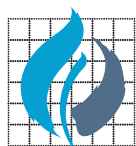

REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2015

PUTTING BIODIVERSITY
AT THE HEART OF
DECISION-MAKING



UNEP



WCMC

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About UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNEP-WCMC is a world leader in biodiversity knowledge. The Centre prides itself on delivering the highest quality information available, for the good of the planet.

The Centre was established over 35 years ago, and since that time has built a reputation worldwide for reliable and effective ways to apply its knowledge and expertise, to address the needs of its clients and partners.

UNEP-WCMC specializes in measuring biodiversity change, the causes of that change, evaluating options, and improving the capability of others to do the same.

The Centre works closely with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, national governments, universities, research centres, the corporate sector and private foundations.

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Achim Steiner

UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director of UNEP



“The global community
is well placed to put
biodiversity at the heart
of decision-making.”

SINCE THE LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY HAS PROFOUNDLY CHANGED ITS UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. FROM INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT BIODIVERSITY COULD BE LOST, WE HAVE COME TO REALISE WHAT THAT LOSS REALLY MEANS AND ARE LEARNING TO BETTER MANAGE THE ECOSYSTEMS THAT UNDERPIN OUR LIVELIHOODS, SECURITY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THIS CHANGE IS BOTH DRIVEN by and reflected in the work of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), which once again delivered a strong performance in 2015.

Global discussions now recognize biodiversity as part of our heritage, culture, economy and quality of life. It is our natural capital. The three pillars of sustainability – social, economic and environmental – no longer stand alone, but are wound and bound together.

Last year’s adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights this new way of thinking. Now that nations understand their fundamental reliance on the environment, efforts are focused on the integrated implementation of governance that takes account of biodiversity.

UNEP-WCMC supported those efforts in various ways by using modelling and scenario projects to explore the impact of policy options on emissions, agricultural production and biodiversity, highlighting the potential for balancing food and biofuel production with environmental protection. We also identified ways to improve cooperation in implementing biodiversity-related conventions and reviewed the need for associated capacity-building and awareness-raising.

There is still much progress to be made, but as this Annual Report shows, the global community is well placed to put biodiversity at the heart of decision-making. I would like to thank the UNEP-WCMC and all of our partners for making this possible.

Robert Napier

Chair, WCMC Board of Trustees



“2015 marks another
successful year
for the Centre”

OUR TEAM HAS STRENGTHENED WITH BROADER SKILLS NOW ON BOARD, SETTING THE STAGE FOR US TO ENGAGE MORE FULLY IN HELPING OUR PARTNERS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INTO THEIR DECISION-MAKING.

WE HAVE FURTHER STRENGTHENED the Board of Trustees with three new recruits, maintaining a strong financial perspective whilst building our engagement on international biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We extended our work supporting UNEP's own regional strategic presence with promising opportunities emerging in China and a deepening of our work with government agencies in Brazil.

All this was against a backdrop of building closer ties with UNEP through the implementation of its medium-term strategy and its work with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Of course, our achievements are elaborated more fully in the rest of this report, but what certainly merits further mention here is the legacy of the outgoing Director Jon Hutton and his Deputy Maxwell Gomera as they depart the Centre after 10 and five years of leadership respectively. Their efforts in building positive connections with our partners in general, and especially UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, have been outstanding and leave us well positioned for our future.

We look forward to welcoming their successors, Neville Ash and Corli Pretorius, both well-established within the UN family and excellent additions to our team in Cambridge.

Jon Hutton

UNEP-WCMC Director



“I owe a great deal to UNEP-WCMC for the many opportunities it has provided me during the last decade and I have enjoyed being part of a high-performing team”

FOR ME, THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURE OF 2015 WAS OUR ENERGETIC AND FOCUSED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014 REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WE WERE CHALLENGED TO EMBED UNEP-WCMC firmly into the UNEP Programme of Work and bring our WCMC colleagues more strongly into key UNEP processes and, by the end of the year, we had achieved both.

Sadly, as they say, there is no gain without pain, and this was largely borne by our outstanding team of scientists, who in addition to their challenging workload, learnt how to navigate the channels of UNEP’s internal processes. Their emergence into calmer waters is a testament to their hard work, dedication and adaptability – characteristics that are key features of UNEP-WCMC’s value proposition to colleagues within UNEP and the many organizations that work with us.

Had I known that 2015 would be my last year with the Centre, I might have been even more ambitious! At the end of 2015, after a full 10 years of being Director, I decided to leave the Centre to pursue new challenges.

I owe a great deal to UNEP-WCMC for the many opportunities it has provided me during the last decade and I have enjoyed being part of a high-performing team. Our list of achievements is long and I hope and believe that we have built an institution with a coherent purpose and thriving team that can face the future with confidence.

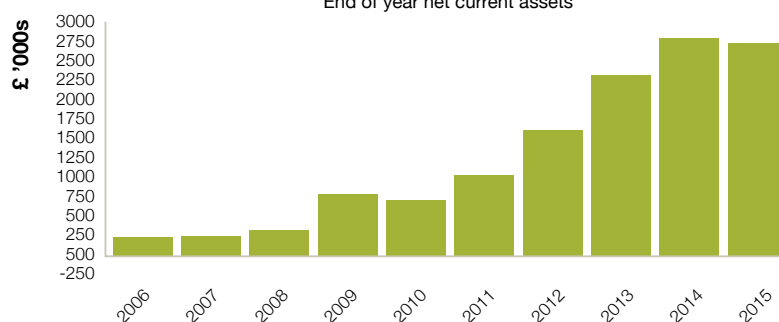
I wish the Centre every success in the coming years, when its services will certainly be needed more than ever before.

HOW THE CENTRE HAS PERFORMED

OUR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF THE CENTRE'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS OUR INCREASED SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT AND CONTINUED STAFF SATISFACTION

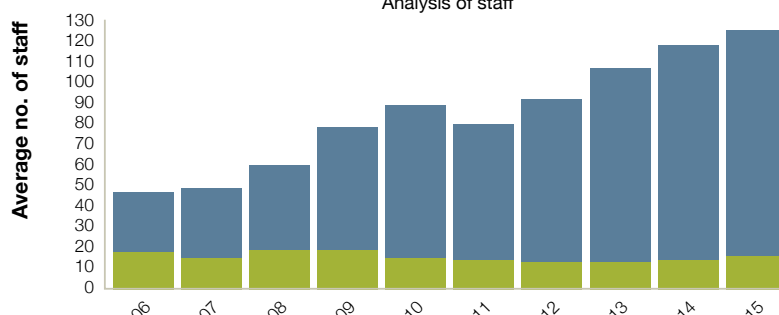
The Centre's balance sheet strengthened and at the end of the year the Centre was able to meet its reserves target of six months of operating costs. This leaves the Centre well positioned to build on investments in key project areas in the months ahead.

Our financial performance
End of year net current assets



We continue to manage our fixed cost base tightly and to seek efficiencies where possible. In 2015, our administration team comprised 13 per cent of our total staff, and remained flat, whilst supporting an increase in the scientific capacity of the Centre.

Our efficiency of operation
Analysis of staff



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