

Meeting of CEM Thematic Group on Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems

In Hawaii Convention Centre on 5 September 2016 at 09:00.

Present (ESUG members):

Marina Rosales, Keiya Nakajima, Huisheng Chen, Tahir Rasheed, Hilde Eggermont, Alice Hughes, Janusz Sielicki, Dan Cecchini, Emmanuelle Cohen-Shacham, Robert Kenward

1. SUME membership had reached 62 from 37 countries, but was likely to rise to about 75 if reformed after WCC6. As the Programme for SUME was focussed on software developed to guide conservation of ecosystems through sustainable use of their components by local communities, it was worth noting that:

- the multilingual awareness-raising site www.naturalliance.eu was now in 23 languages;
- instructions for the System for Community Liaison (www.sycl.net) were in 12 languages;
- a Central Asian site in Arabic, Farsi, Pashto and Russian at www.saker-staging.net had served to prototype a more advanced template, with both links and diagrams that were language-specific, to run projects at local level but organised at international level, with a portal system for a first project in translation at <http://staging.perdixnet.org>. These two projects had both been funded by a long-standing IUCN member, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey.

2. Roll out of SYCL and the multilingual template for projects in different continents was agreed to need continent coordinators who could arrange continent-relevant web-content and to organise country coordinators who could help roll-out SYCL for local organisations and local government with continent-based projects.

3. Further development of portal content was needed. As well as SYCL and the multilingual template for projects, the portal at www.naturalliance.eu should have different continent-based best-practice pages together with the current single page for models. As well as some ideas from the pre-WCC survey, the CEM theme of Nature-Based Solutions was providing an excellent introduction to those working in CEM on Ecosystem Services and Alien Species, both of which mapped to projects already intended at http://esug.sycl.net/regular_events.aspx, as well as Landscape Management and Resilience themes. Possibility of synergy of SUME with these other thematic groups was very promising for 2017-20. As well as languages currently on the naturalliance site (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian), it was desirable to add Amharic, Farsi, Hindi, Houssa, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Mandarin, Pashto, Swahili, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese and Zulu.

4. Retiring CEM chair Piet Wit briefly visited and welcomed the meeting. He was applauded for his work for CEM as a whole and especially for his role in the establishment of SUME.

5. It was agreed that SUME need not have its own website until there was more content than could be accommodated on a SUME Page and the separate Portals Page at <http://esug.sycl.net>. Tahir Rasheed suggested that UNESCO could be a useful partner for disseminating SUME portal activities and Robert Kenward agreed to investigate this. Marina Rosales suggested a competitive process for website construction and agreed to produce a paper on this.

6. An initial intention was to build funds in our ESUG support group from subscriptions for sites on www.sycl.net. However, it was noted that for effective operations more substantial funding would be advisable initially if possible. Drafts of previous ESUG bids could be provided to assist. A team consisting of Marina Rosales, Alice Hughes, Tahir Rasheed and Janusz Sielicki would investigate and report by the end of the year, with an interim meeting by Skype in 2 months. Marina would seek a meeting with GEF (UNDP) while still at WCC6 since SUME is related to the achievement of seven of twenty Aichi Targets.

7. Funding was needed especially for meetings. CEM chair fund had been providing up to US\$2500 for a well-justified meeting. That could bring steering members from nearby continents to a members meeting on a particular continent, especially if some third-party funding could be found. It was agreed to consider trying for a meeting in South America in 2017, and for another in Europe wherever ESUG had its general meeting.

8. The meeting closed at 10:00.