

ROfE

Letter from the Regional Director

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Photo: ROFE

sustainable use areas. PAs have direct use-value to rural communities. For example, it is well documented that marine protected areas and

News

New staff

ROfE is pleased to announce that **Dr Tobias Garstecki** will join the European Programme Team as CIM integrated expert. Tobias holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology and has ample experience in working with various programs in Biology

New projects

Ktsia-Tabatskuri Project, Georgia

On the high plains of Georgia, 2000m above sea level, ROfE and IUCN member GCCW (Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife) will assist in the establishment of a protected area. The wetland contains a lake and a river, and alpine pastures. The elaboration of the management plan will be carried out in close cooperation with the community-based association of two villages within the boundary of the strict nature reserve. The three-year project is funded by BP Georgia within the framework of their Environment Investment Programme.

Sava River LIFE project, South-Eastern Europe

Flowing through four countries of South-Eastern Europe, the Sava is one of Europe's last wild rivers. It connects Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro. IUCN will start a new transboundary project to save the unique floodplains of the Sava, and to ensure an integrated river basin management. The three-year project is funded by the European Commission's LIFE Programme and the Swiss Development Cooperation, and will be carried out by the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in cooperation with the IUCN members "Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation" and "Croatian Nature Conservation Directorate" as well as other members and partners.

A vision for the EU Outermost Regions

JPP: What is the ecological importance of French Guiana and this region of the world and what are the main threats to its environment?

BT: The region is covered by one of the last coherent tracts of tropical forests in the world and harbours a unique biological diversity and cultural richness. The state of preservation of the freshwater and forest habitats is better than in most other tropical areas and most plant and animal populations still have a satisfactory conservation status. But demographic pressures, the evolution of the ways of life, and the declining standard of living of disadvantaged communities in the region, are increasing pressure on this ecological richness.

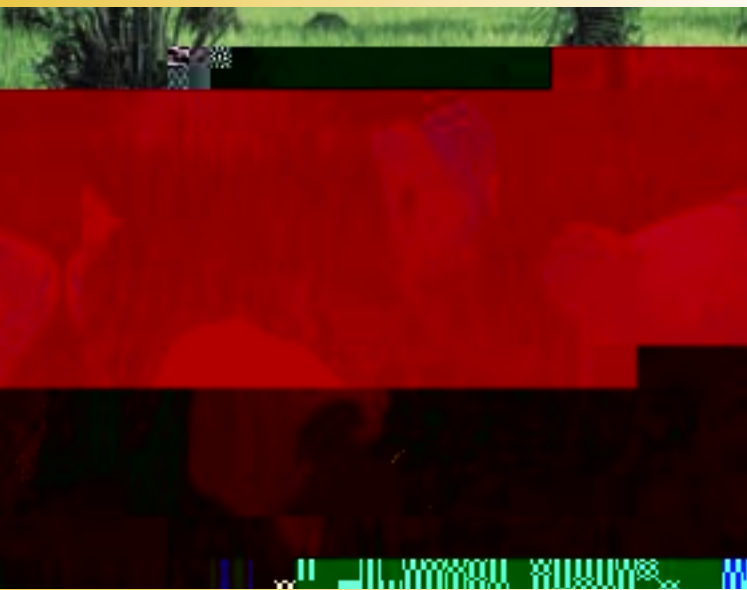
JPP: With which partners does the association Kwata work? Are you able to mobilise adequate resources for your projects?

BT: For years, Kwata has worked with partners at all levels, from the public as well as the private domain. These partnerships are, for example, in the field of regional planning, natural resource management, and environmental education. They also relate to logistic partnerships as well as technical and scientific projects.

Financing specific activities or projects constitutes the major part of our financial commitments. The difficulty of access to recurrent financing, however, remains the principal constraint to realising projects, stabilising local competences, and ensuring follow-up of programmes.

JPP: Being a local NGO, what are your present expectations vis-à-vis IUCN?

BT: The principal expectation is for IUCN to continue to support networking in the northern region of South America. Regional collaborations are necessary, especially with a view to environmental and ecological concerns. In this context, the effectiveness of the



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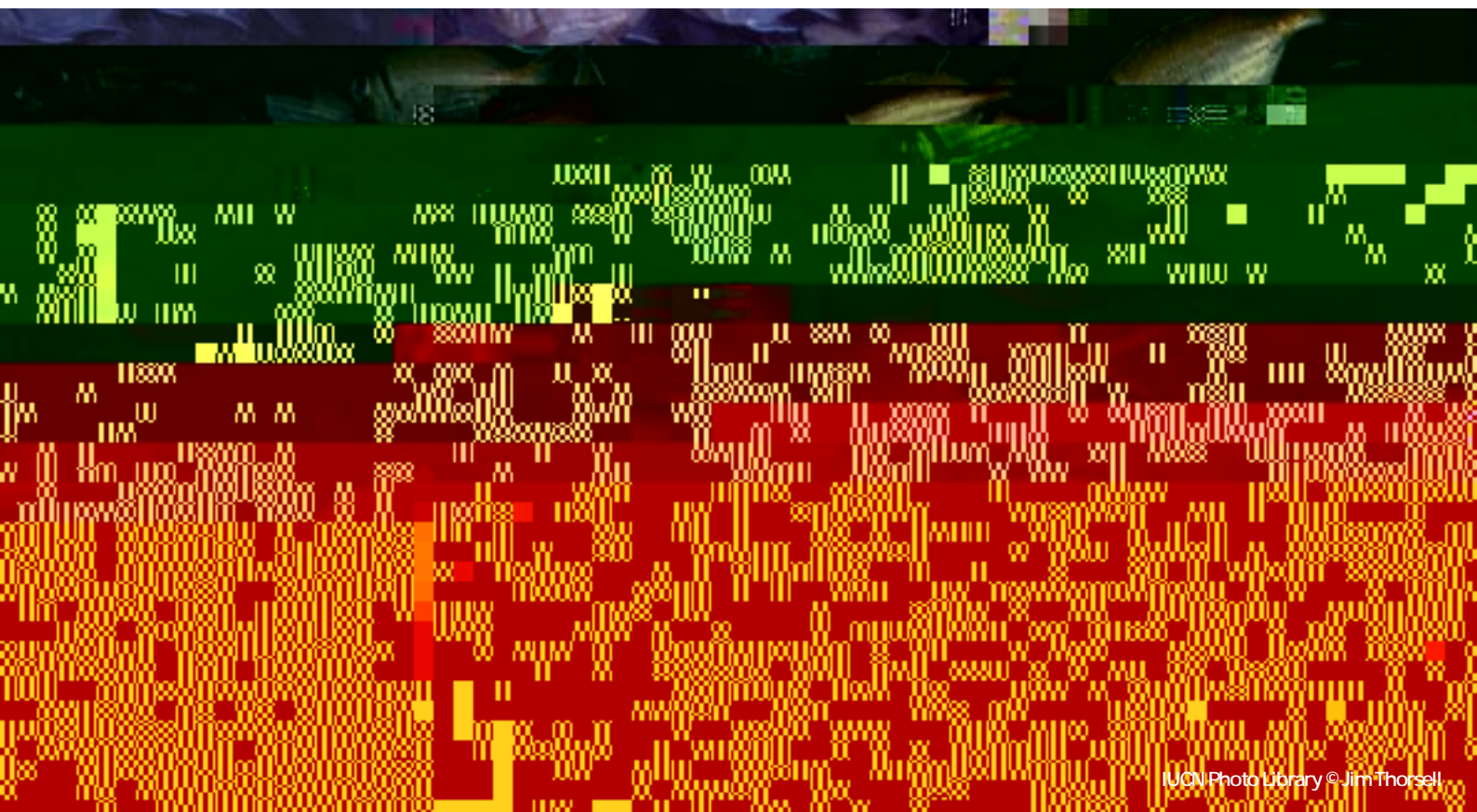
services in the framework of EU external assistance. DG Development and DG Environment already cooperate closely together but we will continue to look for further improvements.

TM: Commissioner Louis Michel, DG Development launched a comprehensive and long-term Strategy for Africa in 2005. How will biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources be taken into account in the implementation of the Strategy?

LM: The Africa Strategy emphasises the importance of good governance as crucial for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources. Key elements of the strategy are therefore to promote good governance and the establishment of an appropriate legal framework for sound use of natural resources. This includes the development of local capabilities to generate reliable information on the location, condition and evolution of environmental resources, as well as supporting Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG). Furthermore, actions are foreseen to conserve biodiversity by supporting African regional, sub-regional and domestic efforts to implement the UN Convention on



Sustainability in the 21st Century



ROfE Head Office in Brussels

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