from several national delegations. A high level roundtable on "The Role of Ecosystems Management for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction" discussed the need for more scientific studies to examine the capacities and limits of ecosystems to absorb hazard impacts; the need for economic studies to examine the value of ecosystems; a reminder that environmental degradation is a main driver of risk, aggravated by climate change; need for stronger policy messages to UNFCCC about the importance of ecosystems to reducing underlying risk factors. To join the CEM DRR group and for more information contact: [Karen Sudmeier](#). Further information on the ISDR platform can be found at www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/



Corrigendum - CEM supports National Seminar on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management in India

In the April 2009 Vol. 1 Ecosystem Dr. Dhruvajothi's title was mistakenly cited as 'CEM member' under this article. His correct title is **Regional Vice Chair Asia** and he delivered the keynote address on behalf of CEM's chair, Piet Wit. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) consultation

The "Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" is a mechanism proposed to further strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It aims to add to existing processes that aim at ensuring that decisions are made on the basis of the best available scientific information on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. IPBES is proposed as a broadly similar mechanism to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In collaboration with other partners, IUCN is conducting a survey through which we seek the perspectives of the scientific community and broader civil society on the need for IPBES, its function and form, including the participation of civil society. [Click here](#) to access the survey (deadline for completion 13 September). Further information on IPBES can be found at www.iucn.org/ipbes.



Kate Brown - Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) Coordinator

IUCN is delighted to announce that Kate Brown has taken up a role with the Ecosystem Management Programme to coordinate the Global Islands Partnership.

A passion for islands and island people are the reasons that Kate Brown loves her job. Kate is from New Zealand (an island country) and spent eight years working on island issues at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in Apia, Samoa prior to joining IUCN. She also worked in Western Australia on promoting sustainable farming systems in agriculture.

Kate now leads the GLISPA Coordination Unit based in IUCN's USA office. GLISPA is a partnership working for the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity. The main focus of Kate's work with GLISPA is to raise attention of island issues globally,

facilitate the sharing of experiences between island countries and countries with islands, to support island leadership and commitment by facilitating both technical and financial resources to help islands meet their goals and to enable GLISPA members to work together to advance island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. [Contact](#) Kate. Further information on GLISPA can be found at www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml

Announcements & Events

The Ecosystem Approach e-Newsletter of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is published on a quarterly basis pursuant to CBD decision IX/7. The aim of this e-Newsletter is to facilitate sharing of information on the application of the ecosystem approach and promote the use and voluntary update of the Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook. [Click to subscribe](#)

New research on Payments for Ecosystem Services:

CEM member Shabnam Mustari is researching for the [Ontario Nature](#) (a Canadian NGO for conservation) to identify appropriate management practices for grasslands, wetlands, forest areas and pollinator habitats that will assist in valuing ecosystem services. These results could be used to create a "conservation credit" scheme for Ontario farmers to sustainably manage ecosystem services derived from their land. CEM members are invited to contribute to this research in identifying management practices and valuation method relevant for this research. Contact: [Shabnam Mustari](#)

"Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction – Shaping a New Agenda" to be held on the Isle of Wilm from September 17th to 21st 2009, hosted by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). Further information can be obtained from the [BfN website](#) or contact [Till Hopf](#)

Symposium on Creating a new prosperity: Fresh approaches to ecosystem services and human well-being

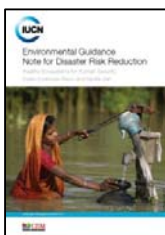
Royal Geographical Society, London, Friday 4th September 2009

This event will present a critical and reflective view of progress to date on current approaches for ecosystem service studies and take a look forward at place in emerging research and policy agendas. [Contact](#) or visit the [conference website](#).

International Conference: 4 Degrees and Beyond. 8-30 September 2009, Oxford.

The University of Oxford, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the Met Office are hosting a conference on the implications of a large climate warming for society. For more information on the conference program, invited speakers, online abstract submission and general registration please visit [conference website](#).

Publications



Ecosystem Management Series 8: Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction
Healthy Ecosystems for Human Security: Karen Sudmeier-Rieux and Neville Ash, 2009
[Download](#)

Ecosystem Management Series 3: The Ecosystem Approach: Five Steps to Implementation, Gill Shepherd (2004). Now available in Vietnamese. [Contact](#)

CEM Member and Thematic Group publications:

Nidhi Nagabhatla, Rohan Wickramasuriya and Narendra Prasad. 2009. *From Global to Local: Testing the potential of cross-scaling in global data sets*. Journal of The Indian Society of Remote Sensing(ISRS)-(Springer-Earth Science) September 2009, 37: 213-227

P.R.C. Prasad, Nidhi Nagabhatla, C. S. Reddy, S. Gupta, K.S.Rajan, S.H.Raza and C.B.S.Dutt. 2009. *Assessing forest canopy closure in a geospatial medium to address management concerns for Tropical Islands-South East Asia*. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Springer-ISI)- online [Available](#) from Feb-2009

Rama C. Prasad.P., A. N. Sringswara , Ch. Sudhakar Reddy, Nidhi Nagabhatla, K.S.Rajan, A. Giriraj, M.S.R.Murthy, S.H.Raza and C.B.S.Dutt. 2009. *Assessment of Forest Fragmentation and Species Diversity in North Andaman Islands (India) – A Geospatial Approach. International Journal of Ecology and Development. Fall 2009, Volume 14, Number F09*,pp 33-46 (available at <http://www.ceser.res.in/ceserp/index.php/ijed/article/view/102>)

Andrew A. Benson a; Arthur M. Nonomura a; Valrie A. *The Path of Carbon in Photosynthesis. XXV. Plant and Algal Growth Responses to Glycopyranosides* Journal of Plant Nutrition, Volume 32, Issue 7 July 2009 , pages 1185 - 1200

Sir John Houghton *Global warming : the complete briefing* 4th ed /; Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2009

Marcel Babin, Collin S. Roesler and John J. Cullen, edit. *Real Time Coastal Observing Systems for Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Harmful Algal Blooms; theory, instrumentation and modeling* Paris : UNESCO, 2008

Karen McLeod and Heather Leslie, edit., *Ecosystem-based management for the oceans*; Washington, DC : Island Press, 2009

George H. Nairne, edit., *Aquatic Ecosystem Research Trends* New York : Nova Science Publishers, 2009

Venkatachalam, A. J., Price, A.R.G., Chandrasekara, S., Senaratna Sellamuttu, S., Kaler, J. 2009. *Changes in frigate tuna populations on the south coast of Sri Lanka: evidence of the shifting baseline syndrome from analysis of fisher observations* Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems DOI: 10.1002/aqc.1068.

Price, A.R.G., Harris, A., McGowan, A., Venkatachalam, A.J., Sheppard C.R.C. 2009. *Chagos feels the pinch: assessment of holothurian (sea cucumber) abundance, illegal harvesting and conservation prospects in British Indian Ocean Territory.* Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems. DOI: 10.1002/aqc.1054.

Price, A.R.G., Harris, A. 2009. *Decadal changes (1996-2006) in coastal ecosystems of the Chagos archipelago determined from rapid assessment.* Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems. DOI: 10.1002/aqc.1029.

Venkatachalam, A. J., Price, A. R. G., Chandrasekara, S., Senaratna Sellamuttu, S. 2009. *Risk factors in relation to human deaths and other tsunami (2004) impacts in Sri Lanka: the fishers'-eye view.* Aquatic Conservation: Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems 19, 57 – 66.

EcoTip from MyGreen IUCN!

If you are away from your computer, put it in sleep/hibernate mode, which reduces energy use to about 5% of full operating power.

