



Ecosystems

Lessons learned from applying the Ecosystem Approach

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Headline News

Lessons learned from applying the Ecosystem Approach

What is the added value of the Ecosystem Approach? What are the challenges using the Ecosystem Approach as a framework for the implementation of projects? What is its added value in terms of analysis?

Over the last three years, IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management has conducted a series of case studies, funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The case study authors conducted an analysis of projects/cases as regards the application of the Ecosystem Approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity based on the Five Steps¹. The studies took place in Panama, dryland West Africa, the Congo basin, the Mekong Delta and Indonesian Papua (former Irian Jaya).

Using the Five Steps in the case-studies revealed some of the following added values of the Ecosystem Approach. In the Niger-Nigeria borderlands analysed, the Ecosystem Approach **provided a way of conceptualising the overlapping uses** made of these ecosystems by different stakeholders (Principles 3, 12), which proved more helpful than sectoral approaches, and which provided an actor-focussed insight into household and group decision-making about ecosystems. In the case of Tram Chim park in the Mekong delta, the lack of **appropriate stakeholder institutions** (Principle 12) for the villagers who live around the park to interact with the park authorities and the limited decision-making power of the Park Managers results in little incentives for innovation and thus adaptive management (Principle 6, 8, 9). In Bocas del Torro, applying the Ecosystem Approach would add value in terms of **addressing better economic drivers** such as fishing and tourism (Principle 4).

In Indonesian Papua, the contrast between **different kinds of knowledge** was the trigger to a new approach (Principle 11). The Provincial head of forests saw a need to combine the nationally prepared land capability maps for Papua with the ones developed through participatory mapping appraisals. Neither side had had any idea of the forest classifications and related management activities employed daily by the other, until meetings were held at which the knowledge was exchanged (Principle 11, 12). The results are more likely to deliver greater justice and greater ecosystem benefit.

All the case studies have confirmed the importance of considering the economic context and its potential gain for natural resource management as laid out in the Ecosystem Approach (Principle 4). The influence may be negative when the traded product is illegally snared bush meat, but it is often highly positive, giving incentives for active management where there would otherwise be few or none.

Overall, the 5 case studies revealed that the Ecosystem Approach is **an excellent framework for analysis**. It is useful for planning, for monitoring and for ex-post analysis to evaluate and draw lessons from what went right and wrong. However, for the Ecosystem Approach to go beyond analysis and investigation to application, certain preconditions may have to be in place. It can only be fully applied

¹ Gill Shepherd, 2003. The Ecosystem Approach: Five Steps to Implementation. IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Gland.

where people are ready to share power and knowledge. There has to be willingness to invest in the gathering of knowledge, and in the realigning of management goals and practicalities in the face of that knowledge.

For more information please see:

- Full document on some of the findings of the case study
http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/documents/ecosapproach/esacomparative_final_sept2006_lrs.pdf
- Contact Gill Shepherd, CEM Theme Leader on the Ecosystem Approach at
GillShepherd@compuserve.com

The five case studies and the findings will be published in the coming month. Please contact cem@iucn.org if you are interested in this publication.

CEM / EMP News

Strengthening Decision-making Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Geneva International Academic Network recently approved a research project in Northern Pakistan. The project will be coordinated by the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme and IUCN Pakistan in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of Development Studies. The goal of this interdisciplinary study is to better understand the land use factors that increase the vulnerability of mountain areas in northern Pakistan. The study will identify and analyse the damages and losses caused by the October 2005 earthquake in two areas of the same valley. Secondly, the study will examine natural and man-made causes of secondary hazards in the two areas, especially landslides; and thirdly it will evaluate the cost of the earthquake damage in the study areas on the livelihoods of local communities and the sub-regional economy.

Please contact Simon Rietbergen for more information (Simon.Rietbergen@iucn.org)

EMP Staff Change: Joachim Gratzfeld joins Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Joachim Gratzfeld, after 8 years with IUCN is to take up a new position as Director, Regional Programmes, Botanic Gardens Conservation International in the UK in November 2006. We will greatly miss him and we take this opportunity to thank him for his contributions over the past years not only to drylands but to every area of ecosystem management.

CEM Logo

The Logo of IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management has slightly changed to be more in line with the other Commission Logos of IUCN and to take IUCN's new Visual Identity Guidelines into consideration.

Members' Highlights

Who is Teddy Tindamanyire?

Teddy Tindamanyire works for the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda on Awareness and Education in wetlands management. She is working with the general public, technical officers, and policy makers in the different environment and natural resources fields to promote the understanding and valuing of the Ecosystems approaches to wetland management.

What do you expect from CEM and what would you like to contribute?

I expect continued networking among the CEM members as well as technical capacity building for members in developing countries to be able to attract more members and build a critical mass of scientists with a shared vision of advancing the Ecosystem Approach to natural resources management. For me, the research component of CEM is very important and I hope to share more information on research challenges and practical methodologies with other CEM members. I am especially interested to share lessons learnt in Wetland restoration based on my experience in Uganda with other CEM members.

What role does integrated ecosystem management play in your work?

Integrated ecosystem management has helped me for instance to work with other stakeholders to help communities in the Masaka Districts to restore their wetlands. I participated in the Restoration of

Nakayiba Wetland system in February - March 2005. The Nakayiba wetland is a vital wetland in the Masaka District. It has been used by the Masaka Municipality for tertiary treatment of waste sewerage. Some of the main lessons from this project were that

1. Often the knowledge gap between the scientists and the stakeholders prohibits cooperation in achieving the desired response from the affected stakeholders.
2. There is a need to create partnerships with the local community concerned and to sensitize them on the emanating problem to their health and livelihoods.
3. There is need to enforce laws at local levels to integrate the trade offs of ecosystem degradation to the community well-being.

What do you think of the Ecosystem Approach?

The Ecosystems Approach is the only ideal way to integrated natural resources management and livelihood improvement but is not yet clearly understood by many natural resources managers. There is still a lot of emphasis on the compartmentalizing of natural resource management in developing countries as a result of institutional development processes. A lot needs to be done to synergize the natural resource management approaches and the ecosystem approach is ideal to do this. However the Ecosystem Approach needs to be publicized and relevant practical methods need to be developed to apply it at different levels of national development processes.

For more information,

- See the full interview http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceem/documents/ceem/members_2006/interview_t.tindamanyire_oct2006.pdf
- Contact Teddy Tindamanyire at TindamanyireT@ugandawetlands.org.

The Mario A. Ramos Memorial Award

CEM and EMP are mourning the loss of Mario Ramos, a Senior Biodiversity Specialist at the GEF Secretariat as well as a friend and CEM Member. At Mario's memorial service, his family announced the establishment of a conservation award to honor Mario's commitment and passion for ornithology and biodiversity conservation. The "Mario A. Ramos Memorial Award" will be established within the Neotropical Ornithological Society, a non-profit organization based in the USA. Mario helped to establish this NGO in 1987 and also served as its President. Information about the fund is available at the following website: <http://www.neotropicalornithology.org/>

IUCN News in Brief

The Future of Sustainability: Forum generates passionate debate on the global challenges to sustainability

What will be the biggest challenges to sustainability in the coming decades? What are the most inspiring and innovative approaches to sustainability in the twenty-first century? How can scientists formulate more positive messages? How do we build a new economy that benefits people and the planet? How can the conservation and sustainable development community use new media and social networks to engage with young people to develop a sense of planetary civilization? These and other questions have been discussed by some of the 430 people from over 70 countries that registered for in the first-ever e-Discussion Forum hosted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on the Future of Sustainability during four weeks in August and September. Statements of four key conservationists introduced the weekly debates. Prior to the online discussion, IUCN had convened a meeting of a number of prominent writers and activists, the report of which is compiled in a provoking background paper. Several CEM Members participated in the discussion, such as Mohan Singh, Centre of Biodiversity & Conservation; India, Diwakar Sharma, WWF-India; Pete Christich, US EPA Office of International Affairs; Matthew Zylstra, Foundation for Sustainable Development – NL, and Eduardo Guerrero.

For further information see

- The background document and the debate at http://www.iucn.org/members/future_sustainability/.

New partnership for the valuation of dryland ecosystem services in Southern Africa

In the Southern African Region hyperarid, arid, semiarid and subhumid ecosystems represent 40% of the land area and are home to 50 Million people. Little is known about dryland ecosystem goods and services and their values. Up to date there is a lack of evidence to make a case for investment in drylands at national level and hence there are no economic incentives for improved dryland management. It is upon this background that IUCN Botswana convened a workshop from the 4th to the 5 September in Ghanzi, in the heart of Botswana's drylands. The workshop provided a platform

for discussion on dryland values between a wide range of participants including economic development planners, decision-makers, researchers, NGOs and community representatives. Findings of several initiatives from the Region were presented improving the understanding on the contribution of dryland ecosystem goods and services to poverty reduction, livelihood security and national economies in Southern Africa. Lack of awareness of the importance of drylands and the slow translation of research into development planning and practical policy interventions emerged as key challenges. In order to design an effective broad scale implementation of dryland ecosystem valuation in Southern Africa partnerships between a number of organizations with experience and interest in the field were established.

For more information please contact Dr. Brigitte Schuster at Brigitte.Schuster@iucn.org

Developing Eco-compensation Policies in China

In order to advance ecological compensation policies in China, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) is working with Chinese scientists and experts on a pilot project on Hainan Island, China. The focus of the project will be building experience on the development and implementation of eco-compensation schemes. The approximately one-year project will be managed by IUCN Canada. The project will focus on the exchange of experience on payments for ecosystem services (PES). Two trips to Canada will be organized for about 20 Chinese participants in total, the first to learn about PES pilot studies and tools and the second to PES policy development. Following the two study trips, Canadian PES experts will visit China to attend a PES seminar to share their knowledge relative to eco-compensation initiatives in Canada. The main output expected at the end of the project is a draft "Provisional Administrative regulation for Ecological Compensation Mechanism in Hainan Province".

For more information please see

- IUCN News story http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/09/04_china.htm
- IUCN Canada <http://www.iucn.org/places/canada/>
- Or contact: Chucri Sayegh at chucri.sayegh@iucn.org

Lebanon oil spill threatens migrant birds and marine life

A World Conservation Union mission to Lebanon assessing the environmental impact of the oil spill finds alarming damage to endangered species and fragile coastal ecosystems. The IUCN mission found that the coastal and marine environment along the Lebanese shoreline is heavily affected by the oil spill that followed the bombing of a power plant south of Beirut in mid July. The mission was called by the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and involved IUCN expert commissions and members. On Palm Islands Nature Reserve, located off the coast of Tripoli, the oil covering its rocky coasts has killed algae and other organisms that fish and turtles feed on. The reserve counts 156 species of birds, including many migratory birds depending on direct contact with the now contaminated water. Around 15,000 tons of fuel oil spilled into the sea. The spill spread northwards contaminating 150 km of the Lebanese seashore, reaching the southern Syrian coast. Affected areas are around Beirut, Tabarja, the historic town of Byblos, in Anfeh and the Palm Islands Nature Reserve off Tripoli.

The results of the mission, compiled in close collaboration with local official and scientific authorities as well as international agencies, will contribute to a Natural Resource Damage Assessment, outlining the full extent of the environmental damage caused by the spill, and support a clean-up operational plan. The spill response plan will support the Lebanese Ministry of Environment in producing guidelines for cleaning the shoreline and dealing with the impacts on ecosystems and species.

For more information please see

- Full release http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/08/pr_lebanon_oil_spill.htm
- IUCN Regional Office for the West/Central Asia and North Africa <http://www.iucn.org/places/wescana/>
- Photo Gallery - Assessment of oil pollution, Lebanon http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/08/photo_gallery.htm

Environmental Flows Network: Connecting people for river flows

Dry spells and over extraction of water are increasingly drying up rivers, with immense impacts on nature and people around the world. To coordinate action for living rivers worldwide, the World Conservation Union together with partners have launched the *Environmental Flows Network*, at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The network is focused on supplying Environmental Flows approaches in order to leave enough water in rivers to maintain downstream benefits for people and nature.

For more information please see

- The Environmental Flows Network Website www.environmentalflows.net
- IUCN Water Programme www.iucn.org/water
- Or contact Katharine.Cross@iucn.org

Control over nature will make the poor better off

Ministers from Europe and partner countries have discussed biodiversity conservation and human well-being at the Paris Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation.

http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/09/21_paris.htm

Julia Marton-Lefèvre appointed Director General of the World Conservation Union

Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre – a global expert and leader in development and conservation - has been appointed Director General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the world's leading conservation authority.

For more information please see:

- Full story http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/09/19_director_general.htm

Mangroves for the future

The Mangroves for the Future Initiative aims to provide a platform, which brings together the efforts of different countries, sectors and agencies under a common goal — to conserve and restore ecosystems to sustain human livelihoods, increase resilience and reduce vulnerability among coastal communities in the Indian Ocean Region. More than 60 representatives of governments and international organisations expressed strong support for the *Mangroves for the Future Initiative*, led by IUCN and partner organization, at a meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 September.

For more information please see

- Full release http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/09/15_mangroves.htm
- Mangroves for the Future Newsletter
http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/07/19_mff_newsletter_1.pdf
- Website of the Mangroves for the Future Initiative <http://www.iucn.org/tsunami/>

Radar helps Mozambique's rapid response to floods and droughts

Canadian satellites will allow Mozambique to respond quickly to impending floods and droughts in the Limpopo and Zambezi basins. The project is a partnership between IUCN, the Mozambique agency for cartography (CENACARTA), and environmental planning specialists Gartner Lee Ltd.

For more information please see:

- Full story http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/08/3_mozambique.htm
- IUCN Mozambique <http://www.iucn.org/places/mozambique/>
- Canadian Space Agency <http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/index.html>

Conference report available: Drylands Hidden Wealth, Amman, June 2006

The report of the conference "Drylands Hidden Wealth – Integrating Dryland Ecosystem Services into National Development Planning" that took place from the 26-27 June 2006 in Amman, Jordan, is now available.

For further information:

- Light version of the report (not including the power point presentation pdf, 1.2 MB)

http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/documents/drylands/amman_drylands_wreport_noppt_sept2006.pdf

- Full report (including the power point presentation, pdf, 9.5 MB) please contact cem@iucn.org

Announcements

Training Course: Using the Principles of the Ecosystem Approach for Protected Area Management, Costa Rica and Bolivia, 2007

ELAP, the Latin-American school for Protected Areas is organizing two training courses in 2007 on using the Ecosystem Approach for Protected Area Management. At the end of the course participants will have knowledge, instruments and practical examples that will allow them to make decisions within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach, applying practical and theoretical conservation knowledge.

For more information

- Please see the website of the Escuela Latinoamericana de Áreas Protegidas:

<http://www.elap.uci.ac.cr/pages/cursoprincipiosCR-1.asp> or write to: elap@uci.ac.cr

- Or contact CEM Member Stanley Arguedas Mora, Technical Coordinator of ELAP: stanley@uci.ac.cr

Conservation GeoPortal to support worldwide data sharing and discovery

Conservationists will soon have access to local and global data by means of an Internet geospatial metadata portal. As part of a collaborative effort within the conservation community, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) is building the infrastructure of the Conservation GeoPortal, a tangible and practical expression of the Conservation Commons.

For more information please see

- Esri's website <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer06articles/conservation-geoportal.html>
- The Conservation GeoPortal <http://www.conservationmaps.org/>
- Conservation Commons <http://www.conservationcommons.org/>

A new Forest Restoration Information Service Website

The Forest Restoration Information Service (FRIS) aims to provide an open-access internet information service to support forest restoration projects world-wide, including site-scale and landscape-scale efforts; facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience among forest restoration projects, and provide a basis for analyzing factors determining success; facilitate the prioritization, design and execution of forest restoration efforts by FRIS users. The FRIS includes definitions of key terms and concepts in forest restoration; case studies of forest restoration; a searchable database of restoration projects and initiatives; maps and datasets; and a bibliography of forest restoration publications. UNEP-WCMC seeks collaboration in the further development of FRIS and invites contributions of case studies or information on forest restoration efforts worldwide.

- Please contact them at restoration@unep-wcmc.org
- More information on FRIS: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/restoration/>

International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems, 4-9 December, Sri Lanka

This Conference will review the current status of the humid tropics and identify changes, challenges and cutting edge opportunities in terms of research, conservation and capacity building to ensure the future survival of the rich humid tropical ecosystems. The conference is organized by Sri Lanka's National MAB Committee and the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the International MAB Secretariat, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO. The language of the conference will be English.

For more information please see the Conference website <http://www.mablanka.lk/hte/>

Guidance for Interaction with the Private Sector

To outline the context for IUCN's engagement with the private sector IUCN developed Operational Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement which seek to provide an overall framework for collaboration with business including, among others, a statement of vision, goals and principles. These guidelines are "operational" in nature and complement the Private Sector Strategy. Comments and suggestions on this living document are welcomed and may be addressed to business@iucn.org

You can download the guidelines on the following website:

http://www.iucn.org/themes/business/secretariat/Guidelines/PS-Guidelines%20Final%2018%20June%202006_.pdf

First Green Coast Newsletter

Wetlands International together with its partners produced the first Green Coast newsletter, highlighting activities and achievements on ecosystem restoration and livelihood rehabilitation of tsunami affected communities in Aceh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. The Green Coast Project focuses on the recovery of livelihoods through the restoration and sustainable management of coastal nature in tsunami affected areas. The Green Coast Project is a joint project of Wetlands International, IUCN, WWF and BothEnds and funded by Novib/Oxfam Netherlands.

For more information please see:

- Green Coast Project Website <http://www.wetlands.org/greencoast/en/index.aspx>
- Subscribe to the Green Coast Newsletter <http://www.wetlands.org/greencoast/En/newsletter.aspx>
- Website of IUCN Sri Lanka <http://www.iucn.org/places/srilanka/iucnnew/Tsunami%20Projects.htm>

Deadline 15 October: Seed Initiative calls for proposals from locally driven, sustainable development partnerships

In the impoverished Bolivian community Kara Kara, 100% potable water access has been established within two months, decreasing water costs from 2,50 US\$ to now 0,25 US\$ per cubic meter. To support more locally driven sustainable development partnerships, the Seed Initiative now calls for proposals for its next awards scheme.

http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/08/31_seed_call_proposals.htm
SEED Initiative <http://seedinit.org/>

Deadline 31 October: Equator Prize for outstanding community efforts

The Equator Prize is awarded to recognize and celebrate outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation of biodiversity. Five winners will be selected from a field of finalists to receive the Equator Prize 2006. Deadline for submissions is October 31, 2006.

For more information please see:

- <http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/equatorprize/EquatorPrize2006/2006-EquatorPrize.htm>

Deadline 17 November: Global Development Marketplace – Call for Proposals

The Development Marketplace (DM) team in collaboration with the World Bank's Health, Nutrition and Population unit, announces the Call for Proposals for the 2007 Global Development Marketplace (DM2007). This year, the World Bank seeks to recognize and support initiatives that improve health, nutrition and population outcomes for poor people in developing countries.

A total of US\$4 million in awards is available, with a maximum award size of US\$200,000.

Proposals will only be accepted in English. Please visit the website for detailed competition guidelines and step-by-step instructions in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian.

For more information please visit the Development Marketplace website: www.developmentmarketplace.org.

Deadline 24 November: BP Conservation Programme Celebrates Young Conservationists

The BP Conservation Programme is offering Future Conservationist Awards of up to \$12,500 to high potential teams who aim to develop their skills through practical conservation projects. Next Deadline: November 24, 2006.

For more information please see <http://conservation.bp.com/applications/fcawards.asp>

Events

Measuring the State of Nature: Concepts and Indicators, Prague, 19-20 October 2006

The workshop will try to explore methodological pros and cons of different approaches to the construction of indicators for the assessment of biodiversity and human pressures on ecosystems. Many international processes strive to find the most effective indicators that could track the sustainability of human actions. The question is whether indicators of ecosystem status can be used universally across different ecosystems like basic economic indicators such as GDP or indicators of emissions targets. The lack of universal indicators of ecosystem condition also hampers the development of long-term monitoring networks. This requires intensive discussion of the ecosystem-level indicators that would be scientifically sound, policy relevant and cost-effective. The workshop is convened by the Charles University Environment Center, in cooperation with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, and with support of the Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening.

For further information

- Background document
http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/documents/news/2006/indicators_prague_oct2006.pdf
- Workshop Agenda
http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/documents/news/2006/indicators_prague_agenda_oct2006.pdf

Contact: Professor Mohd Nordin Hasan, CEM Theme Leader on Indicators, Email: nordin.hasan@icsu-asia-pacific.org or David Vačkář, Charles University Environment Center, Email: david.vackar@czp.cuni.cz

International Forum on Water and Food, Lao PDR, 12 – 17 November 2006

The International Forum on Water and Food is intended as a medium for discussion and debate, rather than the presentation of papers. The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food announces the International Forum on Water and Food, to be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from November 12 – 17, 2006, hosted by the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

For more information please see

- The Forum website: <http://forum.waterandfood.org/>

This information was submitted by CEM Member Max Finlayson, Wetlands Ecology, IWMI; Sri Lanka.

International Conference on the Future of Transhumance Pastoralism in West and Central Africa; 20-24.11.2006; Abuja, Nigeria

This International Conference entitled “The pastoral food and product chain: Strategies, dynamics, conflicts and interventions “ aims primarily to provide a forum for discussing the multi-faceted challenges of transhumance pastoralism and associated issues as these affect the economy and society of pastoral communities in the West Africa sub-region. The conference will provide an opportunity to undertake an in depth assessment of the pastoralist problematic. The outputs emerging from the conference are expected to have considerable impact on redirecting research and development programmes and government policies in the promotion of sustainable pastoral livelihoods. The conference is targeted to policy makers, development agencies, community based organizations and practitioners among others. For more information please visit the following website: <http://www.napri-abu.org/conference.html>.

Publications

Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disasters: An Integrated Approach to Disaster Risk Management

The latest publication of IUCN’s Commission on Ecosystem Management highlights that considering ecosystem services such as barrier function of mangroves in disaster risk reduction strategies and planning can reduce the impact of natural hazards. The book proposes an approach that integrates ecosystem management, development planning and risk reduction strategies to reduce disaster impacts and improve both livelihoods and biodiversity outcomes.

- The publication is available in pdf at <http://app.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/CEM-004.pdf>

Atlas of African Lakes – Satellite Images and Interactive Maps

Produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the *Africa’s Lakes: Atlas of our Changing Environment* compares and contrasts spectacular satellite images of the past few decades with contemporary ones. The rapid shrinking of Lake Songor in Ghana, partly as a result of intensive salt production, and the extraordinary changes in the Zambezi River system as a result of the building of the Cabora Bassa Dam sit beside more familiar images of the near 90 per cent shrinkage of Lake Chad.

- View an interactive map with satellite images, or download high resolution satellite images and chapters of the book at <http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/AfricaLakes/>
- The publication is available on order form at <http://www.earthprint.com>

Information was submitted by CEM Member Salif Diop, Head, Ecosystems Section and Water Unit Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme.

Poverty, Health, and Ecosystems: Experience from Asia

The majority of Asia’s poor live in rural areas where ecosystems they depend on – water bodies, grasslands, soils and forests - are facing strains from unsustainable exploitation or conversion to other uses, according to a new publication launched by ADB and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

- Full publication <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Poverty-Health-Ecosystems/default.asp>

Invasive species through aquaculture – new IUCN publication provides advice

Aquaculture often introduces alien species into untouched marine and coastal environments. Drawing from a recently-completed project in Chile, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) is publishing guidelines on how to help reduce the likelihood of invasions that cause imbalance to local ecosystems and often impact on local fisheries and livelihoods.

For more information please see

- Full report http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/alien_species_in_aquaculture.pdf

Focus of the Next Issue

The Ecosystem Approach and Fisheries

If you would like more information on any of the items included in this issue or wish to submit an item to future issues, please contact Caterina Wolfangel (caterina.wolfangel@iucn.org) or cem@iucn.org.

With best wishes from Gland and Gabarone.

For more information please contact cem@iucn.org or visit www.iucn.org/ecosystems