

Sustainable use of forest resources linking research and education: a view by NGOs and IUCN

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The title of the presentation is very demanding, but I wish to deal with it in two separate sections first:

1. Sustainable use
2. Linking research and education

before connecting the two towards the end of my paper.

IUCN itself is not an NGO, but it represents next to Governments and government agencies also more than 800 NGOs worldwide. The glue between this very heterogenic constituency is a shared vision and mission.

IUCN's vision and mission

Our vision is a just world that values and conserves nature.

Our mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Sustainable use is hence embedded into the central heart of IUCN. Some of the IUCN members are typical organizations promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Let me just mention the Federation of European Hunting Associations (FACE), representing some 7 million hunters in Europe, to be found in every village and Parliament. The IUCN Commission on Species Survival (SSC) has even a Specialist Group on Sustainable Use. The entire United Nations deliberations on sustainable use, such as the so called **Addis Ababa Principles on Sustainable Use** have their origin in IUCN.

The challenges of this century have also led IUCN to review its present constituency, asking critically, whether its present constituency was the right one to tackle the challenges of the time. I personally think that IUCN needs to strengthen precisely its constituency with land owners, land user organizations, making decisions on sustainable use of biological diversity every day. Among the organizations I see a must for a relationship is: **Pro Silva**. During my time as IUCN Regional Director for Pan Europe I regarded the relationship with Pro Silva as a strategic move to promote close-to-nature forest management as the perfect way to harmonize conflicts between economic, social and ecologic objectives in the management of forests. "As over half of all proposed sites for the EU-wide ecological network Natura 2000 will include forest areas, specific guidance for forest sites is appropriate." (European Communities, 2003)

There is a very strong opportunity for Pro Silva to step beyond the *'fence of a club'* and use the opportunity of the time in strategically influencing the legal requirement of preparing management plans for forested NATURA 2000 sites in the member states of the European Union. But not only the member states of the European Union should be tackled, but the accession countries and "new neighbor" countries. This would require a large scaling up of Pro Silva after 20 years of existence. Strategic partnerships are required with partners as the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), the Federation of Private Forest Owners in Europe (CEPF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) of course and the Association of State Forest Enterprise in Europe (ESTAFOR), just to name a few. Is Pro Silva prepared to make this quantum jump? Member States and national government agencies are not really equipped to oversee all the different quarrels land owners, government agencies have with the management of Natura 2000 sites. One is in need of

additional, independent, science –based, but also practically oriented arbitration. Another chance for PRO SILVA....

A quite other field of necessary collaboration between IUCN and Pro Silva is emerging from the very principle discussion of – what constitutes real sustainability of using natural resources, including forests?

Already 3 years ago, I was asking for giving nature a price. This demand is now very strongly pushed by the G8, the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who all support the work under the study : '**The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB)**'

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/>



Giving nature a price will inevitably increase the economic value of natural resources and truly sustainable forest products, such as wood from Pro Silva promoted close-to-nature forest management operations will have a strong demand.

To achieve the advancing of close-to-nature forest management and its associated benefits for nature conservation, it is of course necessary to organize a research community with direct communication with the field, which embraces all disciplines, including conservation, economics and sociology. Again this requires a broadening of Pro Silva's very own constituency, may be through the founding of departments, and the collaboration with strategic partners. IUCN with its network of field projects, policy makers and researchers is an obvious partner for Pro Silva.

The same as for research is of course true for the education of all professionals in all disciplines and all levels. The general public needs to also have a certain foundation to provide the required support, which leads to an informed public, demanding political consequences from its elected politicians. IUCN with its **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)** has a network, which could once again be of interest to Pro Silva in supporting the common cause:

To promote close-to-nature forest management beyond property and national boundaries for the good of people and nature in their sustainable co-existence.

I am looking forward to an intensified collaboration between Pro Silva and IUCN. Pro Silva would be in my eyes one of the strategically needed new members of IUCN to face the challenges of the time together, achieving true sustainable use of forest resources through collaboration of practice, research and policy, supported broadly by public knowledge and demand. One thing one can learn from IUCN: being a spider in the web.

Reference

European Communities, 2003: "***Natura 2000 and forests
'Challenges and opportunities'- Interpretation Guide***" (page 12