

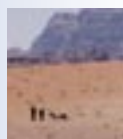
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Poverty, development and
biodiversityBy Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Organization
and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

In the 21st century, the public is coming to understand that “development” must be understood holistically as “sustainable development”. However, this shift is not yet reflected in development policy or in practice. The challenge for us is to persuade those responsible for development policy of the essential role played by biodiversity in supporting lives and livelihoods, and to provide the tools that practitioners need to incorporate biodiversity in their interventions.

Pro-poor goes hand in hand with pro-environment

Everyone, rich and poor, urban and rural, depends on goods and services that ecosystems provide. It is often the rural poor, however, who are most severely affected by environmental degradation, as they depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods, and do not have access to alternatives. To cite just a few facts:

- More than 1.6 billion people, including 1 billion poor people, depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests are also home to 80% of the remaining terrestrial biodiversity, provide protection for water resources, and reduce the risk of natural disasters such as landslides. But globally 12-15 million hectares of forests are lost each year.
- Of the 24 types of ecosystem service examined by the Millennium Assessment, 15 are in decline. Ecosystem degradation over the past 45 years, affecting more than 900 million people in 100 countries.
- More than five million people die each year from diseases caused by unsafe drinking water and lack of water for sanitation and hygiene.
- Unless action is taken now to protect watersheds and wetlands, and to use water more equitably, it is estimated that three billion people will experience water scarcity by 2025; a factor of ten increase since 1990.
- Seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas where uncontrolled alterations of ecosystems such as catchment areas and poorly managed logging often reduce the buffer-capacities of these ecosystems. When extreme weather hits, small farmers pay the price with failed crops and disrupted water supplies.

Any effective sustainable development policy and poverty reduction strategy therefore needs to include the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable sharing of benefits as integral parts of its objectives.

From conservation to sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits

Traditionally, the most immediate response to the challenge of biodiversity conservation has been the establishment of protected areas (PAs). These have proved valuable tools to safeguard pristine natural environments and biodiversity. Over the last 40 years there has been a paradigm shift in the role of PAs from national parks and reserves to broader

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Editor in Chief:

Tamás Marghescu

Managing Editors:

Tim Christophersen
Dirk Hendricks
Karen Hoyer

Scientific Editor:

Andrew Terry

Language Editor:

Tiina Rajamets

Translation:

Amalia Thaler
Victor Teplyakov

Design, typesetting and layout:

ohrt & hoyer

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Letter from the Regional Director



Tamás Marghescu

Photo: ROfe

Welcome to the ROfe Newsletter, which this time features biodiversity in development cooperation. Many people depend on resources that are provided by nature in their immediate surroundings. In developing countries, nature is the essential backbone for people's survival strategies. Threats to the biological diversity that delivers these resources can thus have a direct and significant impact on their lives. In turn, the conservation of nature, while allowing sustainable use, can generate more options to improve people's existence. However, the links between biodiversity and poverty are not often, and mostly insufficiently, taken into account in development cooperation.

We are very grateful to Ahmed Djoghla for sharing his view on the topic with us. He has directed the UNEP/GEF for nine years and since January this year he guides, as Executive Director, the Secretariat of the CBD. He is confronted on a daily basis with pinpointing, describing and even defending the very strong relationship between biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and poverty reduction.

The development assistance of the EU and its Member States combined accounts for more than half of the worldwide Official Development Assistance (ODA). This gives Europe a unique possibility to spearhead exemplary sustainable development in developing countries and we are very pleased to present a double interview with European Commissioners Stavros Dimas (Environment) and Louis Michel (Development).

The theme also gives us the opportunity to move beyond our normal European geographical scope and we are thankful for the inspiring contributions from IUCN members and offices in other parts of the world. We are pleased to present an interview with our member Kwata, whose work includes sustaining breeding grounds for sea-turtles in French Guiana. Due to its historical relations with France, French Guiana, a "biodiversity hotspot", is one of eight Outermost Regions of the EU that can contribute significantly to the goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – if adequate consideration is given to the issue in development policies and programmes. Positive action on achieving the 2010 target in the Outermost Regions can surely result in triggering similar action in the entire geographical area of the Outermost Regions. In Brussels, our office is continuously in dialogue with the European institutions working with the environment and with development cooperation, urging them to place greater emphasis on nature and biodiversity in the EU policies.

In this context, the conference in September 2006 on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation (www.countdown2010.net/paris2006), organised by ROfe together with the European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France and Sweden, offers a unique occasion for key stakeholders to identify opportunities and agree on measures for better integration of biodiversity and nature considerations into European development cooperation. No economy, no society can exist without the necessary foundation of ecosystems and their services.

With the strong support of our members worldwide, the many times documented political will of the world's governments and the keen interest of the private sector to become involved, we are sure that we will be able to assist in pinpointing necessary actions for sustaining ecosystem services in developing countries and look forward to policies developing into concrete steps on the ground to contain biodiversity loss by 2010.

Happy reading!

Tamás



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sustainable use areas. PAs have direct use-value to rural communities. For example, it is well documented that marine protected areas and no-fishing zones act as important reservoirs for fish that disperse into surrounding areas, to the benefit of local communities.

Today it is recognised that, in addition to their conservation function, PAs often provide means of sustainable income generation, both at the individual level, and at the level of societies, through, for example, tourism, public investments, and increased market access for local products and services.

The net benefits to society from PAs sometimes outweigh the benefits from alternative development options. In Costa Rica, experiments have shown that maintaining a forest PA near a coffee plantation increased coffee yields by 20% and translated into US\$ 60,000 per year, through supply of pollinators, an economic gain that exceeds revenue obtained by converting the forests to farmland.

To ensure that these areas contribute to an equitable sharing of the benefits of the use of biodiversity, we need to find impact assessment approaches that are sensitive to the perspectives and needs of the poor. Similarly, we need to respect traditional rights and practices of indigenous and local communities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, extending property and resource rights to local communities and fostering pro-poor markets for ecosystem services. Examples of such measures include protecting coral reefs and mangroves that support important fisheries and protect shorelines and prevent the depletion of traditional fisheries by large-scale commercial fishing operations.

New tools: valuation and markets

The potential contribution of markets to sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing points to the possibilities for protecting biodiversity through actions justified on their economic merits. This rests on a conception of economic value, which goes beyond conventional, narrow definitions, and includes material or other benefits to human well-being.

If we wish to realise the potential for markets, we need to make greater efforts towards understanding and computing the value of biodiversity, its components and its role in providing ecosystem services. We need to present this information in ways that are useful to decision-makers.

Under the process for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Parties have realised the need to pay increased attention to socio-economic issues and analysis, including biodiversity valuation and the promotion of markets for ecosystem services. To reach the three objectives of the CBD – conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits – biodiversity must be mainstreamed into the activities of relevant economic sectors, and become a factor in private

and public sector investment decisions. To achieve this, it is necessary to better understand the link between cause and effect of economic development and environmental change. In decision making, the costs associated with environmental degradation and biodiversity loss must be fully integrated.

The conservation of biological resources will not be achieved in a long term perspective without a successful implementation of the two other development-related objectives of the CBD. Aware of this challenge, the 188 Parties to this unique legal instrument agreed in 2006 to finalise the negotiation on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing in 2010. An agreement on this crucial objective will elevate biological resources to a major contributor to achieving peace, security, development and shared prosperity for the world.

Towards a global alliance to save life on earth

Natural resources provide fundamental support to life, and economic processes. Their scarcity or abundance can bring people together to combine efforts to manage and use resources sustainably – but they can also be a source of conflict when mismanaged or when costs and benefits are poorly distributed. The impacts of biodiversity loss make this more visible. As the direct drivers of biodiversity loss (e.g. over-exploitation, habitat change, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change) intensify, we become increasingly aware of how close the links are between individual, local and national economic decisions and global challenges.

Often, our national agendas and institutions are not geared up to deal with sustainable management of resources and issues. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity must be genuinely integrated into national planning processes for poverty elimination and economic development. Key instruments for this are Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, more effective international agreements are needed to govern the use of resources such as fisheries, for the benefit of all.

It is obvious, that the active engagement of all is essential in the quest to halt the loss of biodiversity. It is for this reason that the Parties to the CBD have decided to enhance engagement with a variety of major stakeholders, such as, for example, local communities, NGOs, business, scientific communities, women, youth and children, and authorities.

Such a strategic objective is crucial for the future of mankind. It requires a new era of collaboration between all actors involved, based on an enhanced spirit of partnership and cooperation. Born in Curitiba, the new enhanced phase of implementation of the CBD provides a framework for the emergence of this new partnership, this global alliance for the protection of Life on Earth.

News

Members meeting 2006

What will European nature look like in 2050?

IUCN is assembling its 374 European members in Barcelona, Spain, from 19–21 October, 2006, to discuss a vision for European nature, and to explore ways to reach the 2010 biodiversity target. Other topics will include: Europe at the 4th World Conservation Congress in 2008; New Models for Financing Nature Conservation; Communication Solutions for Nature and Biodiversity. A round of seminars on fundraising, media work and policy advocacy will be offered free of charge to members. For more information, and to register, please visit www.iucneurope.org or contact Ms Esther Vallado (Esther.Vallado@iucn.org, Tel. +32 2 739 03 18).

New staff

ROfE is pleased to announce that **Dr Tobias Garstecki** will join the European Programme Team as CIM integrated expert. Tobias holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology and has ample experience in working with key European conservation organisations. He will be working on the establishment of a new IUCN Programme Office for the Caucasus, based in Tbilisi, Georgia. CIM is a joint operation of the Deutsche German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Central Placement Office of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA).

IUCN ROfE is delighted to welcome **Mr Dirk Hendricks** as the new Senior Communications Officer. Dirk studied Economics, Economic History, International Relations and German Linguistics in Münster, Washington DC, Florence and Dublin (M.Econ.Sc and M.A.) focussing on development financing and politics. He has previously worked in similar positions in the Secretariat of the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) in Bonn and in the IFAW EU Office in Brussels. In his position, Dirk will also work for the Countdown 2010 Secretariat.

ROfE furthermore bids a warm welcome to **Ms Annika Vogt** who joined the Countdown 2010 team as Special Assistant and Finance Manager. Annika holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Cologne and Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris specialising in environmental policy. Remaining in Paris, she worked as an assistant at UNEP DTIE and then left for Berlin to work with Adelphi Research, an institute for sustainable development strategies.

New publications

- English Nature and The Highways Agency. 2006. *The Butterfly Handbook – mitigating the impact of roads on butterfly populations*.

Refreshing views on how infrastructure development can be used to enhance biodiversity.

Available online at: www.english-nature.org.uk/news/news_photo/The%20Butterfly%20Handbook.pdf

- Fisher, R.J., Maginnis, S., Jackson, W.J., Barrow, E. and Jeanrenaud, S. 2005. *Poverty and Conservation: Landscapes, People and Power*

This book focuses on conservation's potential to contribute actively to long-term sustainable development and, more immediately, to poverty reduction.

Available online at: www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/publications/news/povertyconservation-book.pdf

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. 2006. *The Road to 2050 – Sustainable Development in the 21st Century*.

Shares a vision of sustainable development towards 2050 and discusses possible ways to achieve this long-term vision.

Available online at: lnweb18.worldbank.org/essd/essdext.nsf/43ParentDoc/SustainableDevelopment?

New projects

Ktsia-Tabatskuri Project, Georgia

On the high plains of Georgia, 2000m above sea level, ROfE and IUCN member GCCW (Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife) will assist in the establishment of a protected area. The wetland contains a lake and a river, and alpine pastures. The elaboration of the management plan will be carried out in close cooperation with the community-based association of two villages within the boundary of the strict nature reserve. The three-year project is funded by BP Georgia within the framework of their Environment Investment Programme.

Sava River LIFE project, South-Eastern Europe

Flowing through four countries of South-Eastern Europe, the Sava is one of Europe's last wild rivers. It connects Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro. IUCN will start a new transboundary project to save the unique floodplains of the Sava, and to ensure an integrated river basin management. The three-year project is funded by the European Commission's LIFE Programme and the Swiss Development Cooperation, and will be carried out by the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in cooperation with the IUCN members "Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation" and "Croatian Nature Conservation Directorate" as well as other members and partners.

A vision for the EU Outermost Regions

**Interview with Benoit de Thoisy, Kwata,
by Jean-Philippe Palasi, IUCN ROE**



Benoit de Thoisy

JPP: What is the ecological importance of French Guiana and this region of the world and what are the main threats to its environment?

BT: The region is covered by one of the last coherent tracts of tropical forests in the world and harbours a unique biological diversity and cultural richness. The state of preservation of the freshwater and forest habitats is better than in most other tropical areas and most plant and animal populations still have a satisfactory conservation status. But demographic pressures, the evolution of the ways of life, and the declining standard of living of disadvantaged communities in the region, are increasing pressure on this ecological richness.

JPP: With which partners does the association Kwata work? Are you able to mobilise adequate resources for your projects?

BT: For years, Kwata has worked with partners at all levels, from the public as well as the private domain. These partnerships are, for example, in the field of regional planning, natural resource management, and environmental education. They also relate to logistic partnerships as well as technical and scientific projects. Financing specific activities or projects constitutes the major part of our financial commitments. The difficulty of access to recurrent financing, however, remains the principal constraint to realising projects, stabilising local competences, and ensuring follow-up of programmes.

JPP: Being a local NGO, what are your present expectations vis-à-vis IUCN?

BT: The principal expectation is for IUCN to continue to support networking in the northern region of South America. Regional collaborations are necessary, especially with a view to environmental and ecological concerns. In this context, the effectiveness of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group is worth quoting. The installation of effective networks and support for existing networks should be promoted.

JPP: French Guiana is part of the European Union and is bound by the Union's development and environment strategies. In terms of these two areas, what perception do you have of the EU actions in French Guiana?

BT: Primarily, there is a regrettable lack of coherence and strategic vision at the various levels of decision making (local, national, EU). This makes it difficult to establish joint activities that will be sustainable in the long term. The absence of funds dedicated to the operation and management of protected areas is a present example, after the sizeable sums invested in the establishment of these areas. At the same time, the financial guarantees given by the State to industrial projects (oil exploitation and mining) appear incompatible with the national rhetoric and the efforts made locally for sustainable management of the territory.

JPP: The EU has committed to halt the loss of biodiversity in the Union by 2010. What role does French Guiana play in realising this goal and could the country play a more important role?

BT: With 183 mammal species, 718 bird species and 5,750 plant



Protecting turtles in French Guiana © Jean Philippe-Palasi

species, French Guiana has an obvious role to play in the 2010 target. The financial resources, the level of scientific and technical experience, and the political and economic stability should also constitute strong levers to give French Guiana a driving role in this area of South America. However, the current situation is rather disappointing, with the French State relatively disengaged when it comes to environmental questions, and a lack of clear strategy from the EU.

JPP: In terms of the environment and development, is there anything you would wish that the European Union would do in the region?

BT: Being part of the EU, French Guiana receives quite large amounts in structural funding, but these are not very accessible to the local NGO structures. The funds include hardly any specific budget lines for biodiversity issues and are complicated to manage if they are acquired.

Another difficulty is that French Guiana does not implement the Birds and Habitats Directives, so the EU is just giving money but has no tools to encourage and evaluate ecosystem management.

Kwata is a local NGO, created in 1994, to study and protect the wild fauna in French Guiana. The association is active in environmental education, marine turtles' management, and the evaluation of human impacts on the forest fauna. French Guiana is an EU Outermost Region. Although Kwata is based 7,305 km from Brussels, it is an IUCN European member.

Kwata has been a member of IUCN since 1998.



From the Field: Managing natural resources



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In this issue of *From the Field*, we take a look at a few selected topics related to development and the sustainable management of natural resources. Useful lessons can be learnt from the involvement of communities in managing protected areas. However, as Ashish Kothari, co-chair of IUCN's Theme on Local Communities and Protected Areas, recently argued, the role of local communities in conservation work is widely overlooked (see also the BBC "Green Room" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5083558.stm>)

In the second section, we focus on management of the Arctic. Whilst the region is already subject to side-effects from economic activities elsewhere on the planet, new technology and increasing prices on minerals and other natural resources makes it viable for companies to explore resources in the Arctic itself. This raises numerous questions concerning how these resources should be managed and how local populations should be involved.

Co-management of PAs

Conventional protected area (PA) approaches tend to see people and nature as separate entities, often requiring the exclusion of communities from areas of interest, prohibiting their use of natural resources and seeing their concerns as incompatible with the conservation objectives of the PA. This is particularly distressing when the affected indigenous peoples and local communities are marginalised groups who tend to depend on the natural resources to sustain their livelihood. These conventional exclusionary approaches potentially bring about profound social costs and conflict.

Increasingly, scientists are coming to understand the value of traditional knowledge in helping to explain the natural world. The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of a region is built up over generations, often handed down by word of mouth and it is an integral part of a region's culture. Research projects increasingly recognise local knowledge as an essential component for study and management. At the same time, the integration of local knowledge has to support community interests and ensure an equitable sharing of costs and benefits.

There is often a fundamental overlap between the objectives of a nature management plan and the objectives of local communities, essentially being the long-term protection and stewardship of a particular environment. There are also increasing examples of the benefits of the integration of local communities in the management of PAs. This approach is fundamentally linked to the concept of good governance, which is considered by most to be an integral component of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. It is increasingly recognised that good governance also forms the basis for the sustainable management of natural resources, including protected areas. Co-management or collaborative management has become an increasingly visible governance option for natural resources in a variety of settings including common property, communal property or mixed property. As with management planning itself, the co-management of resources is not an "end" result but a continual process. This process requires constant communication between institutional structures and local communities to build trust, respect and the required feedback. Very important in this process is the inclusion of local communities in the decision-making and management processes for an area.

Graham, J., Amos, B. and Plumptre, T. 2003. *Governance Principles for Protected Areas in the 21st Century*. Discussion paper for the Vth World Parks Congress, South Africa in September 2003.

www.earthlore.ca/clients/WPC/English/grfx/sessions/PDFs/session_1/Amos_plenary.pdf

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/index.html

Out of site, out of mind: changing perspectives

The polar oceans play an important role in the global climate system. The Arctic Ocean is the smallest of the world's oceans and currently is completely covered by sea ice by the end of the winter season. Irrespective of the changes to sunlight, the ocean's surface remains at or near freezing temperatures all year round (Serreze *et al.*, 1997; Andreas *et al.*, 2002). The land regions are frozen for at least a large portion of each year, supporting little plant life beyond small shrubs and hardy flowers. A small variety of resilient animals in a narrow "tree of life" call this area home. This unique and extreme environment leads to an exceptional ecology, of which little is known due to logistical issues connected with researching this environment: from the smallest bacteria that live within the sea ice by creating their own chemical-rich environment to survive the long cold winters, to the polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) that feed on Arctic cod (*Arctogadus glacialis*) and seals (*genus Phoca*). This unique diversity extends down to the ocean bottom which is currently left virtually unexplored, where every handful of mud brought to the surface yields new and previously unseen flora and fauna.

Global climate models are predicting enhanced warming in the Arctic, and sea ice is behaving as an indicator and amplifier of natural and anthropogenic climate change. The large-scale observations of sea ice coverage of the northern Polar region has allowed detection of decreases in surface area, ranging from 5.5% from 1978–1994, to 7.7% per decade from 1979–2004 (e.g. Comiso, 2003). The changes witnessed in all fields of science by polar researchers are currently not due to local activities in the Arctic itself, but to activities of those living outside the Arctic, a true transboundary issue. The Arctic region currently sustains less than 0.1% of the global human population and maintains a small amount of human activities: primarily science, tourism and energy extraction. To date the Arctic has not been open to transportation and several shipping activities are banned under international law (such as ballast dumping). Primary economic activities in the region are mineral and energy extraction, again run by corporations outside the region. Local inhabitants who have primarily subsistence livelihoods are witnessing changes to their way of life caused by external factors. These impacts are set to increase as it becomes economically and logistically more viable to exploit the Arctic for energy and minerals.

It is commonly understood that the Arctic region is responding to anthropogenic activities at rates and magnitudes that are far greater than the response from areas between the polar regions. Due diligence is required in planning activities both within the Arctic but also globally in order to preserve the region. The polar regions are the final opportunity to maintain large-scale natural habitats, of both land and sea. The Arctic's most eminent threat is climate change and the anthropogenic causes are to be found in industrialised countries. Although the peril of the Greenland ice sheet and other Arctic features is often reported in the media, there is very little awareness of the complex impacts of climate change and the link to activities at home.

Work is being done to preserve natural resources and determine sustainable methods of management. Suitable tactics should also be investigated for use in the Arctic. These include the concept of transboundary protection and altering activities that contribute to climate change. We have a final chance at preserving the last remaining frontier of the Earth's surface. The lessons we must take with us to this region are that activities can have significant impact at great distances from where they are carried out and we must take this fact into account when determining the future management of the Arctic region.

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Comiso, J.C. 2003. Large scale characteristics and variability of the global sea ice cover. In: *Sea-Ice – An Introduction to its Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology* (ed. D.N. Thomas and G.S. Deickmann), pp. 112-142. Blackwell Science.

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Development meets Environment

Interview with Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, and Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for the Environment by Tamás Marghescu, IUCN ROFE



Stavros Dimas and Louis Michel

TM: One target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to “Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources”. What were the key steps taken so far to implement this target by DG Development and DG Environment respectively?

LM: The new European Consensus for Development Cooperation specifically includes environment and sustainable management of natural resources i) as an action theme for cooperation with partner countries, ii) as an issue for coherence, and iii) as a mainstreaming issue. It refers to the need to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessments on a systematic basis, including in relation to budget and sectoral aid. Furthermore, the new guidelines for EU Country Strategy Papers and Regional Strategy Papers specify that an analysis of the environmental issues should be included, on the basis of a Country Environmental Profile. These two (new) elements constitute important steps in preparing the ground for implementing the sustainable development target.

SD: Integrating the environmental dimension into the various EU policies has been a requirement under the EC Treaty since 1997. Progress has been mixed – it is a lot easier to identify the need for “integration” than to convince different ministries to revise their existing agendas and working practices. But progress has certainly taken place – most importantly for biodiversity concerns, with the revision of the Common Agricultural Policy. In the area of development cooperation the importance of “integration” was reaffirmed in major EU policy documents such as the revised Sustainable Development Strategy and the Commission Communication on Biodiversity. Practical steps have been taken to ensure that these commitments are effectively implemented ... but it will inevitably take time to see the results.



TM: The EU is committed to halting the loss of biodiversity on its territory by 2010. What roles do the EU Overseas Countries and Territories and its Outermost Regions play in terms of realising this goal and could they play a more important role?

SD: These countries and territories play an important role in achieving

the EU and the global CBD and WSSD biodiversity 2010 targets. Most of them are “biodiversity hotspots” combining very high overall species richness with a high number of threatened species. Few people know that the EU has coral reefs and tropical forests! This is why the new Commission Communication on Biodiversity emphasises that “effective action in the biodiversity-rich overseas countries and territories of Member States is vital to the EU’s credibility in this international arena”. The Communication sets a series of objectives and actions specifically geared at protecting biodiversity in these areas.

LM: Environment and sustainable management of natural resources takes an important part in the dialogue with the OCTs, mostly focusing on climate change and disaster management. The OCTs are mostly small island states, very vulnerable to environmental pressures, and they therefore consider environmental issues to be very important. A regional environmental profile covering all OCTs is under preparation, which will identify possible actions to be undertaken through development assistance.

TM: In 2005, a Court of Auditors review found that the Commission lacks a comprehensive strategy to address environment in its development cooperation. Assuming such a strategy will be formulated, what elements should in your opinion be included?

LM: Addressing environmental issues is crucial for poverty alleviation, and indeed for the achievement of all the MDGs. This is very well understood in the environmental community, but not necessarily in the development community. Environment is too often seen as a luxury, with emphasis on short-term growth and poverty reduction. It is essential that the new environment strategy addresses this gap, both within the EU, as well as in our partner countries, by better explaining how important environment and sustainable natural resource management is, for poverty reduction as well as in its own right. Secondly, relevant procedures for environmental mainstreaming (preparation of Country Environmental Profiles, Strategic Environmental Assessments etc) need to be formalised. Although many elements are in place, they have not yet become normal working practice and this is something we have to work on. Finally, it is very important to realise that we are not acting alone, and that we need to work closely together, both with the EU Member States, as well as with other donors, and also that our partner countries should be fully involved.

SD: The Commission delegations need to be more aware of the connection between environment protection and poverty eradication and of the international environmental agreements the EC is a party to. Their capacity should be reinforced in this respect. The Country Environmental Profiles should be improved and the results need to be more systematically included into the regional and country strategy papers which govern EC aid. The same applies to environmental and strategic impact assessments of specific projects, of policy papers and of trade agreements.

TM: Commissioner Stavros Dimas, one of the actions listed in the EU Action Plan to 2010 and Beyond is to strengthen capacities within the Commission in order to mainstream biodiversity in EU external development assistance. How do you envisage working together with DG Development on this point?

SD: The Commission’s Action Plan contains 11 specific actions aimed at substantially strengthening support for biodiversity and ecosystem



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services in the framework of EU external assistance. DG Development and DG Environment already cooperate closely together but we will continue to look for further improvements.

TM: Commissioner Louis Michel, DG Development launched a comprehensive and long-term Strategy for Africa in 2005. How will biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources be taken into account in the implementation of the Strategy?

LM: The Africa Strategy emphasises the importance of good governance as crucial for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources. Key elements of the strategy are therefore to promote good governance and the establishment of an appropriate legal framework for sound use of natural resources. This includes the development of local capabilities to generate reliable information on the location, condition and evolution of environmental resources, as well as supporting Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG). Furthermore, actions are foreseen to conserve biodiversity by supporting African regional, sub-regional and domestic efforts to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and CITES. This should, in particular, cover measures relating to the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets for significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, the establishment of representative and well-managed protected area systems by 2012, and combating overexploitation and illegal trade in wildlife and its products. Support could also be provided for the African Biodiversity Network, and to further work on alien invasive species.

TM: What is, in your opinion, the main role which IUCN and its constituency can play, together with the European Commission, to achieve better integration of biodiversity considerations in development cooperation?

SD: The partnership with IUCN is a special one and the unique composition of IUCN certainly helps the Commission implement its environmental policy. This is why the Commission supports a number of IUCN activities such as the Countdown 2010 Initiative. IUCN is present in more than 60 countries and its understanding of biodiversity concerns in developing countries is particularly valuable.

I would certainly hope that this cooperation between the European Commission and IUCN can be further strengthened.

LM: IUCN has an extensive network which brings together States, government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and scientists and experts, including in the developing world, and it could therefore be very helpful in one of the areas I outlined earlier on, namely to better make the case for good environment and natural resource management, especially in the developing countries, and help to create understanding and demand for this from their side, both at governmental level as well as civil society, including the private sector.

TM: What type of nature experience would you hope your grandchildren will be able to have when travelling in regions that are benefiting from European development cooperation today?

LM: I can only hope my grandchildren will be able to experience and meet people from all around the world in decent living conditions, especially when it comes to health, including nutrition, education and income, with promising opportunities to progress in life. I also hope that my grandchildren, and the grandchildren who will grow up in these countries, will still be able to enjoy the natural beauty of their landscape including all the plants and animals.

SD: For me, the question is not so much what my own grandchildren will be able to experience when travelling in those countries, but what the grandchildren of those living in those countries will be able to experience. I want those children to enjoy sustainable livelihoods, to be healthy, highly educated and be well fed. We are increasingly realising that, in developing countries, looking after natural resources is one of the keys to a higher quality of life and a decent income. I would hope that these children learn to live in harmony with the surrounding nature, that they are proud of the biodiversity of their country, and that they are able to fully benefit from the ecosystem services and products it provides.



© Simon Anstey

Protected area perspectives

By Simon Anstey, Regional Programme Coordinator and Tarek Abul-Hawa, Protected Areas Programme Coordinator, IUCN WESCANA

The IUCN WESCANA region stretches from Morocco in the west, through North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, to the Central Asian countries Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the east. The countries in the region face a number of common challenges. These include the need to strengthen civil society, reduce inequities and broaden stakeholder involvement in decision making on environmental management and economic development.

The IUCN WESCANA Protected Areas Programme aims to build capacity and to guide and enhance the development of regional approaches and models for effective protected area (PA) management, with a focus on community participation and involvement at all levels. The WESCANA office has carried out an assessment of PAs in Oman, Yemen and five countries in Central Asia.

Oman

Conventional methods of PA management in the Sultanate of Oman have, to some extent, played a role in the preservation of Oman's biodiversity. These methods focus on law enforcement, patrolling and wildlife conservation. Oman however has a long road ahead before embracing methods that integrate the preservation of its magnificent natural environment with social and economic development. Current methods are not laying long-term foundations for a sustainable and participatory management system for PAs. They should be supported by other aspects such as participatory and decentralised management, education and awareness programmes, proactive tourism and visitor management and conservation-oriented community welfare programmes, to name just a few.

Yemen

Yemen is unique for its location between Asia and Africa. It is characterised by ample variations in its topography, climate and natural habitat. All these features have endowed the country with an outstanding biological diversity. For instance, the wealth of flora includes over 30,000 plant species, about 15% of which are endemic.

Yemen started its PA programme during the late 90s and since then has made efforts to establish a network of PAs supported by sound management and sustainable financing. However, the country still faces a number of challenges, such as a lack of clarity in institutional and legal frameworks, lack of administrative and technical expertise,

knowledge and know-how, and availability of funding.

Central Asia

The five countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, geographically at the crossroads between Asia, South Asia and Europe, make up an area of extremely high biodiversity. Following independence in 1991, all of these countries are dealing with a difficult period of economic and political transition. One consequence is the growing incidence of poverty. This creates an urgent need for environmental management linked directly to the region's development and human livelihoods agenda.

Less than 10% of the region's area has been set aside as PAs, despite the fact that many of the ecosystems found in the countries are under-represented in the global network of PAs. IUCN's regional members identified support towards assessing the current status of PAs as a priority. A website on Central Asia Strict Nature Reserves was created (<http://iucnca.net>) and a network of specialists established in each country to contribute to improved management effectiveness and planning.

Shared lessons

The assessments revealed several issues that the countries have in common and need to deal with in order to achieve more effective management of their PAs.

In particular there is a need to:

- (a)locate sufficient resources to ensure adequate management of the PAs, for example through development of ecosystem services and tourism/park entrance fees;
- establish clear management responsibilities at national as well as local level, ensure interdepartmental coordination, and avoid frequent changes of controlling department so as to ensure the enforcement of PA legislation;
- recognise the strong dependence of the local people on the natural resources in the PAs, especially in the Central Asian countries, and to ensure that the concerned communities participate in management and sustainable use of the available resources;
- increase the number of qualified specialists in PA management and make training available to PA staff.

Faith in nature conservation

By James Morant, Senior Advisor, IUCN USA Multilateral Office

In August, representatives from IUCN¹ and key staff from the “Faith for Africa” project, a predominantly African-American network of congregations doing humanitarian work in Africa and other locations, met in Nairobi to consider how to link the work of faith-based organisations with the work of IUCN. Both IUCN and FFA are committed to working towards establishing closer linkages which transcend and enhance our current institutional arrangements, and firmly believe that our respective missions can be reinforced through effective partnership. This effort is intended to cover outreach to an array of faith-based groups that are working, or intend to work, on conservation issues. FFA represents IUCN’s initial interaction in this direction.

Objectives for the meeting included 1) identification of the roles of faith-based organisations; 2) creation of a plan of action for future cooperation between IUCN and faith-based organisations; and 3) development of ways to communicate to faith-based organisations, IUCN, and others about the cooperative work taking place.

Faith-based operations

The Faith for Africa (FFA) project focuses on quick-response, on-the-ground work, seeking to, for example, reduce community conflicts, provide water resources, and restore a sense of hope for the individuals in targeted areas. Contrary to more traditional relief groups, the FFA works with a very nimble framework in order to ensure immediate response and action where needs arise.

Rev. Alfred Bailey, FFA representative, led a discussion of recent World Bank work in analysing the relationships between faith and conservation. He noted that water is sacred in all faiths, and has found many uses in establishing and promoting approaches to conservation. However, in many cases, faith-based organisations lack scientific know-how and a longer-range approach to project design, evaluation and maintenance. This is potentially where collaboration with conservation organisations would be fruitful.

Among the barriers to effective faith-based cooperation were 1) information sharing; 2) linking with other relevant priorities (e.g. AIDS, poverty, gender, education, economic development, etc); 3) theological differences; and 4) lack of experience in the use and maintenance of technology.

IUCN initiatives

The IUCN East Africa Regional Office (EARO) is predominantly member- and project-driven. Focal areas include water and wetlands, marine and coastal ecosystems, forest and dry lands, invasive species, biodiversity, and cross-cutting issues like gender and social policy.

The Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) mandate for 2005–2008 includes five priority areas: the ecosystem approach, ecosystem restoration, indicators of ecosystem status, ecosystem services, and tools for managing ecosystems. It is implemented through a network of more than 500 expert volunteers. Comments were made regarding the spiritual connection between people and ecosystems and the potential of CEM’s global network of volunteer experts was noted as a positive feature for FFA.

The Water and Wetlands programme has limited experience in dealing with water supply issues, such as those encountered by the FFA project, but each could benefit from a collaborative effort. Some of the IUCN hydrological data, and other technical information, such as information on water management at the basin level, could be made available to FFA or others when these groups are identifying sites for future work. IUCN also maintains information on community-level projects that, while unfunded due to donor limitations, are nevertheless important and a product of community involvement.

Opportunities for collaboration

The sharing of information and networks were two of the key opportunities identified during the meeting. Collaboration between faith-based organisations and IUCN could offer better integration of ideas to and through members (creating a multiplier effect of knowledge and action), and cooperative work could result in a more robust and diverse portfolio of expertise. Joint fund-raising was also identified as a possibility.

There was general agreement in moving forward with a framework which

1. promotes teaming with other NGOs in Africa that IUCN might recommend;
2. provides advice and direction when FFA is moving into new areas;
3. provides access to IUCN analyses for effective FFA project implementation;
4. establishes a more long-term focus;
5. widens the constituent base (e.g. Ministries of the Environment, other government partners and community groups); and
6. presents opportunities for FFA donors to more fully designate the use of their monies to fully vetted community projects.

¹ The IUCN East Africa Regional Office, the IUCN Regional Office for South Africa, the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management, and the USA Multilateral Office.

Sustainability in the 21st Century

This article draws on: Adams, W.M. 2006. The future of sustainability: Rethinking Environment and Development in the 21st Century. The report is available for review and comments at www.iucn.org/members/future_sustainability.

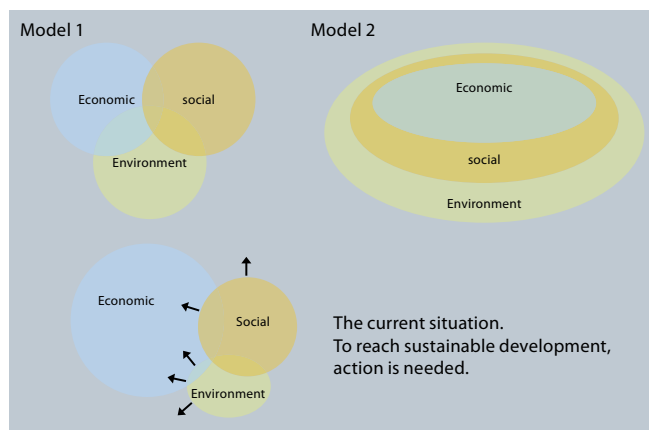
In January 2006, a group of IUCN staff and experts met to discuss the issue of sustainability in the 21st century. More than 30 years after IUCN started working with the concept, the importance of sustainable development is widely recognised by world leaders, and is a common topic of discussion amongst citizens, the media and research institutions across the world. With the Millennium Development Goals, a new framework for sustainable development was set, and monitoring and stocktaking of achievements have come into focus. But rhetorical and political frameworks are one thing; the practical decisions taken on development questions around the globe are another. Are we putting action behind our words? And what are the prospects for the 21st Century?

The concept of sustainable development

Sustainable development has often been understood in terms of a three-pillar approach that takes into account economic, social and environmental aspects. This approach implies that trade-offs can be made between the dimensions. A distinction is commonly drawn between weak sustainability (where such trade-offs are allowed) and strong sustainability (where they are not). The fact that the three dimensions are inter-linked is increasingly recognised.

The IUCN Programme 2005–8 operates with a model of three overlapping circles. Model 1 implies that the three factors influence each other and should be equally taken into account. At present, an increased focus on social and environmental issues is crucial if this is to be achieved. In Model 2, the starting point is that a healthy environment is fundamental to sustaining a robust social structure and that the two dimensions together form the basis for a well-functioning economy.

How far does the current situation fit these models? With the overall increased pressure on natural resources, including soil, air, water and minerals, it is clear that the environmental basis is shrinking. While the world economy has soared from US\$ 4.1 trillion in 1950 to US\$ 31 trillion in 2001, poverty remains high and inequality is growing on a global scale. Can these decreasing environmental and social “circles” continue to support the expanding economy?



Current state of play

We all depend on the environment for basic commodities such as food, water and shelter, and more than 2 billion people depend on their immediate environment for these commodities. We depend on the environment to prevent – or act as a buffer against – disasters such as, for example, land slides, floods and hurricanes. Often, these types of events are exacerbated by human-induced changes to our natural environment, such as the draining of wetlands and the destruction of forests. With climate change, there is at the same time a high probability that these types of events will increase in frequency and severity.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment found that 60% of the ecosystem services assessed were being degraded. The assessment also pointed to continued loss of biodiversity in all four scenarios for the future, which were laid out. Reversing these trends requires us to understand what is happening to ecosystems, why ecosystems are under pressure, and what we can do about it. However, we are currently changing the world more rapidly than we come to understand it, and in the meantime business goes on as usual.

Despite more than three decades of explicit concern about sustainability, development decisions in practice continue to be dominated by economic concerns – until the environment becomes so degenerated that it becomes critical to act. New ways of thinking appear to be needed to inspire us to be proactive.

Prospects for the 21st century

The first decade of this century offers a unique opportunity to re-think the dominant patterns of global development. Sustainability is an established concept, which a wide audience to some extent understands. Emerging issues such as climate change and discussions on future energy sources furthermore make the issue highly visible in the media and in the everyday lives of most people on the planet. This creates an unprecedented opportunity for engaging citizens and opinion leaders in the search for solutions.





IUCN Photo Library © Jim Thorsell

The link between consumption and resource availability needs to be addressed in order to revise the widespread perception that resource flows are in general bountiful and to establish the links between consumption and resources. While there are inevitably limits to resources and to certain types of consumption, this does not necessarily constitute a limit to economic development. For example, in an economy of services rather than objects, value can be generated without the generation of waste or unnecessary energy input. Consumption has to be made the driver of positive change, not the driver of global degradation.

Growth is currently based on unlimited meeting of consumer wants, which is not necessarily the same as people's needs. The relevant metric could instead be human wellbeing, measured as a function of resource consumption. In other words: Does the consumption of a lot of resources necessarily lead to an increased feeling of wellbeing? Or are there other factors that are equally, or more, important?

Technological development offers another possibility for a win-win situation for the environment and economic growth. Environmental organisations could form partnerships with developers of environmentally friendly technology to mutually promote ideas, for example in connection with new legislation where politicians could be made aware of the existence of an innovative technology that would facilitate its implementation.

In order to explore these paths, environmentalists need to form alliances outside their familiar contacts, for example with business people, consumer organisations, researchers outside natural science, and the media, to fuel ideas and build momentum for positive change.

Internet forum on sustainability

The discussion on the future of sustainability continued in an online forum. Jeff McNeely, Chief Scientist of the IUCN Global Programme, amongst other things asked: "How can scientists formulate more positive messages—ones that carry a consensus of support for promising opportunities and can restore a sense of hope in the general public?"

This caused Gillian Martin Mehers, Conservation Learning Coordinator of IUCN, to write the following comment [shortened, ed]:

This is a wonderful question and Jeff's paper provides an excellent example to work with. I challenged myself – if I was going to write a paper about global challenges in the 21st century, how could I do it in a way that had positive messages and restored hope in the people reading it? For example, how do I feel when I read the following words which are found throughout the paper?

"Degraded; continuing loss of biodiversity; extinction threat; polluting; far less efficient; hidden dangers; urgent warnings; the odds are against it; but it gets worse; conflicting messages; confusing the public; failure; political non-starter."

Do I feel hopeful? Energised and excited to contribute?

Of course these are accepted notions that are used ostensibly to help people see the urgency and seriousness of the "problems". But if we are trying to build public support with this kind of language and messages, no wonder people are "tuning out". I tune out myself and I am a committed member of this movement.

I think one of the key instruments lies in the way we frame the issues for ourselves and other people. If language creates our reality, how do we use the language of hope, rather than the language of failure and crisis, to further motivate people to change?

The vehicle is to ask those great questions: What are the key breakthroughs coming up? How can we write about the successes and developments in our field? How can we show people, in a positive way, that their actions matter, no matter how incremental they might seem?

Read the discussion documents, and the comments they stimulated, on:

www.iucn.org/members/future%5F sustainability/

Money, money, money...

Conservation finance today and options for the future.

By Hans Friederich, Head, Conservation Finance and Donor Relations, The World Conservation Union, IUCN
Chair of the Conservation Finance Alliance

Sources for conservation finance are many, and include domestic sources of funding through government budget allocations to ministries and agencies responsible for the management of forests, protected areas, marine parks and wetlands. In developing countries, the main problem is that biodiversity conservation is not seen as a high priority. Therefore allocations to the authorities that manage natural resources are generally inadequate to carry out the day-to-day management tasks, or to expand or improve services and operations.

Official Development Assistance

Traditionally, one of the most important sources for conservation finance in the developing world has been Official Development Assistance (ODA). Bilateral ODA amounted to US\$ 80 billion per year in 2004, and recent pledges at the 2005 World Summit in New York will raise this to US\$ 130 billion by 2010. In addition, the G8 nations agreed to cancel US\$ 40 million of outstanding debt to 18 of the poorest nations. Nevertheless, there are still only five countries that have reached the UN target of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) for ODA. Moreover, OECD statistics indicated that only 2.7% of ODA dispersed between 1998 and 2000 was biodiversity-related, and the current focus on poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goals will most likely reduce this percentage. The key lesson here is that ODA can only be effective for biodiversity conservation if we can demonstrate the link between ecosystem management and poverty reduction.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was specifically created in 1992 to promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity, and has allocated more than US\$ 1 billion in its first decade of operation, matched by an additional US\$ 2.5 billion in co-finance. This is an impressive figure, but estimated to be less than one tenth of what is needed for biodiversity conservation. Regrettably, the recent GEF replenishment discussions and the newly established Resource Allocation Framework for the Biodiversity Focal Area of GEF suggest that support from GEF will remain inadequate to cover the needs for conservation.

Making markets work for biodiversity

One of the most interesting and promising areas for conservation finance in the future is market-based, and depends on the conservation community creating a market demand for biodiversity products and ecosystem services. Payments for ecosystem services are already in use in many countries around the world. The carbon market is growing fast with an estimated value of more than US\$ 600 million per annum in 2004, which is increasing exponentially. Paying for biodiversity services and biodiversity offsets is very likely the next business frontier.

Environmental Trust Funds

Philanthropy is an important source of conservation finance. Support is often channelled through an own Trust Fund and is currently predominantly project-specific. Although important for work on the ground, this type of financing is currently not reaching the levels of ODA.

Environmental Trust Funds are an effective and attractive way of managing resources. The term "trust fund" can be broadly defined as money that (1) may only be used for specified purposes; (2) must be kept separate from other sources of money, such as a government agency's regular budget; and (3) is managed and controlled by an independent board of trustees or directors. Endowment funds are the most common type of conservation trust fund. The capital of an endowment fund is usually invested and only the income is ever spent. Sinking funds, in contrast also spend down part of their capital each year. Revolving funds have no capital, but continually receive new revenues from specially earmarked "user fees", environmental taxes, pollution fines or tourism taxes.

One of the key questions now is how to encourage governments, multilateral donors, businesses, and perhaps philanthropists, to contribute to trust funds, and what is needed to create an enabling environment to make trust funds work.



IUCN Calendar of Events Sept. - Nov. 2006

The meetings listed below are events organised or sponsored by IUCN, or in which IUCN is participating.

September

- 5-7 Lahemaa National Park, Estonia**
Green Belt Meeting for Fennoscandia and the Baltic States
www.countdown2010.net/greenbelt.htm
- 12 New York, USA**
Opening of the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations
www.un.org/ga
- 19-21 Paris, France**
Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation
The conference will bring together participants from European and partner countries, civil society and multilateral organizations, and will be the platform for a cutting-edge debate on the dual challenge of poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.
www.countdown2010.net/paris2006/
- 21-22 Arendal, Norway**
High-level seminar on Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their relevance in the Arctic
www.grida.no/newsroom.cfm?pressReleaseItemID=1011
- 25-14 Oc Majella National Park, Italy**
International Seminar "Countdown 2010: people, protected areas and biodiversity conservation". Three-week seminar focusing on interactive problem solving of issues related to protected area and biodiversity management.
www.istpangea.it/english.htm

October

- 2 Global**
World Habitat Day
- 2-6 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction
www.apfcweb.org/events/events_workshops.html
- 2-6 Geneva, Switzerland**
54th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee
www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/SC54.shtml
- 8-10 Bonn, Germany**
11th International Business Forum 2006; Business and the Millennium Development Goals: The Business Challenge Africa. The forum will host an intensive learning and networking process focusing on the business sector's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.
www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/DocDisplay.cfm?Doc=DOC21614&Resource=f1
- 16-17 Amsterdam, The Netherlands**
International Conference: Make markets work for climate
www.minvrom.nl/makemarketwork

October *continued...*

- 16-22 Sondrio, Italy**
Sondrio Festival 2006 – International Documentary Film Festival on Parks
www.sondriofestival.it/home/ing/home.htm
- 18-21 Barcelona, Spain**
IUCN European Members' Meeting
www.iucneurope.org
- 18-21 Perugia, Italy**
European Regional CITES Plants Meeting
www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar/06europlant.doc
- 25-27 Rome, Italy**
The First World Congress on Communication for Development (WCCD)
www.devcomm-congress.org/worldbank/macro/2.asp

November

- 6-17 Nairobi, Kenya**
12th Session of the COP (Conference of the Parties) and 25th Session of the SBI and SBSTA (Subsidiary Bodies) of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_12/items/3754.php
- 6-17 Wageningen, The Netherlands**
Course: Agri-business development and supply chain management
The course focuses on the theory and practice of a business and supply chain approach to sustainable development.
www.wi.wur.nl/NR/exeres/EFB7BB0F-4AEF-4199-9E84-A95D4E939025.htm
- 28-30 Guangzhou, China**
Second International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts.
www.prwri.com.cn/icec2006-eindex.htm
- 30-1 Dec Bangkok, Thailand**
International Symposium on Water Resource and Renewable Energy Development in Asia.
www.hydropower-dams.com

Useful event calendar links:

Agenda of the EU institutions
http://europa.eu/press_room/agenda/index_en.htm
European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC)
www.ecnc.nl/Main/Events_421.html
European Environment Agency (EEA)
www.eea.europa.eu/Events/Calendar/
Natura 2000 Green Days
www.eurosite.org/bin/events/index.php?t=c
Sustainable Development Gateway
www.sdgateway.net/events/
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
www.unep.org/Calendar/
United Nations Forum on Forests
www.un.org/esa/forests/calendar.html

IUCN's vision

A just world that values and conserves nature

IUCN's mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

ROfE's mission

To foster and fortify a European network of excellence in environmental research, policy and best practice, with the aim to:

1. Contribute to IUCN's global mission
2. Support the integration of biodiversity conservation into economic development
3. Support innovative initiatives for the multi functional, sustainable use of natural resources

ROfE's structure

Regional Office for Europe (ROfE) is a branch of the IUCN global network. We along with offices and commissions around the world link back to the President, Director General and Council of IUCN. For a history of IUCN and an explanation of the global structure please visit www.iucn.org

ROfE is comprised of four IUCN offices located in Brussels, Warsaw, Belgrade and Moscow. The head office, located in Brussels, is a meeting point where the IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe in Warsaw, the IUCN Programme Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow and the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in Belgrade can disseminate information and strategies. Together as ROfE we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable Europe by utilizing local expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.

ROfE

Regional Office for Europe

ROfE Head Office in Brussels

Regional Office for Europe and Permanent Representation to the European Union
Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64,
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 732 82 99
Fax: +32 2 732 94 99
E-mail: europe@iucn.org
Web site: www.iucneurope.org

ROfE in Tilburg

Reitseplein 3, 5037 AA Tilburg.
The Netherlands
Postal address;
Postbus 90154. 5000 LG Tilburg
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 13 594 49 44

ROfE in Moscow

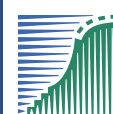
IUCN Programme Office
for the Commonwealth of
Independent States
Stolyarny pereulok, 3, building 3,
Moscow 123022, Russia
Tel: +7 (095) 609-39-91
+7 (095) 609-39-60
+7 (095) 609-33-99
Fax: +7 (095) 609-34-11
E-mail: info@iucn.ru
Web site: www.iucn.ru

ROfE in Warsaw

IUCN Programme Office
for Central Europe
Ul. Zwirki i Wigury 93, pok. room 3037
02-089 Warszawa
Poland
E-mail: central.europe@iucn.org
Tel/Fax: +48 22 55 40 722

ROfE in Belgrade

IUCN Programme Office for
South-Eastern Europe
Dr. Ivana Ribara 91
11070 Novi Beograd
Serbia and Montenegro
Tel: +381 11 2272 411
Fax: +381 11 2272 531



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