

IUCN-CEM Thematic Group: Sustainable Use and Ecosystem Management

Record of the Third Regional Meeting

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

14.00 – 16.00

Aquatika, Branka Čavlovića Čavleka 1a, 47000 Karlovac, Croatia

1. The agenda was adopted by consensus. It was noted that some papers on the agenda had already been presented in earlier sessions of the meeting, and would be linked to the meeting report but not considered further.
2. There were 14 SUME Members attending the Meeting, including 4 members of steering together with current and previous Chairs of CEM. These participants, namely Dr Angela Andrade (Columbia), Prof Mari Ivask (Estonia), Dr Marina Rosales (Peru), Maya Basdeo (Canada), Piet Wit (Netherlands), Prof Robert Kenward (UK, chair), Dr Siti Suriawati Isa (Malaysia), Dr Tetiana Gardashuk (Ukraine), Dr Viktor Šegrt (Croatia), Dr Zenon Tederko (Poland), Dr Adrian Lombard (South Africa, co-chair), Dr Celia Vassilopoulou (Greece), Dr Loay Frookh (Jordan) and Janusz Sielicki (Poland), were joined by 10 observers, namely Dr Julie Ewald (UK), Dr Krešimir Krapinec (Croatia), Annemarie Goedmakers (Netherlands), Dr Vilma Alina Šoba (Slovenia), Dr Goran Jakšić (Croatia), Dr David Scallan (Belgium), Franziska Kroh (Belgium), Dr Adrian Pinder (UK), Nick Casey (UK) and Julian Mühle (Germany). Chair noted that 16 countries from all 6 developed continents were represented.
3. Papers on [SUME development](#) had already been given by co-chair Adrian Lombard and that on [status at the end of 2018](#) was available online too.
4. In terms of portal operations, the participants had already enjoyed the launch of www.naturalliance.org by HE Andrew Dalgleish, the UK Ambassador to Croatia, the previous day. Papers [introduced by Adrian Lombard during that session](#), on [IUCN-CEM](#) by Angela Andrade and on the [basis for multilingual networking](#), the American [Falconry and Conservation network](#), [conserving agricultural ecosystems](#), [assessing aquatic ecosystems](#) and on [tourism considerations](#), especially [ecotourism](#), had all been given the previous day.

During the General Meeting of European Sustainable Use Group in the morning there had been a [presentation by Nick Casey](#), Anatrack's technical director, on progress and constraints in the development of the portal systems, for which training was scheduled in parallel with break-outs after the SUME meeting.

5. Links with other parts of IUCN and associated organisations were effective. Leadership in CEM on Ecosystem Services, Governance, Resilience, Restoration and Nature-based solutions had all contributed in various ways to SUME, including the provision of material for links on the Naturalliance.org hub.

Through ESUG, discussion had re-opened with the new chair of the SSC/CEESP group on Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi), Dr Dilys Roe. ESUG's initial work on Naturalliance.eu and Sakernet had been with SULi, although Perdixnet, the new [AmFalCon](#) and the global Naturalliance.org network still primarily involved SUME.

There was good liaison with some relevant IUCN members, including the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) through SUME co-chair and leadership for AmFalCon, and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation in Europe (FACE) through ESUG Committee. An MOU with IAF was in preparation. SUME had minimal experience engaging with the media, although a [press release](#) had been prepared for the launch of Naturalliance.org.

6. SUME communications and administration were mainly through email to individuals, and through the IUCN portal to groups membership as a whole. As Adrian Lombard had already described, growth of the group had occurred through self-registration when CEM membership re-registered after WCC6. Communication within CEM therefore seemed adequate and an approach based on outreach to communities through the internet seemed to be appreciated. In that sense, large membership was a vote of confidence. However, only about 10% of members had attended meetings, were engaged in building the global naturalliance or had responded to requests for information sent through the IUCN portal. Response for the latter two requests had required very little effort, so either people were not reading material from the IUCN portal or they were content to watch the activity of the group and learn without engaging actively. They were a human resource that needed to be tapped if global networking through national to local levels was to be achieved. Promotion via social media would be essential. A [paper](#) on the possibility of testing multilingual discussion based on naturalliance.org satellites had been circulated and it was decided by consensus to trial such discussion for Spanish and Russian.
7. IUCN's seventh World Conservation Congress would be in Marseille. Calls by IUCN secretariat for Events in the initial Forum and Motions for the subsequent General Assembly had been initiated. SUME members had held events for the former Sustainable Use Specialist Group at WCC2, 3 and 4, also with SULi in Jeju, but SUME had without success proposed an event of networking for WCC6.

Chair asked Angela Andrade whether an event could be taken under the CEM banner in Marseilles. She noted many thematic interests in a very active CEM, including Red-listing of Ecosystems, Nature-based Solutions, Restoration, Climate Change, Peatlands, Human Health other management for Ecosystem Services. Jonathan Hughes was organising an Urban Pavilion and perhaps connectivity with rural could be included. Engagement for a resolution on multilingual outreach could be useful and it was worth noting that France looking to lead a biodiversity agreement following its success with the climate agreement. With climate change all need to think of conservation through use.

It was felt by participants that preparation for WCC7 would be helped by a presence at the European regional Forum in early July. Piet Wit felt that with so much emphasis on protected areas, it needed to be remembered that many ecosystems had been created by human use, and that problems in the majority of land, which was outside protected areas, arose from intensified use of such systems which could be constrained by sustainable-use of other ecosystem components.

Simone Maynard noted the challenge of engaging with communities across Oceania other than Australia and New Zealand (e.g. Fiji, Samoa, Soloman Islands) and wondered if the sustainable use focus of SUME could help; a meeting in the autumn at Oceania Ecosystem Services Forum in New Zealand during 2-6 September 2019 could be an opportunity to make appropriate contacts. Adrian Lombard suggested that running a joint side event with IAF at WCC7 could include training for use of the global-with-local networking tools.

8. During 'any other business', it was noted that the global conservation focus was moving towards restoration. This had taken 10 years from the EU meeting in Athens in 2009, at which European Commission admitted biodiversity loss would not be halted by 2010, and at which ESUG (attending as part of its EU-funded projects) had successfully stressed that reversal through restoration would be essential. As a result, restoration had become part of 2020 strategy. However, there had been very little practical result at EU level, which raised the question of how long such new ideas would take to reach local level in non-English languages despite the multilingual outreach efforts of SUME. Chair had spoken with Sir Bob Watson at the 2017 IPBES meeting in Bonn, but although interest had been shown in Plenary and a coffee break, follow-up emails seeking IPBES engagement remained unanswered.

Current progress of SUME depended on a great team of volunteers, including brilliant expert translators and several days a week of time from chair. Funding from CEM chair, IAF and ESUG patrons had just been adequate for meetings that involved portal construction. The launch of the first civic multilingual network of this kind had been achieved for only €5,000 thanks to these supporters, Anatrack's waived fees in 2019 and a great deal of voluntary effort.

Angela Andrade noted the importance for engagement of sustainable use activities in current definition of standards for NbS and recommended attending discussion in Washington. Chair noted that all available funding was directed to completing translation and suggested that IUCN needed to make funds available for such work and associated travel if Commissions were to be effective. There was a limit to the amount of personal travel funding to meetings that could be expected of volunteers. It was agreed that a Motion to this effect should be considered for WCC7.

9. The meeting closed at 16.00