

Dear Members of SUME,

It is a very great pleasure to welcome members of the Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems for the new quadrennium. The large number of you who wished to affiliate on rejoining CEM is a wonderful resource for our responsibilities at a key time for the global environment, and puts a heavy responsibility on your Steering Committee (listed on the right side of <http://sume.sycl.net>).

With 390 members, we badly need to improve our organisation regionally. To do this we will work with IUCN Members and other groups within IUCN to hold meetings in all regions. We now have our own website and hope to arrange a D-Group with regional sections so that discussions can be in major international languages (e.g. Spanish for Latin America, Arabic and Russian in Asia and North Africa), before using our networking software to start information sites in as many national languages as possible.

Those national sites will inform on community conservation of ecosystems and their services through sustainable use, and will signpost multilingual projects with that aim. Two examples are built already. The best example is the 18-language www.perdixnet.org to help conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural habitats through interest in a popular flagship species in Europe. Perdixnet is already building a network of national-language sites (e.g. <http://perdix-de.sycl.net>, <http://perdix-uk.sycl.net>). We seek partner organisations for more such projects which can work with minimal internet-based administration across many countries, for themes described at http://esug.sycl.net/regular_events.aspx.

Building many more examples, as a network to educate and engage local communities across the world, will depend on your interest and willingness to help with translating and maintaining content. To help show how this works, SUME members have very kindly volunteered to host three regional meetings during the next nine months. The purpose is to explain about SUME, train for operating the network software (which is easy if you can use Word or Facebook – see <http://sycl-uk.sycl.net>), and initiate projects.

1. In Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyzstan on 7 September 2017, very kindly hosted by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), a long-standing IUCN member which funded our initial community-conservation portals. Please see <http://sume.sycl.net/calendar.aspx>, contact Robert Kenward (reke@ceh.ac.uk) (English or Russian) and register before 1 August 2017.

2. In Lima, Peru, during 26-27 October 2017, with generous hosting arranged by our Steering Committee member Dr Marina Rosales Benites de Franco mrbenites2002@yahoo.es. For early information, please see http://sume.sycl.net/regular_events.aspx and contact her (Spanish or English). It is a great pleasure that CEM chair Angela Andrade can join us for this meeting.

3. In Karlovac, Croatia, during 11-12 April 2018, to be held together with European Sustainable Use Group and hosted by our Country Coordinator Dr Viktor Šegrt. Details and contact information for registration will soon also be on the SUME website.

If there is a chance for you to attend one of these meetings, please hold the dates and make contact now.

With very best wishes to all,

Robert Kenward (CEM leader for Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems)