Evaluation Abstract

Title, author and date of the evaluation report:
Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group 2 (ELG 2) Review, prepared by Alejandro Imbach and Kent Jingfors, May 2005

Name of project, programme or organizational unit: Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group

Objectives of the project, programme or mandate of the organizational unit:
ELG2 was established in late 2002 as a result of the first stage of a reorganization process undertaken by the IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO). It resulted from the clustering of three existing Regional Thematic Programmes (RTP): Regional Biodiversity Programme (RBP), Regional Environmental Economics Programme (REEP), and Regional Marine Programme (RMP). It aims to:
- Provide integration and synergy into the diverse programmatic work;
- Provide a stronger linkage and technical assistance to the country programme development, particularly in the areas of expertise available within RTPs;
- Offer a forum to voice this expertise collectively;
- Strengthen networking and partnerships; and
- Enhance the financial viability of IUCN Asia.

IUCN area of specialisation: Organizational

Geographical area: Sri Lanka

Project or programme duration, length of existence of organisational unit: 2002 – to date

Overall budget of the project, programme or organizational unit: Not specified

Donor(s): N/A

Objectives of the evaluation:
- Provide an analytical commentary and recommendations on the mandate, consequential programme fit (within overall Asia concepts), programme delivery, engagement of the constituency in its activities, co-location, and overall contribution to the development of IUCN Asia programme.

- Review other important areas, including: current management arrangements; internal structuring of the ELG2 and the working of each component regional thematic programmes; the extent to which integration (within ELG, with Country Programmes) has improved and is directly supported by ELG's functioning; the need for adaptation of existing programmes and activities, and for ELG2 to incorporate new programmatic areas.

Type of evaluation: Programme

Period covered by the evaluation: late 2002 – April/May 2005

Commissioned by:

Audience: IUCN Asia Regional Director; ELG staff; IUCN HQ

Evaluation team: Mixed (External/Internal)

Methodology used:
- <u>Review Design:</u> drafting the Terms of Reference, preparation of the Review and Information Sources matrices, and development of information gathering tools (lists of documents, questionnaires, interview guidelines, etc);
- <u>Information gathering and analysis:</u> collecting and reading the documents, interviewing people, organizing the information, and having short Review Team meetings to develop both a common understanding of the situation and an agreed set of issues for discussion and recommendations;
- <u>Feedback and discussion with ELG2:</u> presenting and discussing with staff the findings of the Review;
- <u>Reporting:</u> preparation of the Review Report for the Regional Director and ARO, as a basis for review, follow-up and decision making.

The Review Matrix, Information Sources Matrix, and complete set of interview questionnaires are available in Annex 2, 3, and 4 of the report, respectively.

Questions of the evaluation:
The Review focused on six major areas:
1) <u>Mandate</u> (clarity, achievements against original objectives, integration among the component RTPs, cooperation with other ELGs and Country Programmes)
2) <u>Programmatic Fit</u> (within the overall IUCN Asia programme as well as degree of addressing the needs of the constituency)
3) <u>Programme Delivery and Efficiency</u>

well. In addition, new potential areas of work are emerging globally, such as national level green accounting and fiscal reforms that provide incentives for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services. With regard to RMP, the Programme has been revitalized after a brief hiatus, and its importance and relevance are widely recognized. Issues regarding its scope (i.e. whether marine, coastal, or both) have, however, emerged.

Programme Delivery and Use