

ESUG activities in January-July 2018

Dear ESUG Members,

My apologies for a lack of news since March. I have been in the hands of medical experts, for successful removal of an early stage bowel cancer, followed by four months of chemotherapy in case of undetected spread. I did not work efficiently during the chemo.

Thankfully, colleagues in ESUG and SUME leadership have made up for my deficiency. On 26 March we had a spring Committee meeting at the new (more central) offices of FACE in Brussels, with many thanks to David Scallan; three joined by Skype and Despina caught up over dinner. Another meeting is likely in the autumn, probably in the UK, to plan for our meeting in Croatia next spring.

Several important decisions were taken by your Committee.

1. Julie Ewald had been working with Mari Ivask and Riccardo Simoncini (as Agriculture Working Group coordinators) and others including Stratos Arampatzis, Frank Vorheis & Rob Jongman on planning for European Commission projects in agricultural and wider citizen-science calls, with likelihood of a planning meeting to coincide with the autumn Committee meeting.
2. Julie, Frank & Robin Sharp had examined how ESUG could link more closely to IUCN; Committee agreed that application for NGO membership of IUCN should be put to vote of ESUG members.
3. IUCN's group on Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems, for which ESUG provides administration, now has some 500 members in about 100 countries. With Tetiana Gardashuk as coordinator for SUME in Europe, your committee joined SUME Steering in agreeing to build a global Naturalliance2 networking to national levels and hence local managers of land and species.
4. To fund these activities, it was decided to activate the Corresponding Member class permitted by Article 6 of our constitution as subscribing 'Patrons', to be named with thanks on the website.

At the foot of the ESUG Home page (<http://esug.sycl.net>) you can now download a copy of ESUG Statutes and see a revised 'About ESUG' document. On the 'ESUG Admin' section of the Documents page (first list, last item) you can download our accounts for 2017. The latter cover our last General Meeting, a meeting administered for SUME in Peru and the last of Sakernet. Treasurer Zenon Tederko and I would like to inform you that costs of the SUME meeting were covered by IUCN and the Sakernet expenditure was met by a late payment of US\$ 2,500 from UNEP after the year end. Thanks to funding for Perdixnet from IAF, and generous facilities from FACE, our net 'ESUG-integral' spending on the GM, accounting and bank charges in 2017 was €740.

Last week SULi members had the sad news that Dr Rosie Cooney is stepping down as chair of SULi at the end of the year. I have written to her personally with a message of appreciation for her excellent work and regret that she is leaving. She has called for nominations of a successor, and it would be wonderful if someone stepping up to this challenge were to have an understanding of our work in Europe, including projects for European Commission and United Nations, on charters for Council of Europe and, most recently, in web-systems networking from international to local level. Co-working of SULi and SUME in and beyond IUCN would really strengthen the SU pillar of CBD.

With best wishes,

Robert