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European Sustainable Use Group
supporting IUCN's Thematic Groups for
Sustainable Use & Management of Ecosystems
(SUME) & Sustainable Use & Livelihoods (SULi)

ABOUT ESUG – WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Our purpose

1. ESUG was established in 1997 by the Sustainable Use Initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as a voluntary multi-disciplinary network of experts based in the European region. As a non-profit organization under Belgian Law since 2002, ESUG conducts research in order to enhance understanding of conservation through the use of wild living resources and to influence policy and practice accordingly. Now independent of IUCN, ESUG still supports two IUCN groups on: (i) Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) group, across IUCN Commissions for Species Survival (SSC) and Environmental Economic and Social Policy (CEESP); (ii) Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems (SUME) in Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM).

Members, Working Groups and Divisions

2. Currently there are 112 individual expert members of ESUG from 42 countries. A majority are also members of SULi or SUME. ESUG pursues its objectives through the Chair, Committee and Six Thematic Working Groups based on Co-ordinators who liaise with ESUG members, IUCN Groups and other organisations interested in the relevant focal areas. The working groups are:

- ◆ Agriculture Working Group
- ◆ Forestry Group
- ◆ Fisheries Group
- ◆ Biodiversity Business Group
- ◆ Wildlife Species Resources
- ◆ Plants and Fungi

ESUG objectives

3. In conformity with IUCN objectives, which are 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, ESUG's own objectives are:-

- a. to identify and evaluate the principles and elements of management which contribute to enhancing sustainability of use of wild species and the ecosystems of which they are part;
- b. to increase the conservation advantages accruing from such use, by assisting authorities, users, the general public and researchers to work together for an integrated and equitable approach to sustainable natural resource use in Europe and elsewhere;
- c. to conduct research, participate in research and development projects, publish, consult, liaise, educate and take any other action in order to accomplish the above; and
- d. to work with IUCN to provide guidance to communities that encourages conservation through sustainable use, balancing cultural and economic objectives.

Governance

4. ESUG is governed by its members, who delegate responsibility between general meetings to an elected Chairperson, currently Dr Julie Ewald of the UK, and Committee, currently Dr Tetiana Gardashuk (Ukraine), Dr David Scallan (Belgium), Dr Zenon Tederko (Poland), Prof Sándor Csányi (Hungary), Dr Viktor Šegrt (Croatia), Dr Frank Vorhies (UK) and Prof Robert Kenward (UK); Robin Sharp CB is Chair Emeritus. The Group has a part time Secretariat at c/o EBCD, Rue de la Science 10, 1000-Brussels, and offices also at Stoborough Croft, Wareham BH20 5AJ, UK and 470 Yamanote, Owariasahi, Asahigaoka, Aichi, 488-0084 Japan. ESUG has formal statutes which are registered in Belgium. In principle members are expected to find funding to attend meetings, but where this is not possible ESUG offers modest assistance, subject to available resources.

ESUG Secretariat:

c/o European Bureau for Conservation and Development, 10 Rue de la Science, 1000 Brussels
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Some outputs of ESUG

5. Some projects and outputs of ESUG and its thematic groups include:

- *Definition of a common European analytical framework for the development of local agri-environmental programmes for biodiversity and landscape conservation (AEMBAC)* in the 5th Framework Programme of the European Commission, co-funded by the Swiss Federal Ministry for Science and Education and the Nando Peretti Foundation, Rome;
- Feasibility Study for *The Establishment of a Large Carnivore Centre at Zarnesti, Romania*, funded by the Nando Peretti Foundation, Rome;
- Status reports on *Baltic Sea Fisheries Management* and *Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries Management*; and Commentary on *the Commission's Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy*;
- Reports: *Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Landscape in the Farmed Countryside* (for Council of Europe in 2002); *Freshwater Fisheries in Central & East Europe: the Challenge of Sustainability* and also *Communicating Biodiversity Conservation to Forest Owners in East-Central Europe: Major Issues and Model Communication Strategies* (both with IUCN Poland in 2004); *Wealth from the Wild* (with IUCN UK in 2004);
- Via its WISPER Group, finalised *Guidelines for Sustainable Hunting in Europe* in 2006;
- Country coordinators from ESUG surveyed *Use Nationally of Wildlife Resources in Europe (UNWIRE)* across 27 EU states in 2007 for *Governance and Ecosystem Management for Conservation of Biodiversity* in the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission;
- During 2008-11, ESUG was a partner in a project to design a *Transactional Environmental Support System* for the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, and helps run the portal at www.naturalliance.eu which is one outcome of that EC "success story".
- During 2014-17, ESUG built multilingual portal networks (www.sakernet.org, www.perdixnet.org) for CMS & IUCN member International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey.
- Members also played a major role in development of the *Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity* adopted by Council of Europe Bern Convention in 2007, of the *Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity* in 2010 and of the 2013 *Charter on Fungi-gathering and Biodiversity*;
- In 2019, ESUG launched for IUCN-SUME the global-with-local network www.naturalliance.org.

6. In addition ESUG has contributed to IUCN global work on Sustainable Use, which has included formulation of the IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources (adopted at the Amman Congress in 2000), work on the CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (adopted February 2004), inputs to CITES, CMS, FAO and OECD, and three workshops at the Bangkok Congress in 2004. Since then ESUG helped organise the SUSG-ZSL Symposium and follow-on SUSG Workshop on Recreational Hunting in London in 2006; its members contributed 3 chapters for the IUCN/ZSL book *Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: Science and Practice*; ESUG then took the lead in responding to a major consultation on the Sustainable Tourism Baseline Criteria Initiative. As chair during this period, Robin Sharp was honoured in 2006 with the award of the SSC Harry Messel Prize and edited SULI-news. While part of IUCN, ESUG also made inputs into the draft programmes for 2009-12 and 2012-16, a consultation on sustainable forestry organised by the Regional Office of CEPI (for the European paper industry), to an ecotourism consultation by the Rainforest Alliance and extensively to IUCN policy planning for COP10 and COP 11 of the CBD in 2010 and 2012.

Applying for membership

7. Membership of ESUG is open to those who have expertise or experience in at least one of the aspects of its work, who accept the objectives of IUCN and ESUG and who are willing to take part actively in its work. Applicants are requested to complete and sign an application form, available from the Secretariat. The application is then considered by the Committee, who have regard not only to the individual merits, but also to ensuring a reasonable balance of expertise and geographical coverage. The Statutes also permit Corresponding Membership to bodies interested in our work; these may be listed as Patrons on <http://esug.sycl.net>. The working language of ESUG is English.