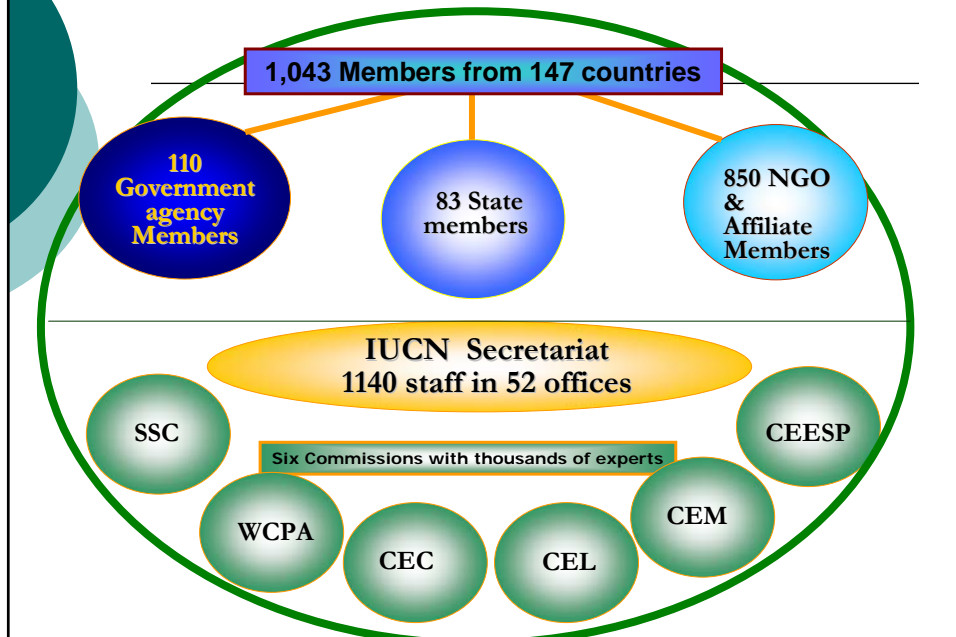


Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Bio-Cultural Diversity

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April 2007

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Background

- Climate change will severely affect wellbeing of poor and vulnerable societies
- Traditional communities are diverse in terms of cultural backgrounds, languages and traditional knowledge
- Traditional societies have developed knowledge about changes in the environment and adaptation strategies
- Traditional people may have to offer valuable lessons to learn for future adaptation to and mitigation of climate change



There is...

- growing knowledge about the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems

However...

- there is only fragmented understanding about the impacts of climate change on livelihoods and the world cultural diversity



Objective

To improve understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and cultures of the world and their associated ecosystems, and to identify further research and knowledge required to contribute to risk reduction and appropriate mitigation and adaptation particularly in areas with high risk and high socio-cultural impacts.



Methodology

- Review existing information on the topic including case studies on adaptation
- Systematize existing knowledge
- GIS based visualization of “high bio-cultural risk” areas
- Group discussions and expert workshops



Outputs

- Cartographic representation of areas of social and cultural vulnerability in relation to vulnerable ecosystems
- Report analysing the gathered information
- Agenda for research and action
- Relevant information posted on IUCN website



Way forward

- We are currently at the beginning of this research project
- Results should be included in **IUCN Programme 2009-2012** and into the **4th World Conservation Congress 2008**
- Establish links with experts for getting inputs and future collaboration