

ECOSYSTEM INSIDER

The Ecosystem Insider brings you news from the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management



March 2018 - Edition 1



Dear IUCN CEM member,

We are pleased to bring you the First issue of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) Newsletter for 2018

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CEM Highlight

Steering Committee meeting in Pokhara-Nepal

Our first Steering Committee meeting of 2018 was held in Pokhara, Nepal from the 26th February to the 2nd March. We were joined by CEM leaders: Shalini Dhyani (South Asia), PC Abhilash (Agro-ecosystems), Himlal Baral (Forest ecosystems), and Alice Hughes (YPN). Stewart Maginnis and Radhika Murti from Secretariat and Christopher Howe from IUCN-Asia also participated. Mangal Man Shakya (Asia Regional Council representative), Sushila Chattarjee (Nepal focal point CEM members) and Dr. Rishi Sah (IUCN members representative) also joined us in different parts of the meeting.



Some of the main issues discussed in this SC meeting include: project development mechanisms; a guidebook on commission communication; innovations and ecosystem management; learning to apply the ecosystem approach to landscape management; and white board explanatory videos about ecosystem management concepts widely used in CEM. Reflections on how our work contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to best advance our actions to show these results was widely discussed as well as our role in generating new knowledge and disseminating it.

National level Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) are being required by different actors but we need to make sure that the reach of this analytic instrument is clearly understood and its technical standards are always used. In this way we can more efficiently mobilize the results these exercises can provide.



We also had the opportunity to visit the EbA and Eco-DRR pilot project sites which were presented by IUCN Nepal Program Officer Anu Adhikari, around Sidhane, Bhadaure and Tamagi. We want to thank the Nepal IUCN office which was of great support for the success of this meeting.

Leadership Corner

CEM participation in IPBES 6 Plenary

The Presentation of the Assessment Report and Summary for Policy Makers were presented for approval at the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-6) held in Medellín, Colombia from March 17-24. Several CEM leaders and members participated in different roles in the elaboration of these documents either for the thematic or regional assessments and many were in the meeting. We want to highlight the participation of the CEM Deputy Chair Madhav Karki in his role as president of the Asia-Pacific assessment (2b Chapter 1), Judy Fisher as leading coordinating author on the assessment about land degradation, and Jack Rice as CLA chair for the Americas assessment (2b Chapter 1). For more information about the Plenary and its results you can access their daily reports: [IISD Bulletin](#)



Outstanding Leadership : Dr. Shalini Dhyani



Dr Shalini Dhyani

We want to congratulate Dr. Shalini Dhyani, CEM South Asia Regional Chair. for her excellent performance. She has been able to put in conversation several of our thematic and specialist groups; recently published a book on wild edibles of India entitled "First Food" as well as academic papers on ecosystem management such as: "Emerging local Economic and Social Dynamics shaping Forest Landscapes of Central Himalayas, India"; attends relevant events to our commission such as the past international conference on Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services or the Business and Biodiversity Conference; participates as a lead author for the IPBES regional assessment for Asia Pacific; promotes and organizes regional events as well as being active through different communication channels showing regional actions and results. She has also recruited several new members across South Asia and puts in practice the capacity building she built as a young professional with now a solid professionalism. Her leadership skills, broad understanding of ecosystem management and capacity to link different aspects of ecosystem management from research, policy-making discussions and networking among different stakeholders, are all inspiring practices and admirable skills we should take into consideration. We are proud to have active, engaged and highly qualified leaders such as Dr. Dhyani in CEM. Bravo!!

Honoring Dr. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh



CEM has lost an exemplary member. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh died on February 16th. A man who was himself an institution, committed to the conservation of the East Kolkata Wetlands using Nature based Solutions, winner of LHA 2016, Luc Hoffmann award winner and scientist who received the UN500 award. He was the previous CEM Regional Chair for South Asia. The scientific aspects of Wetlands Ecology were unfolded by him in a matter of simplicity and strong scientific outlook. His pupils remember him not only as a great ecologist, but also an excellent teacher and a noble man. In spite of being a graduate with Engineering background he made a landmark of studying Ecology in Eastern India. He was the pioneer of Wetlands Conservation in Eastern India. Dr. Ghosh left us a strong message and legacy of saving the Wetlands throughout the world for which he was worried most. You can learn more about his legacy at this [link](#).

Thematic Areas

Climate Change and Biosphere Reserves

CEM is co-sponsoring two panels in this conference: 1) on "Ecosystem governance in biosphere reserves for better conservation and livelihoods" and 2) "Ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation: learning and sharing among cultures". If interested please contact [Liette Vasseur](#) or [Esperanza Arnés Prieto](#) for the first panel, or



[Liette Vasseur](#)), [Dawn Horning](#) or [Pam McElwee](#) for the second one.

Cultural Practices and Ecosystem Management



Dialogues for Collaborative Action on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity New York 21.22 2018

The Cultural Practices and Ecosystem Management (CPEM) has joined with the and the American Museum of Natural History are to be a co-sponsors . of thesea Dialogues for Collaborative Action on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity to be held in New York City, April 21-22 2018. Several CPEM members will participate in the Action Group on Knowledge Systems and Indicators of Wellbeing at this dialogue, which aims to produce guidance for national and global institutions on indicators for environmental and social sustainability that are culturally appropriate for local and indigenous peoples. People who are interested in contributing to this project should get in touch with [Pam McElwee](#).

Nature-Based Solutions



Ecosystem Services Partnership

The Nature-based Solutions Group is organizing 4 regional conferences this year (in Jordan, India, Spain and Brazil)-

For more information visit the [ESP Partnership](#).

Results of the Nbs TG workshop at the ESP are available [here](#).

Systemic Pesticides



The first two chapters of the 2nd Worldwide Integrated Assessment of the Impact of Systemic Pesticides on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (WIA II) appeared online in November: [1st chapter](#) and [2nd chapter](#)

The publication of its final two chapters, WIA II are currently being completed. Also, two major papers were published in October , "A worldwide survey of neonicotinoids in honey" in Science and "More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas" in PLOSone.

The TFSP annual meeting of 2017 was hosted by its members at Padua University. In addition to the plenary meeting, two interim review meetings of reports prepared by the working groups on Alternatives and Public Health also took place. One third of the Task Force was able to attend, including several new members from East Asia. Thanks to an excellent organization participants qualified it as 'productive and stimulating'. One of its outcomes is a meeting of members in East Asia during the first semester of 2018 to coordinate activities.

REGIONAL NEWS

Central America and Mexico

CEM Mexico, Central America and Spanish Speaking Caribbean held its first face-to-face virtual reflection meeting for 2018

The meeting took place in the Tropical Scientific Center , Costa Rica. Dr. Bernal Herrera, CEM Vice Chair for Latin America, made a presentation on CEM and its priority issues, as well as its internal organization. Interesting proposals were made on: joint work such as webinars on Ecosystem based Adaptation, activating CEM membership and strengthening the CEM Young Professional Network in the region.



South Asia



Master Class Workshop on "Ecosystem Management, Nature Based Solutions and SDGs: Perspectives from South Asia"⁴ December 2017, New Delhi, India.

Organized by IUCN CEM South Asia members and Leaders for Nature, India in collaboration with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) the workshop emphasized on bringing together and developing a multi-stakeholder dialogue to discuss ecosystem management approaches considering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11,12,13 and 14 and associated National Biodiversity Targets based on Aichi Targets, 2010. The workshop can be accessed [here](#).

Spotlight on Ecosystems

Holarctic Steppes

From extinction to free ranging by successful reintroduction : 25th anniversary of the reintroduction of Przewalski's horse:

2017 witnessed the 25th anniversary of the Przewalski's horse (Mongolian name: Takhi) reintroduction in Mongolia. The Przewalski's horse is the last remaining truly wild horse species in the world. Extinct in the wild in 1960's, it survived thanks to a successful reintroduction program that began in 1992 when 16 Przewalski's horses were reintroduced in the Hustai National Park thanks to the Dutch NGO FRPH and the Mongolian NGO MACNE's. Today, more than 500 Przewalski's horses are free ranging in Mongolia, which is the highest number of free ranging Przewalski's horses in the world. In consequence, the world population status according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ changed from Extinct in the Wild to Critically Endangered in 2008, and to Endangered in 2011.



[Read More...](#)

For more information visit [the Hustai National Park website](#) or write to [Takhi](#).

Agro-ecosystems

The **IUCN CEM Agroecosystem Specialist Group** has conducted extensive field surveys in Indo-Gangetic Plain of North India to document various resource conservation practices employed by the farmers for subsistence farming. 18 traditional and local varieties of rice, 3 legumes varieties, 10 vegetables, and 5 leafy vegetables were collected for establishing a community gene bank. at farmer's field for demonstration and awareness creation. The Group interacted with farmers on exploitation of modern technologies such as solar power, drip irrigation, introduction of high yielding and new crops, etc. to enhance the sustainability of agricultural production.



The group is preparing Fact Sheets of various traditional varieties along with their nutritional qualities, cultivation practices, global distribution pattern, and conservaticn measures. Members of the IUCN CEM Agroecosystem Specialist Group attended several local, regional and international events (including the 47th SC Meeting of CEM) and the Group Lead has been elected Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India. The Group is widening its membership to various agroecological regions of the world and also finalizing the second issue of the 'Agroecosystem'

newsletter.

What's on the Calendar ?

Call for Papers

Earth Observation for the Sustainable Development Goals Special issue of Remote Sensing of Environment : submit expression of interest by 31 March 2018

The papers should highlight the Sustainable Development Goal and target(s) that the research contributes to advance. .

For more information contact [Professor Graciela Metternicht](#) or visit the [Elsevier website](#)



Call for Abstracts

Ecosystem-based adaptation in Biosphere Reserves, April 23

A book that will together three of CEM's thematic groups – Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Mitigation, Biosphere Reserves, and Ecosystem Governance – in order to move forward this agenda by understanding how an ecosystem-based approach can be used to enhance sustainability in biosphere reserves. The book will include a series of case studies to initiate discussions regarding commonalities, lessons learned, and good practices that can be replicable in other circumstances.



Abstracts should be between 250-300 words. Contact [Angela Boag](#) for information or for sending in the abstract.

Conferences

En Canoa: Hacia Una Cultura de la Naturaleza: "In Canoe: Towards a Culture of Nature" June 25-28 2018

An international conference that will focus on scientific expeditions that link biodiversity and human geography through fluvial and maritime routes. To be held June 25-28, in Havana, Cuba, the conference celebrates the 30th anniversary of the 1987 expedition of Antonio Nunez Jimenez that started in Ecuador's Rio Napo, connected via the Amazon River to Brazil and Venezuela, and continued into the Caribbean by canoe through the Lesser Antilles and Haiti, before ending in Cuba.



Coordinated by the Fundación Antonio Nuñez Jiménez, IUCN's only member in Cuba, the conference will take place in Havana's Museum of Natural History and is modeled on IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Hawaii focused on canoe routes throughout the region. The conference's scientific committee is now seeking abstracts for proposals about research related to scientific expeditions through fluvial routes globally; human geography and geohistory; biocultural connectivity from the Amazon to the Caribbean; climate change in the Amazon basin, Orinoco, and the Caribbean; and indigenous populations.

Abstracts and requests for information can be sent to the [conference organisers](#). Deadline for abstracts is April 10, 2018.

Conference on bamboo and rattan for green growth

Bamboo and rattan are used across the world for a huge range of products - from paper and packaging to fuel and furniture. These strategic plants can store carbon at a very fast rate, build earthquake-resistant housing, and give millions of people a more secure source of income. Increasingly, governments are using bamboo and rattan as strategic tools to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals, and more businesses are looking to use bamboo and rattan as low-carbon, renewable alternatives to traditional materials.

Everyone can benefit from bamboo and rattan, but 'silo' thinking tends to prevent the widespread take-up of sustainable solutions. On 25-27 June 2018, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and the State Forestry Administration of China aim to kickstart the conversation, by hosting the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress in Beijing, China. This will be the first international, policy-focused symposium dedicated specifically to the sustainable, green and inclusive development of bamboo and rattan. Over 1000 people are expected to attend, including leading lights from the



private sector and high-level government officials from China and elsewhere. The event should be of interest to industry leaders and world experts; senior policy makers; high-level representatives from international organisations and institutions interested in sustainable development, industry and infrastructure.

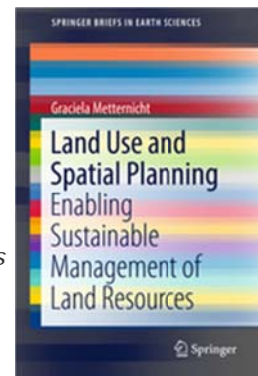
Want to find out how bamboo and rattan could change your work? We warmly invite all CEM member, colleagues and partners of IUCN to take part in this important discussion. For more information, and to register, please visit [the conference website](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Land Use and Spatial Planning to Support Sustainable Land Management. Springer Nature.

This book written by Professor Graciela Metternicht, co-lead of the CEM Dryland Specialist Group, reconciles competing and sometimes contradictory forms of land use, while also promoting sustainable land use options. It highlights land use planning, spatial planning, territorial (or regional) planning, and ecosystem-based or environmental land use planning as tools that strengthen land governance. Further, it demonstrates how to use these types of land-use planning to improve economic opportunities based on sustainable management of land resources, and to develop land use options that strike a balance between conservation and development objectives.

[More information about the book](#)



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