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Ninth meeting
Montreal, 10-14 November 2003
Item 4.1 of the provisional agenda*

PROTECTED AREAS

Proposed programme of work

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) selected protected areas as one of the three themes for in-depth consideration at its seventh meeting (decision IV/16, annex II). In order to facilitate the preparatory process for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary developed a proposal (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/2) outlining specific activities and means for undertaking the work, including the use of an ad hoc technical expert group to provide key input into the process. The proposal was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (decision VI/30).

The terms of reference of the Expert Group approved in decision VI / 30 were as follows:

(a)   Review methods and approaches for the planning and management of protected areas including options for appropriate policies, strategies, and practices consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

(b)   Identify ecosystem and bioregional approaches to protected area management and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(c)   Identify mechanisms to enhance stakeholder involvement;

(d)   Propose methods for developing systems plans and integrating biological diversity considerations into sectoral strategies and plans;

(e)   Identify options for management of transboundary protected areas; and

(f)   Based on the consideration of the above, propose options and priority actions required for effective establishment and management of protected areas.

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*   UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

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In March 2003, the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, requested, in paragraph 1 of its recommendation 1 A, that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its ninth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting consider the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relating to hotspots, ecological networks and corridors and other areas essential for biodiversity in the context of the work on protected areas, taking into account other relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues, in the context of national strategies and action plans, and focusing on biodiversity loss.

The meeting of the Technical Expert Group was held from 10 to14 June 2003 at the Tjärnö Marine Biological Laboratory in Tjärnö, Sweden, with financial support from the Government of Sweden. Its report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/3 includes: (i) a procedural report; (ii) annex I, which is a report on the review work, the results of which are reflected in an addendum to the present note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/6/Add.1) and (iii) annex II which proposes a programme of work on protected areas and some recommendations for SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties.

The Executive Secretary is forwarding herewith, for the consideration of SBSTTA, the elements of the programme of work on protected areas developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and some suggested recommendations, including those made by the Expert Group in its report.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to:

(a)   *Welcome* the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/3)

(b)   *Express its appreciation to:*

> (i)   The Government of Sweden for its financial support of the Expert Group meeting;
>
> (ii)   Other Governments and organizations for the participation of their representatives;
>
> (iii)   The co-chairs and all the members of the Expert Group for their contributions.

The Subsidiary Body may also wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

(a)   *Confirms* that efforts to establish and maintain systems of protected areas and areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity in line with Article 8 on *in situ* conservation and other relevant articles of the Convention, are essential for implementing, in the context of the ecosystem approach, the three objectives of the Convention and thus contributing to sustainable development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

Status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas

(b)   *Welcomes* the documents on status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/5) and the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas prepared for the Fifth World Parks Congress;

(c)   *Notes* that, in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, protected areas and areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity can include any area identified as containing components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use as set down in Annex I to the Convention;

(d)   *Recognizes* that, although at the global level the number and extent of protected areas has been increasing in the past decades, existing systems of protected areas are not representative of the world's ecosystems, habitat types and biomes, and that, in particular, marine areas, of which less than 1 per cent are protected, are particularly under-represented;

(e)   *Further recognizes* that almost a tenth of the world's land surface is in some form of protected area and that marine protected areas cover only less than 1 per cent of Earth's marine area, and

notes, however, that comprehensive evaluations of the effectiveness of protected areas and their systems have been relatively rare, despite the importance of such evaluations in ensuring that protected areas fulfil the aims for which they were established;

Programme of work

(f)   *Adopts* a programme of work on protected areas based on the proposed elements of a programme of work contained in the present note;

(g)   *Affirms* that any decisions adopted on the basis of SBSTTA recommendation VIII/3 B, on marine and coastal protected areas, be considered an integral part of the Convention's work on protected areas;

(h)   *Urges* Parties to incorporate, as appropriate, the activities recommended in the programme of work into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and implement them taking into account the ecosystem approach and the particular national and local conditions so as to contribute to the significant reduction of the rate of biological diversity loss by 2010 and beyond;

(i)   *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and organizations to ensure coherence and synergy with the thematic programmes of work while implementing this programme of work;

(j)   *Invites* Parties to elaborate outcome-oriented targets for the extent, representativeness and effectiveness of their systems of protected areas, taking into account the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as any decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, on global targets to facilitate monitoring of the progress towards achievement of the 2010 target;

(k)   *Decides* to establish, within the framework and institutions of the Convention, mechanisms to address the following outstanding issues and report to eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

    (i)   Develop guidance to assist Parties in implementing Article 8 (a) and (b) including best-practice guidelines for

- The planning, and establishment of national systems of protected areas, including ecological corridors and networks;

- The management of protected areas; and

- The evaluation of the effectiveness of protected areas;

    (ii)   Develop scientific and technical advice on measures required to achieve a truly representative network of protected areas, globally, in order to contribute to the 2010 target and longer-term purpose of the Strategic Plan. This work should draw upon the input of Parties and other Governments, the work of relevant United Nations organizations and conventions, the work of the World Commission on Protected Areas, the outcomes and recommendations of the Fifth IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas, and the work of relevant local and indigenous communities, and non-governmental organizations;

    (iii)   Explore options for cooperation to ensure the establishment of protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction, especially for the high seas, in accordance with applicable law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and taking into account the results of the work of the Executive Secretary proposed in paragraph 20 of SBSTTA recommendation VIII/3 B. This work should be carried out in close collaboration with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant organizations;

(iv)   Explore options for the financing of protected areas in order to implement Article 8 (m) of the Convention; and

(v)   Explore options for technical and other support for the establishment of a global system of protected areas, including identification and removal of barriers to the creation of protected areas, and removal of perverse incentives for unsustainable activities, pursuant to decision VI/15, on incentive measures;

(l)   To this end, *requests* SBSTTA to convene a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas, and/or establish an expert meeting or open ended working group on protected areas;

(m)   *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to report on implementation of this decision and the programme of work, including information on the needs for human, institutional and financial resources, through, *inter alia*, their reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(n)   *Recognizes* the value of a single international classification system for protected areas and the benefit of providing information that is comparable across countries and regions and therefore *welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas to refine the IUCN system of categories and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assign protected-area management categories to their protected areas, using the IUCN categories, taking into account the results of the process for their refinement;

(o)   *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide up-to-date information for the World Database on Protected Areas in order to facilitate the updating of the United Nations List of Protected Areas and thereby assist the monitoring of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target;

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary

(p)   *Requests* the Executive to update information on status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas as part of the reviews of the implementation of the thematic programmes of work, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, in particular the World Commission on Protected Areas among others, and making use of all available relevant information;

(q)   *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with other organizations, institutions and conventions with a view to streamlining many of the activities contained in the programme of work, promoting synergies and avoiding unnecessary duplications, and to establish a liaison group of relevant organizations including the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Man and Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and relevant regional conventions to facilitate this objective;

(r)   *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(i)   Compile information received from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and bodies on the implementation of the programme of work, and analyze progress made towards the achievement of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 through the establishment and management of protected areas;

(ii)   Assist the Parties in implementing the programme of work through, *inter alia*, the supporting activities defined in the programme of work, and the development, in collaboration with relevant organizations, of proposals for global and, where appropriate, regional targets or expected measurable outputs with timeframes and main actors,

(iii)   Emphasizing the importance of protected areas for livelihoods, compile and disseminate information linking protected areas to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

CONTENTS

PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF A PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

I.   *Introduction*

1.   *In situ* conservation of biological diversity is dependent upon properly maintaining sufficient natural habitat. Protected areas are essential components in national and global biodiversity conservation strategies. They provide a range of goods and ecological services while preserving natural and cultural resources. They can contribute to poverty alleviation by providing gainful employment opportunities and livelihoods to people living in and around them. In addition, they also provide opportunities for research including for adaptive measures to cope with climate change, environmental education, recreation and tourism. As a result, many countries have developed a system of protected areas. The protected-area network now covers about 12 percent of Earth's land surface. Less than 1% of the Earth's marine area is covered. Their central role in implementing the objectives of the Convention has been repeatedly emphasized in decisions of the Conference of Parties. Protected areas form a vital element of the various thematic programmes of work, namely, marine and coastal biological diversity, inland water ecosystems biological diversity, dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity, forest biological diversity and mountain biological diversity.

2.   Given their many benefits, protected areas are important instruments for meeting the Convention's targets of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. However, according to the best available data on the status and trends on protected areas (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/5), the current global network of protected areas is not sufficiently large, sufficiently well-planned, nor sufficiently well-managed to optimize its contribution to preventing global biodiversity loss. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take action to improve the coverage, representativeness and management of protected areas nationally, regionally and globally.

3.   The Convention on Biological Diversity works with many partner organizations, conventions and initiatives in facilitating conservation and sustainable use through protected areas. These include the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA); the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the World Resources Institute (WRI); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); WWF; the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme (MAB); the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the associated agreements; the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and various regional agreements and programmes.

4.   The present programme of work on protected areas features goals and activities that are specific to protected areas. Some elements of existing programmes of work on forests, inland waters, dry and sub-humid land biological diversity, coastal and marine biological diversity also apply to protected areas. The goals and activities contained in these existing programmes of work should also be applied and implemented, whenever appropriate for their respective protected areas.

II.   *Overall purpose and scope of the programme of work*

5.   The overall purpose of the programme of work on protected areas is to significantly reduce biological diversity loss at the international, national and sub-national levels through the implementation of the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development, thereby supporting the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. The ultimate result of the implementation of the programme of work is the establishment and maintenance in perpetuity of an effectively managed, ecological representative global system of protected area networks, where human activities are managed to maintain the structure and functioning of the full range of ecosystems, in order to provide benefits to both present and future generations.

6.   The programme of work consists of three interlinked elements intended to be mutually reinforcing. It was developed bearing in mind the need to avoid unnecessary duplication with existing thematic work programmes and other ongoing initiatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to promote synergy and coordination with relevant programmes of various international organizations. Parties are encouraged to apply where appropriate the objectives and activities from these thematic work programmes and the work on cross-cutting issues.

7.   The Convention's work on protected areas should be undertaken in the context of the ecosystem approach. The ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention, and its application will help reach a balance between the three objectives of the Convention. Multiple-use protected areas applied in an ecosystem approach context can, for example, help meet specific goals relating to both conservation and sustainable use. The ecosystem approach provides a framework within which the relationship of protected areas to the wider landscape and seascape can be understood, and the goods and services flowing from protected areas can be valued. In addition, the establishment and management of protected area systems in the context of the ecosystem approach should not simply be considered in national terms, but where the relevant ecosystem extends beyond national boundaries, in ecosystem or bioregional terms as well. This presents a strong argument for transboundary and high-seas protected areas.

8.   The programme of work is intended to assist Parties in establishing national programmes of work with targeted goals, actions, specific actors, time frame, inputs and expected measurable outputs. Parties may select from, adapt, and/or add to the goals and actions suggested in the current programme of work according to particular national and local conditions and their level of development. Implementation of this programme of work should take into account the ecosystem approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In determining national programmes of work, Parties are encouraged to pay due regard to the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of various options. In addition, Parties are encouraged to consider the use of appropriate technologies, source of finance and technical cooperation, and to ensure, through appropriate actions, the means to meet the particular challenges and demands of their protected areas.

9.   Bearing in mind the three objectives of the Convention and the need to approach work on protected areas in a balanced manner that pays due attention to conservation, sustainable use, and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, the Parties may wish to establish the following programme of work on protected areas:

III.   Programme elements, goals and actions

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1: Direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing and managing protected area systems and sites

Goal 1.1 – Contributing to globally agreed goals: To expand and strengthen the overall contribution of protected area systems to (i) the goal of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the WSSD of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; and (ii) the Millennium Development Goals (Millennium Development Goals) – particularly goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

Activities of the Parties

1.1.1.   By 2006, conduct national-level rapid assessments of the contributions of protected areas to the country's economy and culture, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (Millennium Development Goals) at the national level. These assessments should document and analyse empirical data and concrete case-studies to the extent possible, drawing upon economic valuation, natural resource accounting and other methodologies.

1.1.2.   Drawing upon the results of the above assessments, develop a range of tailored communications tools and outreach programs that articulate this information to policymakers, key stakeholder groups and the general public.

1.1.3. By 2006, conduct national-level analyses of options for setting time-bound, measurable protected area targets that contribute to the above globally agreed conservation goals. Suggested national-level measures of progress toward targets include: total hectares under protected status, percent of ecoregions and major habitat types under protected status, status assessment of ecological integrity of protected areas, and numerical targets for species-at-risk.

1.1.4. By 2006 establish suitable time-bound, measurable protected area targets and begin to measure progress toward such targets, based on a periodic monitoring programme.

1.1.5. Report on progress toward targets in future national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary***:**

1.1.6 Prepare and disseminate to Parties a technical document providing a framework for national-level, time-bound, measurable protected areas targets as referenced above.

1.1.7 Identify options for quantitative and qualitative protected areas targets and indicators that might be used at the global level that could contribute to the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals.

1.1.8 Invite relevant international and regional organizations to offer their assistance to the Parties in conducting national-level rapid assessments.

Main partners

Parties, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, UNESCO-World Heritage Centre, UNDP, Ramsar Convention, IUCN-WCPA.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, WWF, WRI, intergovernmental organizations

Goal 1.2 – Planning and establishment of national systems of protected areas: To support more systematic planning processes and to build, by 2010, comprehensive and representative national systems of protected areas, drawing on recent advances in ecological as well as social sciences and economics, building on the existing systems of protected areas, and including community conserved areas.

Activities of the Parties

1.2.1. Drawing upon existing site selection methodologies, develop by 2006 a framework for assessing protected area system gaps at the national and ecoregional levels. The framework should take into account Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international conventions, along with such criteria as irreplaceability of target biodiversity components, minimum size and viability requirements, connectivity (including corridors), intactness, ecological processes and ecosystem services.

1.2.2. Conduct national-level reviews of existing and potential forms of conservation including innovative models of governance for protected areas, such as protected areas run by government agencies at various levels, co-managed protected areas, private protected areas and community conserved areas.

1.2.3. Using the above framework, conduct gap assessments and develop, by 2006, national plans for filling identified system gaps (including site selection for establishment of new sites, expansion of existing sites, restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and semi-natural areas, and recovery of endangered species).

1.2.4. As a matter of urgency, by 2005, conduct a feasibility study to establish or expand protected areas in any remaining large, intact or relatively unfragmented natural areas.

1.2.5. Complete by 2010 the establishment of comprehensive and representative national systems of protected areas.

1.2.6. Complementing government-managed protected areas, recognize and promote the broader set of conservation areas (e.g., areas conserved by indigenous and local communities, private reserves) through legal, policy, financial, institutional and community mechanisms.

*Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary***:**

1.2.7. Compile and disseminate through the clearing-house mechanism current relevant approaches, frameworks and tools for system planning and promote and facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in applying and adapting them in different ecological and social settings.

Main partners

Parties, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNDP, Ramsar Convention, IUCN-WCPA.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, WWF, WRI, Birdlife International, Conservation International, intergovernmental organizations

Goal 1.3 – Integrating protected areas into broader landscapes and sectors: To integrate sites and national systems of protected areas into relevant sectors and broader landscapes, taking into account the ecosystem approach and the concept of ecological networks.

*Activities of the Parties***:**

1.3.1. Evaluate by 2006 national and sub-national lessons learned on specific efforts to integrate protected areas and biodiversity into broader landscapes and sectoral plans, and identify and implement practical steps for improving such integration, including policy, legal, planning and other measures.

1.3.2. Use social and economic benefits generated by protected areas to alleviate poverty, consistent with protected area management objectives.

1.3.3. Engage relevant stakeholders in participatory planning and governance, recalling the principles of the ecosystem approach.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

1.3.4. Organize an international workshop on integration of biodiversity and protected areas into relevant sectoral and spatial plans, and disseminate results to all Parties and relevant partners and collaborators.

1.3.5. Prepare an updated format for the second thematic reports on protected areas, covering, *inter alia*, integration of protected areas and national systems of protected areas into relevant sectors and spatial planning.

Main partners

Parties, UNESCO-MAB, IUCN-WCPA, Ramsar and other environmental conventions

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations and intergovernmental organizations

Goal 1.4 – Transboundary protected areas (TBPAs): To strengthen existing and establish new TBPAs to enhance conservation of biological diversity, implement the ecosystem approach, and improve international cooperation.

Activities of the Parties

1.4.1   Enter into dialogue to establish, where appropriate, new TBPAs with adjacent Parties and countries, bearing in mind the ecosystem approach and the importance of ecological networks.

1.4.2   Collaborate with adjacent Parties and countries to strengthen effective collaborative management of existing TBPAs.

1.4.3   Harmonize relevant national legislation with a view to facilitating the establishment and management of TBPAs.

1.4.4   Develop mechanisms for equitable sharing of the costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of TBPAs.

1.4.5   Within the context of TBPAs, provide appropriate mechanism to prevent the spread of invasive alien species.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

1.4.4   Organize a liaison group meeting, including *inter alia* the Ramsar Bureau, World Heritage Centre and UNESCO MAB, Ramsar and CMS Conventions, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN-WCPA, local and indigenous communities, NGOs, private sector companies and funding agencies for developing guidelines for establishing transboundary protected areas and collaborative management approaches for dissemination to Parties, taking into account the existing IUCN-WCPA Guidelines on TBPAs.

1.4.5   Prepare, for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a comprehensive inventory of existing adjacent protected areas on either side of international borders, and other Transfrontier land areas suitable for the establishment of TBPAs, with particular attention to such areas lying within biodiversity hotspots.

Main partners

Parties, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, IUCN-WCPA, Ramsar, CMS, CITES and other environmental conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations and intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 1.5 – International systems of protected areas: To strengthen international systems of protected areas in order to enhance conservation of biological diversity, implement the ecosystem approach, and improve international cooperation.

Activities of the Parties

1.5.1   Collaborate with other Parties and relevant partners to establish effective international systems of protected areas, particularly around shared ecological resources identified as conservation priorities (e.g., barrier reef systems, large-scale river basins, mountain systems), and establish multi-country coordination mechanisms as appropriate to support the establishment and effective long-term management of such systems.

1.5.2   Increase support for and participation in existing international systems of protected areas, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO MAB programme;

1.5.3   Incorporate reporting on national components of international protected area systems in national reports on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

1.5.4   Explore establishment of a harmonized system for reporting on sites designated under the Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO MAB programme, taking into account the reporting mechanism currently being developed by UNEP-WCMC;

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary

1.5.5   Compile and disseminate information on international systems of protected areas, including, as far as possible, their geographical distribution, their historical background, their role and the partners involved.

Main partners

Parties, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, IUCN-WCPA, Ramsar, CMS, CITES and other environmental conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations and intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 1.6 – Site-based protected area planning: To support systematic, highly participatory and science-based site planning processes that lead to clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programs, drawing upon existing methodologies.

*Activities of the Parties***:**

1.6.1.   Create a highly participatory process – involving all major relevant stakeholders – as part of site-based planning, and use relevant ecological and socioeconomic data required to develop effective planning processes.

1.6.2.   Identify measurable conservation targets for sites, such as genomes, species, natural communities, ecosystems, and ecological processes, drawing on criteria laid out in Annex I to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant criteria.

1.6.3.   Identify and rank the relative importance of major threats to defined conservation targets (including both proximate stresses and underlying sources), and identify strategies to address critical threats.

1.6.4.   Include in the site-planning process an analysis of opportunities for the protected area to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at local and regional scales.

1.6.5.   Develop or update strategic management plans for protected areas, built on the above process, to better achieve conservation objectives.

1.6.6.   In developing site-management plans, consider dynamic processes such as invasion by alien species, diseases, succession and climate change, and develop strategies that contribute to the resilience of sites to these processes.

1.6.7.   Utilize as appropriate the full range of governance systems as well as traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.

1.6.8.   Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits generated by the protected area to relevant stakeholders, consistent with site management objectives.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

1.6.9.   Compile and disseminate through the clearing-house mechanism current relevant approaches, frameworks and tools for site planning and promote and facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in applying and adapting them in different ecological and social settings.

1.6.10. Assist Parties, multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors to utilize such tools in their relevant site-based work.

Main partners

Parties, IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO MAB, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Ramsar and other international conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, and other intergovernmental organizations

Goal 1.7 – Prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats : To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas, in accordance with national legislation and, where appropriate, employ suitable and rigorous impact assessments.

Activities of the Parties

1.7.1. Apply environmental impact assessments to any project with the potential to have negative effects on protected areas, taking into account decision VI/7 A of the Conference of the Parties on guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessments.

1.7.2. Undertake timely strategic and environmental impact assessments to ensure that the necessary data will be available to support decision-making processes in order to prevent negative impacts on protected areas and/or to develop, if appropriate, effective mitigation measures.

1.7.3. Develop liability regimes that incorporate the polluter-pays principle or other appropriate mechanisms in relation to damages to protected areas, at national and international levels.

1.7.4. Prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of economic development and enhance positive impacts of such development on protected areas.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

1.7.5. Address issues specific to protected areas, in the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity considerations in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, procedures and regulations.

1.7.6. Disseminate the best practices and lessons learned for efficient management of protected areas through clearing-house mechanism.

1.7.7. Collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment and other relevant organizations on further development and refinement of the impact assessment guidelines particularly to incorporate all stages of environmental impact assessment processes in protected areas taking into account the ecosystem approach.

Main partners

Parties, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, scientific bodies of UNFCCC, CCD and Ramsar conventions, IUCN-WCPA, the International Association for Impact Assessment.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, and other intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 1.8 – Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and mitigate their negative impacts: To prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that potentially threaten the biodiversity of protected areas, and to control and, where possible, eradicate established invasive species in protected areas.

Activities of the Parties

1.8.1. Provide the Executive Secretary, as appropriate, with examples of the impacts of invasive alien species and of programmes used to control their introduction and mitigate negative consequences on protected areas.

1.8.2. Raise awareness about the possible problems and cost associated with the deliberate or accidental introduction of alien species in protected areas.

1.8.3. Identify and develop strategies to prevent the introduction the introduction and/or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species that may threaten biodiversity in protected areas, making use of the guidance available from the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP).

1.8.4. In collaboration with GISP, promote implementation of projects assessing the impacts of invasive alien species in protected areas.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

1.8.5. Gather and disseminate, in collaboration with GISP, impacts of invasive alien species in protected areas.

1.8.6. Compile and disseminate through clearing-house mechanism the case studies on best practices and lessons learnt in mitigating the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and facilitate the exchange of experiences.

Main partners

Parties, GISP, International Council of Scientific Union, Ramsar, CMS, and other environmental conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, TRAFFIC, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, and other intergovernmental organizations

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 2: Enabling activities

Goal 2.1 – Policy, institutional and socio-economic reforms: To identify and implement policy reforms, including use of social and economic valuation and incentives, to provide a supportive enabling environment for more effective establishment and management of protected areas and protected areas systems.

Activities of the Parties

2.1.1. Integrate the use of economic valuation and natural resource accounting tools into national planning processes in order to identify the hidden and non-hidden economic benefits provided by protected areas and who appropriates these benefits.

2.1.2. Identify and remove perverse incentives and inconsistencies in sectoral policies that increase pressure on protected areas, or take action to mitigate their perverse effects.

2.1.3. Identify and establish positive incentives that support the integrity and maintenance of protected areas and the involvement of communities and other stakeholders in conservation.

2.1.4. Assess the economic and socio-cultural costs and impacts arising from the establishment and maintenance of protected areas, particularly for indigenous and local communities, and adjust policies to ensure that such costs and impacts—including the costs of livelihood opportunities forgone—are equitably compensated.

2.1.5. Establish policies and institutional mechanisms to facilitate the legal recognition and effective management of indigenous protected areas and community conserved areas in a manner consistent with the goals of conserving both biodiversity and the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

2.1.6. Develop national incentive mechanisms and institutions to support the establishment of biodiversity conservation areas on private lands, including private reserves and conservation easements, which achieve biodiversity conservation goals in the managed landscape surrounding formal protected areas.

2.1.7. Identify and foster economic opportunities and the creation of markets for goods and services produced by protected areas and/or reliant on the ecosystem services that protected areas provide, consistent with protected area objectives.

2.1.8. Establish adequate national policies to deal with access to genetic resources within protected areas and benefits arising from their utilization, drawing on the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization.

2.1.9. With respect to transboundary protected areas (TBPAs), identify the main legal and institutional constraints on establishment of TBPAs, take steps to overcome them, and establish strategies within existing TBPAs to strengthen enforcement through collaboration between relevant authorities.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

2.1.10. In collaboration with key partners such as OECD, IUCN, WWF and the secretariats of other conventions compile information on relevant guidance, resource kits and other information on incentive measures including those relating to the development of incentive options through tenure rights, markets, pricing policies, etc.

2.1.11. Compile and disseminate case-studies on best practices on the use of incentive measures for the management of protected areas.

2.1.12. Identify ways and means to integrate the use of incentive measures into protected area management plans, programmes and policies including opportunities for the removal or mitigation of perverse incentives.

Main partners

Parties, IUCN-WCPA, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, scientific bodies of CCD and Ramsar conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, World Bank and other intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 2.2 – Capacity-building: To enhance and strengthen capacity to manage protected areas at local, national and international levels, ensuring that capacity-building initiatives are comprehensive, develop knowledge and skills, and raise professional standards at individual, community and institutional levels, with particular emphasis on social equity.

Activities of the Parties

2.2.1. Compile and/or develop by 2006 national protected-area capacity assessments and incorporate the resulting information into national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2.2.2. Establish effective mechanisms to document existing knowledge and experiences on protected area management, including indigenous/traditional knowledge and identify knowledge and skills gaps.

2.2.3. Establish and implement a capacity-building programme at the national level that is demand driven and adaptive to changes and innovation and report progress within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2.2.4. Establish mechanisms to exchange lessons learnt, information and capacity-building experiences among countries, in collaboration with relevant organizations.

2.2.5. Review and assess the capacity of national institutions with respect to providing leadership, skills and competencies in protected area management.

2.2.6. Enhance the capacity of institutions, including those outside the conservation sector (e.g. sectoral agencies and local governments) to take biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into account in legislation and sectoral policies.

2.2.7. Create and/or strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish cross-sectoral collaboration for protected area management at the regional, national and local levels, and to establish harmonized and enabling policy and legal frameworks.

2.2.8. Create and/or strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish and sustain baseline funding at levels adequate to ensure appropriate standards of protected area management.

2.2.9. Create and/or develop the capacity of protected areas institutions for creative fundraising through fiscal incentives, environmental services, and other instruments.

2.2.10. Call on the GEF and other donor agencies to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to put in place their capacity-building initiatives on protected area management

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

2.2.11. Compile available information, including national reports, review past studies, and identify capacity needs.

2.2.12. Cooperate with and support the Protected Areas Learning Network (PALNet), an interactive website where protected area managers and associated people can exchange experience and explore lessons learned from those experiences, in collaboration with relevant organizations.

Main partners

Parties, IUCN-WCPA, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, scientific bodies of CCD and Ramsar Conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, World Bank and other intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 2.3 – Financial sustainability: To ensure the financial sustainability of national and international systems of protected areas.

Activities of the Parties

2.4.1. Conduct a national-level study by 2005 of financial needs and options related to the national system of protected areas.

2.4.2. Based on the results of this study, establish country-level sustainable financing plans (SFPs) that support national systems of protected areas, and begin to implement these by 2006, including necessary regulatory, legislative, institutional and other measures. To help in the development of these plans, countries should draw on the expertise and resources of United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies and non-governmental organizations.

2.4.3. Collaborate with other countries to develop and implement sustainable financing programs for international systems of protected areas.

2.4.4. Provide information on national protected areas financing in future national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity , and help to strengthen the role of the Convention Secretariat in collecting and sharing information about protected areas financing, in collaboration with other relevant mechanisms such as the World Database on Protected Areas.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

2.4.5.   Seek information from parties about the financing of protected areas and requirements for implementation of the programme of work.

2.4.6.   Convene a meeting of the donor agencies for facilitating funding to parties for implementation of the programme of work.

2.4.7.   Compile and disseminate case-studies and best practices concerning protected area financing through the clearing-house mechanism.

Main partners

Parties, GEF, World Bank, Conservation Finance Alliance, and other donors.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, IUCN, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other intergovernmental organizations.

Goal 2.4 – Education and Communication: To increase public awareness and understanding of the importance and benefits of protected areas, and support for their effective management.

Activities of the Parties:

2.5.1.   Establish or strengthen education and public awareness programs on the importance of protected areas in terms of their role in national conservation and socio-economic development, in close collaboration with the Communication, Education and Public Awareness Initiative (CEPA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2.5.2.   Identify core themes for education, awareness and communication programmes relevant to protected areas to achieve specific end results such as compliance by resource users and other stakeholders or an increased understanding of science-based knowledge by local and indigenous communities and policy makers.

2.5.3.   Strengthen, and where necessary, establish information mechanisms directed at target groups such as the private sector, policy makers, development institutions, community-based organizations, the media, and the general public.

2.5.4.   Develop mechanisms for constructive dialogue and knowledge exchange among protected-area managers, and between protected area managers and indigenous and local communities and their organizations.

2.5.5.   Incorporate protected areas as an integral component of the school curricula at both national and regional levels.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary

2.5.6.   Develop copyright-free educational tools and materials for adaptation and use in the promotion of protected areas as an important means of achieving the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2.5.7.   Develop guidelines for evaluating communication, education and public awareness practices as part of protected area establishment and management.

2.5.8.   Generate an annotated bibliography and case studies to demonstrate the range of effective options available for designing and implementing awareness and communication programmes and activities for protected areas.

2.5.9.   Establish, in collaboration with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other relevant partners, an initiative to engage the global news and entertainment industry (television, film, popular music, internet, etc.) in a global campaign to raise awareness of the costs of biological diversity loss and the important role of protected areas in reversing that loss.

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, and Ramsar CIPA Working Group

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, multinational mass media corporations.

Goal 2.6 – Stakeholder involvement: To enhance the fair and effective involvement of stakeholders in all phases and levels of work related to protected areas.

Activities of the Parties

2.6.1   Carry out national reviews of the status, needs and context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders in protected areas policy and management, at the level of national policy, protected area systems and individual sites.

2.6.2   On the basis of the national reviews, develop specific plans and initiatives to involve stakeholders in all levels of protected areas establishment and management, including community conserved areas.

2.6.3   Support participatory assessment exercises among stakeholders to identify and harness the wealth of knowledge, skills, resources and institutions of importance for conservation that are available in society.

2.6.4   Establish and/or strengthen transparent and accountable mechanisms to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of both costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of protected areas.

2.6.5   Promote and support stakeholder organising and capacity building for the establishment and management of protected areas.

2.6.6   Ensure an enabling environment (legislation, policies, capacities, and resources) for the involvement of local and indigenous stakeholders in decision making, and the development of their capacities and opportunities to establish and manage community-conserved and private protected areas.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

2.6.7   In collaboration with the key partners and based upon the best practices develop and make available guidance for parties on how to promote and enhance stakeholder participation in all aspects of protected areas.

2.6.8   Make available to Parties case-studies, advice on best practices and other sources of information on stakeholder participation in protected areas

2.6.9   Promote the international sharing of experience on effective mechanisms for stakeholder involvement in conservation in particular with regard to co-managed protected areas, community conserved areas and private protected areas.

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, Ramsar, CCD, and other environmental conventions, World Bank, UNDP.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other NGOs and interested parties.

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 3: Standards, assessment, monitoring and technology development

Goal 3.1 – Minimum standards and best practices for protected areas: To develop and adopt voluntary minimum standards and best practices for planning, selecting, establishing, managing and governance of protected area sites and systems.

Activities of the Parties:

3.1.1.   Institute, within the framework of the Convention, a process for the development of voluntary protected areas standards and best practices. In developing this framework, Parties may wish to recall the Guideline Series on Protected Area Management produced by IUCN.

3.1.2.   Develop an efficient, long-term monitoring system based on a set of indicators measuring: status of conservation targets, ecological integrity, threat abatement, and capacity for effective management.

3.1.3.   Draw upon monitoring results to employ adaptive management according to the ecosystem approach.

Supporting Activities of the Executive Secretary:

3.1.4.   In collaboration with the key partners and based upon the best practices develop and make available guidance for parties minimum standards for planning, selecting, establishing, managing and governance of protected area sites and systems.

3.1.5.   Compile information on best practices and case-studies on effective management of protected areas and disseminate it through clearing-house mechanism and facilitate exchange of information.

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, Ramsar and other environmental conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other NGOs and interested Parties.

Goal 3.2 – Evaluating protected areas management effectiveness: To adopt and implement a framework for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national system, and transboundary protected area levels.

Activities of the Parties:

3.2.1.   Develop standards and best practice guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of protected area management and governance, and set up a related database, taking into account the IUCN-WCPA framework for evaluating management effectiveness, and other relevant methodologies.

3.2.2.   Select by 2004 appropriate methods, criteria and indicators for evaluating protected areas management effectiveness.

3.2.3.   Implement management effectiveness evaluations of at least 30 percent of each Party's protected areas by 2010.

3.2.4.   Include information resulting from evaluation of protected areas management effectiveness in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3.2.5.   Focus management effectiveness efforts on site and system planning, governance, participatory process, financing, access to genetic resources, and benefit sharing processes.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

3.2.6.   Compile and disseminate information on initiatives and develop a database of experts in evaluation of protected area management effectiveness.

3.2.7.   Compile information on approaches to protected area design, establishment and management that have high probability of being the most effective in conserving biodiversity**.**

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, Ramsar and other environmental conventions.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other NGOs and interested parties.

Goal 3.3 – Assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends: To undertake regular assessment of national protected-area statistics, which will enable monitoring of protected-area status and trends at national, regional and global scales, and assist in evaluating progress in meeting global biodiversity targets.

Activities of the Parties:

3.3.1.   Submit regular updates of national protected-area statistics for inclusion in the World Database on Protected Areas maintained by UNEP-WCMC.

3.3.2.   Participate in the periodic United Nations List of Protected Areas and the *State of the World's Protected Areas* assessment process.

3.3.3.   Encourage establishment of geographic information system units as a tool for monitoring protected areas and supporting decision-making processes.

3.3.4.   Invite multilateral, bilateral and private donor agencies and institutions to support the World Database on Protected Areas in its function as a key support mechanism in the assessment and monitoring of protected area status and trends, taking into account paragraph 4 of decision VI/7 C of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

3.3.5.   Develop and strengthen working partnerships with appropriate organizations and institutions that have developed and maintained databases on protected areas, in particular with the UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Goal 3.4 – Biodiversity status in protected areas: To develop an improved understanding of the biodiversity found in protected areas and the values, goods, and services they provide.

Activities of the Parties:

3.4.1.   Improve research, scientific and technical cooperation related to protected areas.

3.4.2.   Promote interdisciplinary, applied research, bringing together ecological, social, and economic sciences.

3.4.3.   Conduct collaborative research programs in transboundary protected areas to enhance effective management.

3.4.4.   In line with the Global Taxonomy Initiative, encourage studies to improve the knowledge of the distribution, status and trends of biological diversity in protected areas.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

3.4.5. Develop and strengthen working partnerships with appropriate organizations and institutions which undertake research studies leading to an improved understanding of biodiversity in protected areas.

3.4.6. Further develop methods and techniques for evaluation of goods and services of biodiversity of protected areas.

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, WRI, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other NGOs, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and interested parties.

Goal 3.5 – Development, application and transfer of appropriate technologies for protected areas: To improve the development, validation, and transfer of appropriate technology and innovative approaches for the effective management of protected areas, taking into account decisions of the Conference of the Parties on technology transfer and cooperation.

Activities of the Parties:

3.5.1. Carry out documentation of appropriate technologies for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of protected areas and management of protected areas.

3.5.2. Undertake an assessment of needs for relevant technologies for protected area management involving all stakeholders such as the local and indigenous communities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

3.5.3. Make available to the Executive Secretary information concerning appropriate technologies and effective approaches for the management of protected areas.

3.5.4. Encourage development and use of appropriate technology for habitat restoration, resource mapping, biological inventory, and rapid assessment of biodiversity, monitoring, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, sustainable use etc.

3.5.5. Create enabling environment for transfer of technology through legal frameworks and strengthening law enforcement.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary:

3.5.6. Compile information provided by Parties and relevant international organizations on appropriate technologies and approaches for efficient management of protected areas and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of protected areas.

3.5.7. Disseminate this information through the clearing-house mechanism and facilitate exchange of information.

Main partners

IUCN-WCPA, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, World Heritage Centre, WRI, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Other collaborators

Relevant international, regional and national organizations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Birdlife International, other NGOs, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and interested parties.