

SUME Meeting 23rd April First Session.

23 April, Afternoon Session 1 (15.00-16.00)

Chair Dr Adrian Lombard:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Karlovac and to the start of the first session of the 5th Meeting (3rd Regional Meeting) of the Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems Thematic Group (SUME) of the IUCN Commission for Management of Ecosystems (CEM).

Firstly: Some particular thanks are in order:

1. HE Andrew Dalglish, Ambassador to Croatia for the United Kingdom of Great Britain.
2. Dr Viktor Šegrt and the team from Aquatika for arranging this splendid venue and for considerable "behind the scenes" work.
3. Prof. Robert Kenward, Chair of SUME who has put in an immense amount of work in the preparations for this meeting and the launch of Naturalliance.org.
4. To the steering committee for Naturalliance.org who have supported Robert in completing this huge task in time for this meeting.
5. Angela Andrade, current chair of CEM, who has been incredibly supportive of SUME and who has honoured us by attending the previous SUME meeting in Lima and now taking the time to attend this meeting.
6. Piet Wit, past Chair of CEM, who instigated the formation of SUME and who has been a particular friend in the development of the projects of SUME.

I am Adrian Lombard, Deputy-Chair of SUME and Chair of the Advisory Board of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF).

The IAF is the global representative for falconers, with member organizations from some 90 nations around the world, thus having a similar global footprint to SUME. Falconers are sustainable users within communities but in terms of sustainable users they are exceptional in that their activities imply a particularly intimate and frequent association with the environment within which they hunt and the biodiversity within the environment. Sustainable use requires healthy populations of species that are utilized and sustainable users are particularly aware of changes which may affect their use. Falconers, around the world have become aware of declining numbers of both wild raptors and of quarry species.

With a desire to monitor and address these concerns, the use of current on-line technology which allows communities to communicate both locally and globally, in their own language, and to provide information that facilitates research and restoration is very appropriate. This has encouraged an alliance between SUME and the IAF. Experience gained through joint projects has brought us to today's meeting.

I hand you over to Margarita Kulas (Director of Aquatika) who will welcome us to Aquatika:

Welcome to Aquatika (Dr Margarita Maruškić Kulaš)

Introduction to IUCN-CEM (Dr Angela Andrade)

It is a very great pleasure to introduce you to Angela Andrade. She is the current Chair of IUCN CEM. She is, by training, an anthropologist, and she has experience which gives her real insight into what we are trying to achieve through SUME; having worked in academia, with the Columbian Government and with various sectors of civil society, not least in view of her long association with IUCN CEM.

I hand you over to Angela Andrade:

Introduction to CEM-SUME (Piet Wit)

As mentioned, Piet Wit is an old friend of SUME; he is the former Chair of CEM and was responsible for the establishment of the SUME Thematic group during his tenure. Piet has extensive conservation experience ranging from the Netherland, across Africa and Central Asia. He was centrally involved in the rewilding of the Prezwalski's Horse and for the building of CEM.

I hand you over to Piet Wit:

Words from Patrons and launch of Naturalliance global network:

The Naturalliance.org Project of SUME has been developed through funding from the European Sustainable Use Group (ESUG) and Patrons of ESUG are present:

1. FACE: David Scallan is the newly appointed Secretary General of FACE and it is a pleasure to welcome him to this meeting.
2. Sadly, Caroline Bedell, the Conservation Officer for The British Association for Shooting and Conservation is unable to attend due to flight delays.
3. Sadly, Robin Sharp CB, the original Chair of SUME is unable to join us but he has been a considerable support to our efforts.
4. Antrack Limited has developed the software which supports our projects and is represented here by their Technical Director Nick Casey.

Introduction to theme of meeting (Prof Robert Kenward):

It is my great pleasure to hand you over to Prof. Robert Kenward. Robert has been the driving force behind the concept giving rise to Naturalliance.org and the Portals that precede it. His understanding that we can develop a tool that allows sustainable users, at grass-roots, to communicate and share knowledge and develop projects to conserve species and ecosystems, is seminal to Naturalliance.org. Through his efforts we have gained the support of the IUCN, which has access to the United Nations and thus to governments and world leaders.

Over to Robert:

"Why use community-based multilingual networks for conservation through sustainable use?"

We invite HE Mr Andrew Dalgleish to formally launch the on-line version of Naturalliance.org.