

## **The significance for conservation of Naturalliance & SYCL initiatives**

European Sustainable Use Group has run [www.naturalliance.eu](http://www.naturalliance.eu) for 3 years. After English, its 22,000 visitors have most frequently accessed in Russian, Polish, Slovak and Greek. It is due for revision, to upload Bulgarian and Italian translations (making 23 languages), to meet a Council of Europe request to translate its Code of Conduct for Gathering Fungi, and to help local people restore species by providing simplified IUCN Guidelines on conservation translocations.

The portal is now a showcase for best practices on conservation through use of wild resources. It provides a simple mapping tool, because a vital key to managing species is to map the land where they live. On this same land, local people make livelihood and recreation decisions on land-use in forests, farms, parks and gardens, currently without knowledge tools to guide their management in a holistic way at fine scale. Guidance that is science-based yet practical is essential for these local stakeholders, because conserving through sustainable use is more complex than protecting land and species.

There is now lots of mapping of species, but it is seldom very systematic. Systematic local mapping of habitats is even rarer. Good map-based guidance is available for projects in small areas where experts can help; however, there simply aren't enough experts with wide enough knowledge to benefit biodiversity on any substantial fraction of Europe's cultivated landscapes. Moreover, although citizen-science projects show that data from local volunteers can be gathered at European level and compiled to help policy-makers, such data have not been fine-scaled. Our project to design a Transactional Environmental Support System (TESS) therefore proposed an internet system for local people to exchange data on their land and species for guidance on holistic management, at fine scale. **However, for a TESS at fine scale to give good coverage for policy at national level and beyond, it is absolutely essential for data collection to be coordinated systematically over nation-sized areas at local level.**

TESS found that local administrations badly need fine-scale environmental information; they can also organise collection of citizen data systematically enough to be used both by guidance systems at fine scale and for compilation to support policy. The challenge is to attract wide engagement by local authorities by providing something really useful for them. Based on a decade of work at local level in UK, the chosen solution is a system of inexpensive, easy to run websites for the community liaison work of clubs and local government administrations, which also provides links to similar trustable sources for reliable guidance on the environment (a major community issue), tourism, health etc.

Component sites for a System for Community Liaison (SYCL), which links all these sites for systematic data collection and community (conservation) projects, have now been tested and proved popular (see below). It will be ready for multilingual roll-out this year, with a business model to fund development of holistic decision support. The system also has potential for extensive educational outreach, through providing reliable data to build unified understanding on food/water/energy resources and climate change.

Crucially, not only can a SYCL be used to encourage conservation through sustainable use of wild resources at community level, but subscription for its local sites can also pay to develop the decision-guidance tools. **Will SYCL be used systematically enough for useful data compilation? We cannot know, but the attempt alone will disseminate more widely ESUG's ideas on conservation through sustainable use.** Maybe the ability to network communities across national boundaries will bring other benefits too.

## A System for Community Liaison (SYCL)

Can you or others in your community use an editor like the one on the right? If so, then you can give them their very own website for news, notices, surveys, meetings, other events, maps, weather, tourism and links to anything on the internet.

The site, like the one below for local government, works for all sorts of local groups (e.g. farming, fishing, fungi-gathering). It can have pages shared for projects among all similar groups in a wide area and even a country. Emails and mobile numbers can also be registered for texting reminders of local happenings or safety alerts.

Main Content

**Community Meeting**

*You are invited to our **COMMUNITY MEETING** to discuss the future of Arne Parish on Thursday 24th April at Stoborough Village Hall 7.00 pm.*

*There will be an introductory talk by Keith Childs from Purbeck District Council and an opportunity to peruse Arne Parish maps and leave your comments on improvements that could be made!*

*N.B. The Arne Neighbourhood Plan project is underway and this tab will be used to update progress from time to time. [Click here to see the official plan of the neighbourhood plan boundary](#) - this is coincident with the Arne Parish Boundary. The plan has to work*

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Right Content

**East Stoke Community**

Home Village Hall News Downloads History Contact Us

**East Stoke**

Is a rural parish in a beautiful part of Dorset, straddling the wide flat valley of the River Frome, bisected by the main Weymouth-London railway and consisting of the settlements of East Stoke, Stokeford, Rushton, Highwood, Hethfelton, Binnegar, West Holme, Holmebridge and Woolbridge.

The village has a population of 439 (2001). The world famous [Monkey World Ape Rescue](#) is near the northern edge of the Parish. The [Freshwater Biological Association](#) runs a research centre on the banks of the River Frome, from which the [Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust](#) runs its research into atlantic salmon declines.

This is a community website so please [get in touch](#) with any ideas or feedback or if you run a local organisation and would like your own link!

Much useful information is contained elsewhere on this site, however it is hoped that the following notes, and hyperlinks below, will provide additional valuable information:

**USEFUL LINKS**

**News**

22 Apr 2014 Five young people hurt as car flips over

21 Apr 2014 Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for East Stoke?

**Find us on Facebook**

For other examples please try <http://arne-parish-council.sycl.net> & [www.sakerfalcon.org](http://www.sakerfalcon.org). The SYCL team is experienced in multilingual sites (e.g. [www.naturalliance.eu](http://www.naturalliance.eu)), so the editor back-office and sites are built to work in any language. We have run EU projects for surveying activities and needs of local people, environmental assessments, mapping for restoring species and habitats across Europe. We currently seek partners for similar pan-European community work on health, education, tourism and other employment.

Each community site costs €99 per annum. This subscription can be met by charging five local businesses (e.g. hotels) €20 each for an advert on the "Classifieds" page.