

# UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Annual Report 2006



UNEP WCMC



# UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the biodiversity assessment and biodiversity policy support arm of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organization. The Centre has been in operation for over 25 years, combining scientific research with practical policy advice.

UNEP-WCMC provides objective, scientifically rigorous products and services to help decision makers recognize the value of biodiversity and apply this knowledge to all that they do. Its core business is managing data about ecosystems and biodiversity, interpreting and analysing that data to provide assessments and policy analysis, and making the results available to both national and international decision makers and businesses.

## WCMC 2000 Board of Trustees

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(Company Secretary)



# Welcome

Achim Steiner  
Executive Director, UNEP  
United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Since arriving at UNEP in mid-2006, I have been continually surprised by the range and quality of activities in which we are engaged. At the same time, the need for us to focus on the things that UNEP can do really well, and to restructure our work accordingly, has emerged as a priority. The work of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is a case in point. For more than 25 years, what is now UNEP-WCMC has been an important source of the biodiversity information that we need to shape decisions in both the public and private sectors. Today, this need is probably greater than ever, and I am delighted that in response the Centre is not just redoubling its efforts to put authoritative knowledge at the heart of decision-making processes, but refocusing, so that this work is more directed and constantly relevant.

The appointment of a new Director at UNEP-WCMC shortly before my own arrival at UNEP signalled the start of a new era. During 2006 the Centre's team made significant progress towards its vision of becoming a Centre of Excellence. At the end of 2006, UNEP-WCMC is in a much stronger position technically, financially and culturally than it has ever been before. The new Strategic Plan, for example, helps to bring greater focus and provides a filter for the many demands on the Centre's resources. A great deal of effort has also gone into strengthening partnerships and relationships, especially with the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, major NGOs and the private sector. It is clear to me that this effort is already bearing fruit and I applaud the Centre's decision to put itself in the vanguard of those who are implementing the principles of the Conservation Commons that promote free and open access to data, information and knowledge for all conservation purposes.

It is encouraging to see the Centre assuming a strong convening and facilitating role to help tackle breaking issues – such as the need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from deforestation – but it is also important that traditional programmes, such as those on protected areas, are being revitalised. The private sector investment of US\$1 million to allow us, working with our partners from the World Conservation Union (IUCN), to rebuild the World Database of Protected Areas – the most comprehensive global dataset of its kind – is a good illustration of the confidence flowing back into the Centre and its partners.

I am intrigued by the status of UNEP-WCMC, which is an innovative collaboration between UNEP and a United Kingdom charity, WCMC 2000. Collaboration of this sort can be challenging, especially for UN institutions, but when we get it right it multiplies our capacity and impact. We have learnt many lessons from the institutional arrangement behind UNEP-WCMC during the six years of its existence, and in 2006 we began to apply this knowledge to great effect. I am also sure that the experience gained at UNEP-WCMC will serve us well as we seek to increase UNEP's impact through partnerships in the future.

In the coming years, the Centre, like the rest of UNEP, will need to be even more responsive to countries' needs, and fully in tune with the process of UN reform. I am sure it will help us demonstrate that a collective approach, one that involves governments, NGOs, the private sector, and other major groups and stakeholders, is the only viable way forward if we are to solve the many difficult environmental problems that confront us. This report is thus a tribute to them – our partners. UNEP is fully committed to the work of the Centre and its partners at this critical time for biodiversity and the ecosystems that support life on this planet.

# Strategic plan, 2006-2011

## Our vision...

a world where biodiversity counts.

## Our mission...

to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making.

## Our goal...

to be an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence for the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

## Our strategic objectives

### 1 Support decisions

To support the development and adoption of policies and practices that will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### 2 Create knowledge

To create credible and reliable knowledge on the state and value of global biodiversity through synthesis, analysis, assessment and reporting.

### 3 Share information

To encourage and facilitate data sharing, interoperability and standards to create accessible web-based information on biodiversity and areas of special conservation significance.

### 4 Manage key datasets

To be a trusted global repository and a partner for centralized and distributed 'foundation' databases, particularly those dealing with areas of special conservation significance.

### 5 Validate data and information

To facilitate and support the creation of criteria, standards and certification to increase confidence in biodiversity-related information and products.

### 6 Succeed through partnership

To achieve success in all our areas of activity by building and supporting collaboration and increasing the capacity of partners as necessary and appropriate.

# 2006 review

Jon Hutton  
Director  
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre



When I joined as the Director of UNEP-WCMC in November 2005, I knew that there were a number of challenges that would need addressing during my first year in post. The Centre aspired to be an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence for the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge to support decision making, yet a number of factors were becoming serious impediments to progressing this.

Firstly we completed a Strategic Plan to provide a roadmap for the Centre's work over the coming years, and to help us focus on what we are trying to achieve. It sets out our vision, our mission, our goal, and six strategic objectives through which these will be addressed over the next five years. For each year that the plan covers, a number of activity areas will be identified addressing each of the strategic objectives.

At the same time we carried out a review of those factors which were perceived as limiting the Centre's ability to deliver its mission, and identified what needed to be done to remove these limitations. These were addressed in a Transition Plan for transforming UNEP-WCMC into a true Centre of Excellence, evaluating and highlighting the many values of biodiversity and putting authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision making.

Over the year we have been tackling the following key issues, with the intention of resolving problems, increasing efficiency and providing a better service to our many partners and clients:

- Establishment of a sound new institutional basis;
- Redefining the Centre's strategy, business plan and programme;
- Restructuring the Centre's staffing, administration, financing and accounting mechanisms;
- Upgrading the Centre's technical capacity and information architecture;
- Strengthening and broadening the scope of the Centre's external relations.

While we have made significant progress across the range of needs, much remains to be addressed in 2007.

Meanwhile the substantive work of the Centre in delivering products and services has continued apace, and in 2006 we made excellent progress, including achieving a small end of year surplus. I am particularly encouraged by the work we are doing on global biodiversity indicators, the redevelopment of the World Database on Protected Areas with the support of a number of partners in the private sector, and the increasing number of services that we are providing to support the implementation of international environmental agreements.

But at the end of the day, none of this would have been achieved without the commitment of the Centre's staff, and without the support of our many partners, sponsors and clients. I would like to personally thank them all for the contribution they have made to the Centre's progress in 2006, and I look forward to continuing to work with them over the years to come.

# Financial report

## UNEP-WCMC financial results, year end 31 December 2006

The Centre achieved its aim of breaking even in 2006 with an end-of-year surplus of £3,401. During the year turnover increased by 1% and the balance sheet continued to improve, with net current assets rising by £76,063 to a year end total of £236,845.

In 2006, income increased by 1% to £3.27m and expenses by 5% to £3.27m. The increase in total expenses was due to a 20% rise in direct project costs, whilst strong control of overheads achieved a decrease of 1%.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF UNEP-WCMC

We have examined the summarized financial statements of UNEP-WCMC.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Director of UNEP-WCMC is responsible for preparing the summarized financial statements in accordance with applicable law and accounting standards.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarized financial statements with the full financial statements and Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarized annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements or material inconsistencies with the summarized statements.

#### Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the UK.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Centre's affairs as at 31 December 2006 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared in accordance with applicable law and accounting policies.

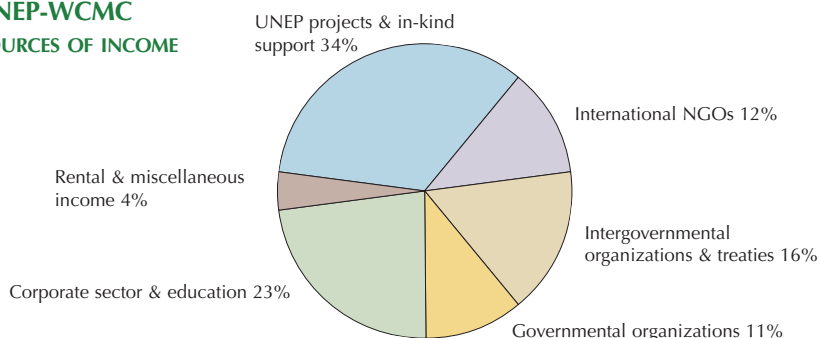
Kingston Smith LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
and Registered Auditors  
Devonshire House, 60 Goswell Road,  
London EC1M 7AD

Cash flow also improved during 2006, and this ensured that the Reserve Account of over £89,000 set aside in 2005 remained untouched, with a closing bank balance of £486,138.

UNEP remained the Centre's largest funder, providing 34% of funding, although its total contribution decreased by 19% in 2006. Income from intergovernmental organizations and treaties showed a substantial 13% increase to 16%, and income from the corporate sector also increased by 8% to 23%. The Centre aims to further increase the future stream of income from multiple sources, whilst maintaining a similar level of funding from UNEP.

UNEP-WCMC intends to build on this positive result in future years to create a more financially stable Centre, better able to support the world's decision makers with accurate and timely biodiversity knowledge. Our work depends on the continuing generosity of our funders, who share our vision of a better world, and we are committed to ongoing improvement of our services, whilst ensuring that they remain cost-effective.

### UNEP-WCMC SOURCES OF INCOME



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

	2006		2005	
	£	US\$ *	£	US\$ *
<b>Income</b>				
UNEP institutional support	-	-	205,221	401,854
UNEP directors support in kind	311,111	609,202	112,038	219,387
Rental and miscellaneous income	128,815	252,239	187,113	366,395
	<u>439,926</u>	<u>861,441</u>	<u>504,372</u>	<u>987,636</u>
Restricted project income (UNEP)	757,643	1,483,579	1,177,723	2,306,158
Restricted project income	<u>2,074,639</u>	<u>4,062,454</u>	<u>1,568,378</u>	<u>3,071,119</u>
	<u>3,272,208</u>	<u>6,407,474</u>	<u>3,250,473</u>	<u>6,364,914</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Personnel	2,292,280	4,488,628	2,206,429	4,320,519
UNEP directors expenses in kind	311,111	609,202	112,038	219,387
Travel	186,544	365,281	160,454	314,193
Operational	165,868	324,794	155,706	304,896
Marketing and outreach	9,528	18,657	22,485	44,029
Establishment	102,889	201,472	85,689	167,792
Office supplies	42,800	83,809	35,114	68,758
Computer equipment	81,828	160,231	90,431	177,077
Professional services	(28,664)	(56,128)	91,496	179,163
Depreciation	104,062	203,769	142,406	278,852
Bank charges	4,593	8,994	3,761	7,365
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	2,319	4,542
	<u>3,272,839</u>	<u>6,408,710</u>	<u>3,108,328</u>	<u>6,086,573</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(631)	(1,236)	142,145	278,340
Bank interest receivable	4,032	7,895	1,645	3,220
Surplus on ordinary activities for the period	<u>3,401</u>	<u>6,660</u>	<u>143,790</u>	<u>281,562</u>

## BALANCE SHEET

	2006		2005	
	£	US\$ *	£	US\$ *
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets			110,365	216,111
Current assets	1,597,250	3,127,655		
Less: current liabilities	1,360,405	2,663,877		
Net current liabilities			236,845	463,778
			183,026	358,392
			1,346,466	2,636,582
			1,185,683	2,321,745
			160,783	314,837
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>			<u>347,210</u>	<u>679,889</u>
<b>Representing: Income and expenditure account</b>				
Opening balance			343,809	673,230
Extraordinary item 2004			-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for period			3,401	6,660
			<u>347,210</u>	<u>679,889</u>
			<u>343,809</u>	<u>673,230</u>

\* US\$ exchange rate = 1.95815 as at 31 December 2006. Items may not sum due to rounding.

# Support to multilateral environmental agreements

**U**NEP-WCMC provides technical and scientific support for implementation of a range of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in particular those concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This includes support for secretariats and the advisory and governance bodies of these agreements, and support for national governments and others in building capacity for improved implementation.

The Centre focuses primarily on the following agreements: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and some of its daughter agreements; the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the World Heritage Convention; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The following examples highlight some of the Centre's activities this year.

## **Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

In March 2006, an agreement was signed between the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC during the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties which took place in Curitiba, Brazil. A month later a joint work programme was agreed which aims to build capacity for implementing the Convention in the following thematic areas: biodiversity indicators; protected areas; national reporting and the CBD's *Global Biodiversity Outlook*; biodiversity assessments; the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism; and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

## **Knowledge management among biodiversity conventions**

In November 2006, UNEP-WCMC started to implement a Norwegian-funded UNEP project on knowledge management for the biodiversity-related conventions. The project will provide ready access to, and cross-linkages among, the strategic documents and information tools of the biodiversity-related conventions through a single web portal – improving access to information that is currently scattered across the individual convention websites. In addition, the project will establish online reporting mechanisms, initially for CMS, African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and CITES biennial reports, thus providing a basis for further harmonization and streamlining of national reporting.

*'UNEP-WCMC has a long history of working with those international agreements concerned with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and we are always looking for ways to improve the support we provide at both national and international levels.'*

**Gerardo Fragoso**  
Head of MEA  
Support Programme





### **CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations**

These instruments provide an international framework to help ensure the long-term survival of species in international trade. The Centre helps support their effective implementation by providing a range of information management and analysis services to the CITES Secretariat and the European Commission. These services include managing the online database of around 30,000 species covered by the instruments, and the Trade Database of all transactions of these species. This information is a vital resource for management authorities, scientific authorities and enforcement authorities of each country, as well as for use by the general public. We also produced a range of analytical documents concerning trade statistics and reviewing the status of species in trade as a resource for policy makers.

### **Timber trees**

Many tree species are traded internationally for their timber, and this trade may threaten their long-term survival. With support from the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, UNEP-WCMC is implementing a series of workshops to identify timber tree species in international trade that may be of conservation concern, and to identify strategies for their sustainable use.

### **Reducing emissions from deforestation**

A significant proportion of greenhouse gases released each year results from deforestation, yet this is not effectively addressed by either UNFCCC or its Kyoto Protocol. Ways to address this are now under discussion, and UNEP-WCMC presented an outline of previous experiences and future opportunities for collaboration to an expert workshop in Rome organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat. Our submission particularly addressed forest biodiversity assessment and conservation, and opportunities for achieving multiple benefits through forest conservation.

# Protected areas

**T**he Protected Areas Programme is the oldest of UNEP-WCMC's programmes, and at the heart of all the work done by the Centre on protected areas is the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a partnership project with IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas.

The WDPA currently contains data on more than 100,000 national parks and protected areas and is central to a number of intergovernmental processes including tracking achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, progress reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and for measuring progress in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target and other goals and targets of the CBD. It is also essential for conducting gap analysis – identifying gaps in the global coverage of protected areas where conservation projects can be strengthened. For example, The Nature Conservancy and the CBD Secretariat organized a series of regional meetings in 2006 to address this issue of gaps in protected area systems, and utilized the WDPA spatial data extensively.

The year 2006 was one of growth and change for the Protected Areas Programme with the appointment of a new Head of Programme, Charles Besançon; the start of a significant programme of redevelopment for the WDPA; and the launch of a major new project to assess the relationship between human well-being and protected areas (Vision 2020).



C. Besançon



C Besançon

### **World Database on Protected Areas redevelopment**

What started more than 40 years ago as a list of national parks typed onto reams of paper has evolved over the years into a spatial database in need of additional functionality and robust infrastructure. With the financial aid of our corporate sponsors and others, we began a process in 2006 that will culminate in a redesigned World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) by the end of 2007. We anticipate that this rebirth of the WDPA will be a shining example of open access to conservation data fully in line with the principles of the Conservation Commons – [www.conservationcommons.org](http://www.conservationcommons.org).

### **Protected area management effectiveness global database**

It has long been recognized that attempts to assess the global status of biodiversity conservation must be informed not only by coverage of protected areas, but also their management and conservation effectiveness. The objective of this new initiative, in partnership with IUCN, is to collate and analyse all of the protected areas management effectiveness studies that have been done for thousands of protected areas world wide and deliver this information to intergovernmental processes such as the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2010 target.

### **Vision 2020**

Internationally there is clear recognition of the value of effective protected area systems both in conserving biological diversity and promoting its sustainable use, and in ensuring the environmental sustainability that will bring benefits to local communities. Targets have been adopted for protected area establishment and management. However, there is currently no mechanism in place to systematically assess over time the contribution protected areas make to improving human livelihoods. Vision 2020 will establish a process for periodic assessment of the biodiversity value, effectiveness and human impact of a subset of the world's protected areas, so as to be able to demonstrate in real terms the contribution protected areas are making to conservation and development, and how this is evolving over time.

***'Parks and protected areas are perhaps the greatest legacy that humans can leave to future generations and to the planet. Leading the great team that helps us better understand their value and the threats they face is a great challenge – a challenge I am both fortunate and honoured to be part of.'***

**Charles Besançon  
Head of Protected  
Areas Programme**

# Ecosystem assessment

**T**he Ecosystem Assessment Programme was established in 2006 in response to the growing need for integrated information on the status and trends of ecosystems and the services they provide, and the implications of ecosystem change for people.

The programme brings together various areas of biodiversity assessment work within UNEP-WCMC, including that on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up, to provide the best available information on biodiversity and ecosystems to a range of policy audiences. One example this year was publication of a synthesis report on the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment relevant to marine and coastal ecosystems and human well-being. Key areas of work for the programme include tracking changes in global biodiversity through the development and communication of biodiversity indicators, and contributing biodiversity knowledge to policy through assessment initiatives at multiple scales.

*'Enough is already known about the consequences of changes in ecosystems to make better decisions about how ecosystems are managed for biodiversity and people alike. However, if we are to be confident that such decisions will be the most effective, and to fully understand the trade-offs we are making, then a myriad of gaps need filling in the information that is available and used in ecosystem management at all scales.'*

**Neville Ash**  
**Head of Ecosystem**  
**Assessment Programme**

## **2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership**

The development phase of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010BIP) was completed in 2006 – [www.twentyten.net](http://www.twentyten.net). This initiative brings together all the stakeholders for the wide range of biodiversity indicators that will help track progress towards, and help meet the 2010 biodiversity target. During 2006 linkages were made between the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and a range of related initiatives, including work towards the incorporation of new biodiversity indicators into the Millennium Development Goals, and connecting between the global indicators and regional initiatives such as Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010).

## **Other biodiversity indicator initiatives**

As part of the Global Methodology for Mapping Human Impacts on the Biosphere (GLOBIO) consortium, UNEP-WCMC has contributed to development of a global-scale spatial model of the impacts of environmental change on biodiversity. The model produces policy-relevant biodiversity indicators for use in assessments, scenario exercises and exploration of the impacts of policy options, which can help inform better interventions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In other areas of indicator work, UNEP-WCMC teamed up

with the Ramsar Convention to develop indicators measuring the effectiveness of the Convention in conserving wetland ecosystems and, in collaboration with the NASA-NGO consortium, UNEP-WCMC helped to prepare a sourcebook for the use of remote sensing in biodiversity indicator development, which will lead to more robust indicators in the future.

### Biodiversity assessment

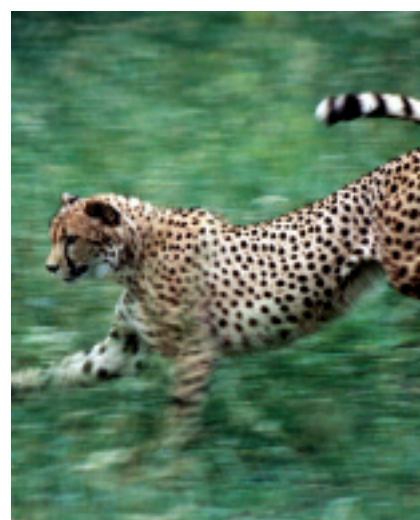
During 2006, UNEP-WCMC contributed to a range of assessment initiatives, including contributing on biodiversity, scenarios, polar and water themes to the fourth edition of *Global Environment Outlook*, UNEP's flagship assessment product (which will be published in 2007); and collaborating with UNESCO-IOC to revise and update a survey of global and regional assessments and related activities of the marine environment as a contribution to global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment. The Centre also produced a report – *In the Front Line* – which, with a focus on coral reefs and mangroves, gathered together lessons learned from the tragic consequences of the Asian tsunami in December 2004. We also continued to contribute to development of an update of the 1997 *World Atlas of Mangroves*, through a partnership with FAO, ITTO, ISME, UNESCO-MAB and UNU, and worked closely with GRID Arendal on the first of a series of 'rapid response assessments' aimed at presenting critical information in a concise and accessible format to decision makers: this one on *Our Precious Coasts: Marine pollution, climate change and the resilience of coastal ecosystems*.

### Ark2010

Working in collaboration with Microsoft Research and other organizations, UNEP-WCMC is managing the Ark2010 project, which aims to strengthen biodiversity science and policy through the contribution of computational tools to decision making. Initial focus is on the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the cloud forests of Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia, with the aim of supporting the production of indicators and analysis for national reporting on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond.



Ha Tuong/UNEP



Nimai Swaroop/UNEP



Cristoph Hirtz/UNEP

# Coral reefs

**U**NEP-WCMC continues to be a Centre of Excellence for coral reefs (tropical and deep/cold water) through hosting the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU). UNEP-WCMC also continues to provide technical support for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which was jointly chaired in 2006 by the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Palau.

## UNEP Coral Reef Unit

CRU continues to provide a focal point within the UN system on all matters related to coral reefs, including links to ICRI, ICRAN and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

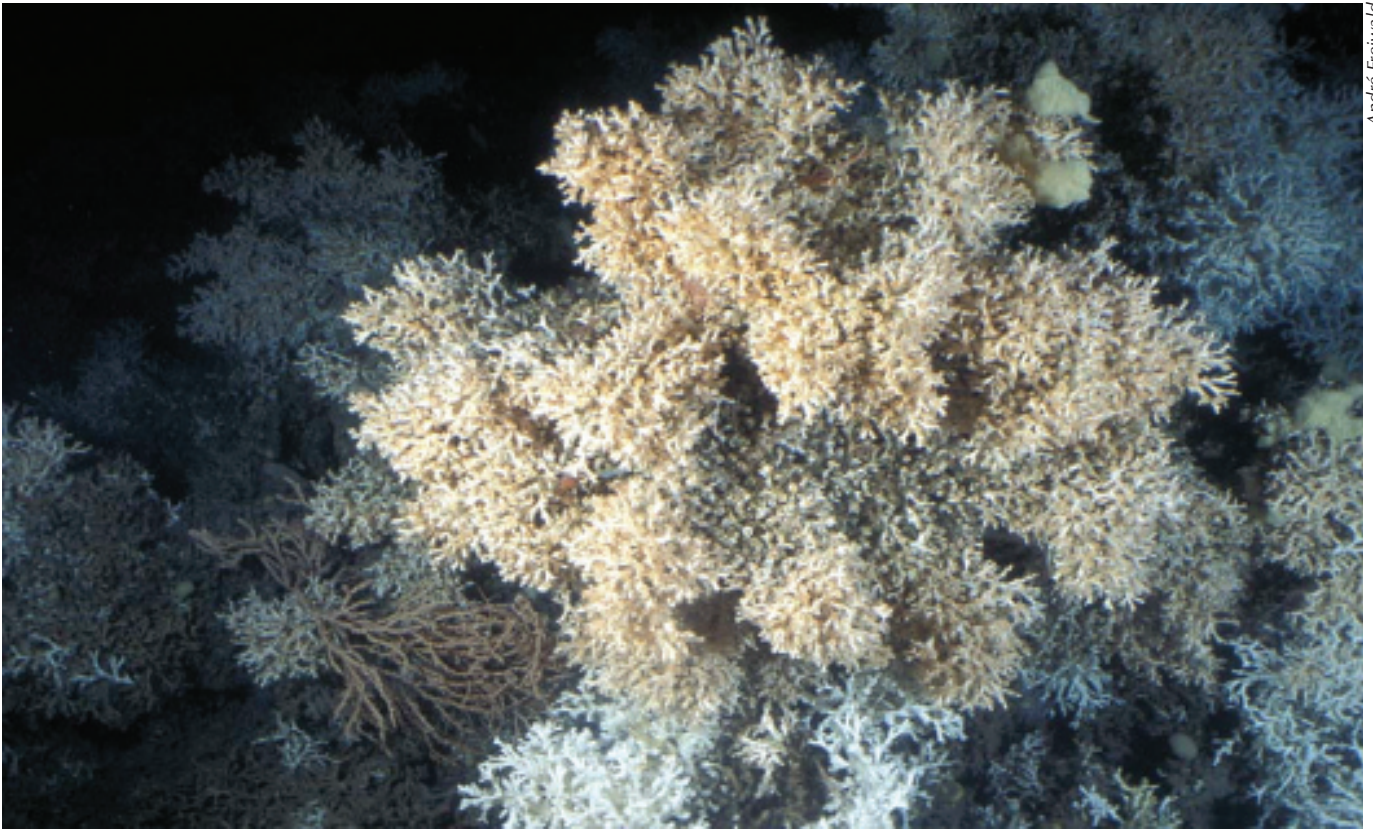
During 2006, CRU worked with collaborators to prepare and publish two reports on key marine ecosystems. *Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas* identifies threats and impacts caused by human activities on vulnerable deep-water marine biodiversity within and outside areas of national jurisdiction. *Seamounts, Deep-sea Corals and Fisheries* combines ecological information with results of modelling the distribution of cold-water corals, large seamounts and seamount fisheries to highlight areas where future commercial fishing activities might impact cold-water coral reef ecosystems living on seamounts.

Also in 2006, CRU worked with UNEP-WCMC to launch a global cold-water coral reef database. This tool provides a central, internet-based entry point for accessing a large amount of data and information on cold-water corals and their distribution. Cold-water coral reefs were also the subject of a television documentary which CRU worked on with the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE). The film *Cold Coral Deep* was broadcast on BBC World in October to raise awareness about the impacts caused by fishing activities on cold-water coral reef ecosystems.

In October, UNEP, represented by CRU, became a partner in the multidisciplinary EU deep-sea research project – Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas (HERMES). This unique engagement provides UNEP and UNEP-WCMC with direct access to new research findings on deep-



UNEP



water marine biodiversity both within and outside national jurisdiction, and enables UNEP to raise awareness of relevant issues at the global level.

### **International Coral Reef Action Network**

ICRAN continues to manage projects in each of the coral reef regions of the world, and 2006 saw the initiation of a region-wide project focusing on the long-term management and conservation of marine and coastal protected areas in South Asia. Meanwhile the Centre contributed watershed management scenarios to the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) project, to assess potential downstream impacts on the coral reefs in this region. This work, carried out in collaboration with the World Resources Institute, is making significant contributions to land use planning and management in the region.

ICRAN acted as Secretariat for the 3rd International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), held in Mexico in October 2006. ITMEMS facilitates discussion and information sharing by people involved in management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. A total of 324 participants from 45 countries attended, and 49 workshops took place, centred around 13 marine and coastal resource themes that were identified as prominent issues facing managers, scientists, local government leaders and other stakeholders working to conserve coral reefs.

***‘In order to conserve the marine environment, cross-sectoral understanding and collaboration are essential, and vital to these is ensuring access to the information and knowledge necessary for supporting action.’***

**Kristian Teleki**  
**Director, International Coral Reef Action Network**

# Spatial analysis and web tools

**A**t the heart of a large proportion of the Centre's work, is our expertise in delivering information online, and in spatial data consolidation, management, analysis and publication. During 2006 a particularly strong focus has been on supporting redevelopment of the World Database on Protected Areas, focusing on the design of the database and the system for managing the flow of data from data providers through to the end users.

## Relaunch of the UNEP-WCMC website

The UNEP-WCMC website – [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org) – is an essential vehicle both for promoting the work that the Centre does and for providing access to a wide range of the data that we manage. In 2006 the website was relaunched with a new look and feel, and improved access to a range of data. Also launched during the year was a website for the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership – [www.twentyten.net](http://www.twentyten.net) – and another for the Technologies for Conservation and Development project – [www.t4cd.org](http://www.t4cd.org).

## Data catalogue

Over the past year we made significant progress in making information on the data the Centre holds available to our partners and the wider community. Through the Conservation GeoPortal – [www.conservationmaps.org](http://www.conservationmaps.org) – developed under the Conservation Commons initiative, we have provided a catalogue of the Centre's extensive GIS data holdings. The GeoPortal allows conservation practitioners and the general public to search our GIS data catalogue along with that of other conservation organizations. We currently have 160 entries in the catalogue.

## Mapping workshops

In 2006 we hosted a series of week-long workshops with specialists from Mauritania, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria working on a joint project to combine data and information on important sites for biodiversity within each country with data on the petroleum industry. These workshops created poster maps which aimed to support decision making within the government and private sector by highlighting potential areas of conflict between biodiversity conservation issues and oil exploration and production. This work made use of data on the petroleum industry made available through the Centre's ongoing relationship with IHS Energy.

### INTERNET STATISTICS

<b>Page views</b>	<b>9,843,262</b>
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>714,337</b>
<b>Visits</b>	<b>1,879,141</b>
<b>Hits</b>	<b>34,115,048</b>



# UNEP-WCMC publications, 2006



**Non-timber forest products in Uganda: Spatial tools supporting sustainable development**

Cottray, O., Miles, L., Newton, A.  
 UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series  
 No. 18



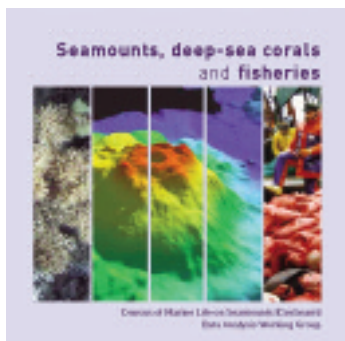
**Commercialization of non-timber forest products: Factors influencing success**

Marshall, E., Schreckenber, K.,  
 Newton, A.C. (eds).  
 UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series  
 No. 23



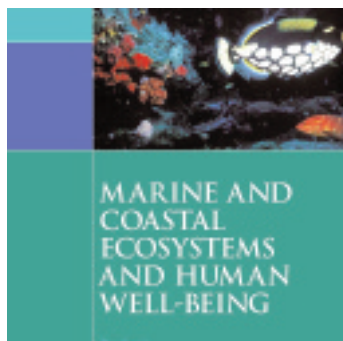
**In the front line: Shoreline protection and other ecosystem services from mangroves and coral reefs**

Wells, S., Ravilious, C., Corcoran, E.  
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**Seamounts, deep-sea corals and fisheries: Vulnerability of deep-sea corals to fishing on seamounts beyond areas of national jurisdiction**

Clark, M.R., Tittensor, D., Rogers, A.D., Brewin, P., Schlacher, T., Rowden, A., Stocks, K., Consalvey, M.  
 UNEP Regional Seas Report and Studies No. 183  
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**Marine and coastal ecosystems and human well-being: A synthesis report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

Brown, C., Corcoran, E., Herkenrath, P., Thonell, J. (eds).  
 UNEP-WCMC with UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment



**Our precious coasts: Marine pollution, climate change and the resilience of coastal ecosystems**

Nellemann, C., Corcoran, E. (eds).  
 UNEP-WCMC with UNEP/GRID Arendal

**Environment on the Edge 2005/6**

Töpfer, K., Zhao, B., Herren, H.R., Power, A., Fuller, K.  
 UNEP-WCMC with New Hall, St. Edmund's College and the British Antarctic Survey



# Chevening biodiversity scholars

**D**uring 2006, 10 young professionals from Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Guyana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Zimbabwe spent time at the Centre as Chevening Biodiversity Scholars.

Each year up to six young professionals, chosen from a wide range of applicants, come to the Centre in September to work for a year alongside the Centre's staff on projects of mutual interest. The work undertaken may be in any part of the Centre, and is as varied as the young people involved. Helena Pavese from Brazil, who was at the Centre 2005/6, worked on the management effectiveness of protected areas, while Agdalena from Indonesia, who is at the Centre 2006/7, is working on trade in marine ornamental species.



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The scholars contribute significantly to the Centre's programme of work, and at the same time gain excellent exposure to international issues in biodiversity conservation.

During 2006, the programme was supported by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council, the Salters' Company and UNEP.

## Articles and contributions authored by UNEP-WCMC staff and consultants

### **Use of a Bayesian belief network to predict the impacts of commercializing non-timber forest products on livelihoods**

*Ecology and Society* 11 (2): 24  
Newton, A.C., Marshall, E., Schreckenberg, K., Golicher, D., Te Velde, D.W., Edouard, F., Arancibia, E.

### **Entrepreneurship in value chains of non-timber forest products**

*Forest Policy and Economics* 8 (7): 725-741  
Te Velde, D.W., Rushton, J., Schreckenberg, K., Marshall, E., Edouard, F., Newton, A.C., Arancibia, E.

### **A global overview of the conservation status of tropical dry forests**

*Journal of Biogeography* 33 (3), 491-505  
Miles, L., Newton, A.C., DeFries, R.S., Ravilious, C., May, I., Blyth, S., Kapos, V., Gordon, J.E.

### **Model-based uncertainty in species range prediction**

*Journal of Biogeography* 33 (10), 1704-1711  
Pearson, R.G., Thuiller, W., Araújo, M.B., Martinez-Meyer, E., Brotons, L., Mcclean, C., Miles, L., Segurado, P., Dawson, T.P. & Lees, D.C.

### **Bamboo diversity: the need for a Red List review**

*Biodiversity* 6 (4):12-16  
Bystriakova, N., Kapos, V.

### **Coral reefs and mangroves: implications from the tsunami one year on**

*Oryx* 40: 123-124  
Wells, S., Kapos, V.

### **Coastal and freshwater ecosystems**

Chapter 5 of *Water, a shared responsibility, United Nations World Water Development Report 2* (pages 158-197)  
Zöckler, C., Revenga, C., Robarts, R.

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to be an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence for the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

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