



International Crane Foundation (ICF) / Siberian Cranes

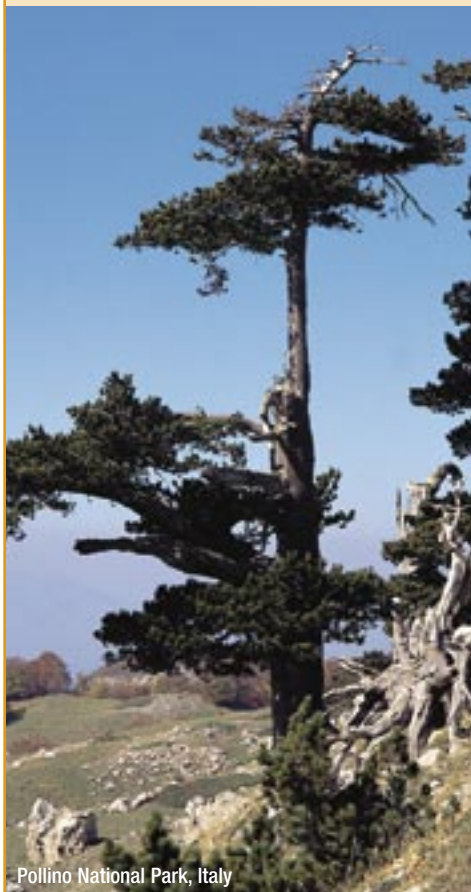
Protected areas for achieving biodiversity targets

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Pollino National Park, Italy

Table of contents

From Kuala Lumpur to Montecatini to Brazil	1
Hamdallah Zedan	
Protected areas and the 2010 biodiversity target – the Italian experience . .	2
Dr. Aldo Cosentino	
BirdLife international and the programme of work on protected areas	4
Mr. Michael Rands	
Protected area systems in France	5
Mr. Olivier Laroussinie	
Conserving wildlife pathways and corridors	6
Mr. Robert Hepworth	
Status of protected areas in Thailand	8
Dr. Chaweewan Hutacharem	
Qechua communities launched first natural sacred site in Peru	9
Dr. Alejandro Argumedo	
Madagascar’s approach to protected areas.	10
Dr. Claudine Ramiarison	
Protected areas for today’s world.	11
Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine	
Protected areas and the 2010 biodiversity target – Australia’s role.	12
Dr. Conall O’Connell	
The nature conservancy and the programme of work on protected areas	13
Mr. Steven J. McCormick	
World wide fund for nature and the 2010 biodiversity target	14
Dr. Claude Martin	
Ukraine and protected areas: looking forward	16
Dr. Yaroslav Movchan	
Managing the matrix or protected areas – in their place.	17
Mr. Peter Bridgewater	
Understanding and optimising governance: a quiet revolution for protected areas?	18
Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend	
The national integrated protected area system of the Phillippines	20
Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim	
Biosphere reserves	21
Mr. Natarajan Ishwaran	
Conservation international and the programme of work on protected areas. . . .	22
Mr. Russell A. Mittermeier	
How is the global environment facility supporting the CBD programme of work on protected areas?	23
Dr. Gonzalo Castro	
Targets in the programme of work on protected areas	24



Hamdallah Zedan, *Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity*



From Kuala Lumpur to Montecatini to Brazil

Protected areas are, and will remain, cornerstones of biodiversity conservation. They are also critical to human welfare, poverty alleviation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the face of increasing human pressure on the planet's resources, an effective global protected area system is the best hope for conserving ecosystems, habitats, and species and to help achieve the target of achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002 and endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development later in the same year.

Globally, the number of protected areas has been increasing significantly over the last few decades, currently covering 12 per cent of the world's land surface. However, biological diversity loss continues unabated. The existing global system of protected areas is insufficient in several ways. These areas do not adequately represent all ecosystems, habitats and species important for conservation, and those already established are beset with financial difficulties that impedes their effective management.

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a programme of work to support estab-

lishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas, with clearly defined goals and time-based targets. The overall deadline for the implementation of the programme of work is 2010 for terrestrial and 2012 for marine areas. Important intermediate deadlines are 2006 (COP-8) and 2008 (COP-9). Particularly urgent is the 2006 deadline for a set of activities that will collectively constitute the first major benchmark towards full implementation of the programme of work by 2010/2012. These activities include, inter alia, completing protected areas gap-analysis, capacity-building, integration of protected areas into the wider land- and seascape, addressing legislative gaps and other barriers for effective management.

The Conference of the Parties established an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to support and review implementation of the programme of work. The Government of Italy is hosting the first meeting of the Working Group in Montecatini in June 2005. This special edition of CBD News is intended to share recent developments on the status and trends, levels and types of support in establishing protected areas and plans and achievements towards the 2010 biodiversity target. The contributors represent a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including Governments, intergovernmental and non-govern-

**THE OVERALL DEADLINE
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK
IS 2010 FOR TERRESTRIAL
AND 2012 FOR MARINE AREAS**

mental organizations, indigenous and local communities, and international conventions, that have undertaken concrete and viable actions for the establishment and management of protected areas.

Important issues before the Montecatini meeting include: exploring cooperation options for establishing marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, options for mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work by developing countries, and further development of toolkits for protected areas. The Montecatini meeting will be an important milestone as it will lay the basis for the implementation of the Convention's programme of work, while assisting Parties to translate it into tangible actions on the ground.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Italy for its generous support to host the Montecatini meeting as well as for the publication of this special edition. I would also like to thank all contributors.



Protected areas and the 2010 biodiversity target – the Italian experience

Gorgona island on the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, Italy



The sustainable development strategy of the European Union was launched in Göteborg in 2001 with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. This aim was reinforced at the Stakeholders' Conference on Biodiversity and the European Union, held in Malahide, Ireland, in 2004, where the main goals to be achieved were shared at the Community level, and the IUCN-implemented Countdown 2010 initiative was officially launched. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg saw the 2010 target endorsed at the global level, as the nations of the world committed themselves to



Stelvio National Park, Italy

a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by that date. The target has also been adopted in other international forums and has strengthened the activities already in place for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The significance of this ambitious objective is reflected not only in the number of countries that have committed themselves to it world-wide but also in the fact that a specific deadline has been defined. The "2010 Target" has to be considered as more than a political intent and it is therefore important to look beyond the words. Halting the loss of biodiversity by that time means huge efforts in order to guarantee an appropriate and effective implementation of these objectives. At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Kuala Lumpur, Italy offered to host in Montecantini the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, on the basis of a multiyear experience in managing a national system of protected areas.

There is no doubt that protected areas are a vital tool for the conservation of biological diversity and are key "laboratories" for the implementation of sustainable development policies.

Currently, approximately 10 per cent of the territory of Italy is included in over 770 protected areas on the national Official List. They cover a total of 2,900,000 hectares, totalling more than the size of the island of Sicily. These

**ITALY CAN BE LISTED
AMONG THE COUNTRIES
WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE
OF TERRITORY'S PROTECTION
BUT NOW IT'S BECOMING
EVEN MORE IMPORTANT DUE
TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF
A LAND MANAGEMENT MODEL
FOR NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

protected areas are to be found all over the country and comprise a network that reflects a representative variety of ecosystems in the Italian peninsula.

The system covers almost 20 per cent of the national territory, including those sites identified under the European "Natura 2000" programme and developed and agreed on the basis of the shared experience with the other European Union partners.

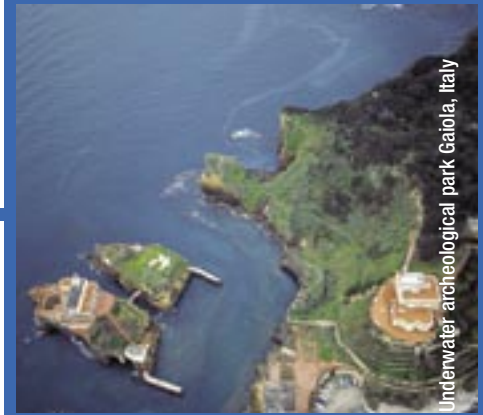
As far as the marine areas are concerned, about two million eight hundred thousand hectares are protected, including an area in

Granparadiso National Park, Italy



Italy's territorial waters forming the Pelagos Sanctuary for marine mammals in the northern Tyrrhenian Sea. This protected area has been established through cooperation between Italy, France and Monaco, and about 50 per cent of

can be listed among the countries with the highest percentage of territory's protection but now it's becoming even more important due to the identification of a land management model for national biological diversity conservation.



Underwater archeological park Gaioia, Italy

A management model for protected areas able to respect not just environmental priorities has to be based on a multi-level social analysis. A top-down approach that does not take into account the social dynamics would be a failure, because it would not be able to evaluate and understand those environmental systems where ecological and socio-economic factors are linked.

ed areas, which is one of the priority tools for achieving such a target. We also believe that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas could be the ideal forum for translating this concept into each country's circumstances and to reinforce the guiding role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the global debate on sustainable development.

Porto Cesareo marine protected area, Italy



the area is located in international waters. The experience with the Sanctuary will therefore be essential for the debate concerning the identification, institution and management of marine protected areas in international waters.

We believe that sharing the 2010 target at the national and international level means converging on management strategies of protect-

The concept of the Italian system of protected areas should not be considered as a few isolated points of excellence grouped together: all the national territory is considered as a whole, with protection always present on different levels, taking into account the stakeholders' needs and development activities, on the basis of the principles of environmental sustainability. Italy



Stelvio National Park, Italy



Mr. Michael Rands,
Director, BirdLife International
Cambridge, United Kingdom

BirdLife international and the programme of work on protected areas



Birdlife/Cousin Islands, Seychelles



Birdlife/Clearing coconut alien invasive species on Cousin Island, Seychelles

BirdLife International is the leading authority on the status and trends of bird species worldwide. The BirdLife Partnership comprises over 100 national NGOs, all actively involved in BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBAs) programme, which can make a major contribution to the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Because more is known about birds than other groups, IBAs tend to be identified sooner than other important biodiversity areas, but they have also been shown to capture the bulk of diversity in many other taxonomic groups.

IBAs are identified, monitored and conserved by national partners and local organisations, and an increasing number of IBAs are managed by Site Support Groups, which represent all local stakeholders. To date, some 10,000 IBAs have been identified in 170 countries.

The existing network of protected areas was developed for historic reasons that may not primarily include conservation of biodiversity. We need to know whether they are in the right places, and what their ecological condition is. Indices based on IBAs can already provide a good indicator of trends in the overall coverage of biodiversity by protected areas. A comparison of the IBA and protected area networks in Africa shows that 43 per cent of IBAs are unprotected.

BirdLife is also developing indices, which show trends in condition (state), threats (pressure) and conservation action (response) at IBAs. A pilot study of Kenyan IBAs shows that between 1990 and 2003, site condition and threats deteriorated but conservation action increased substantially. Further monitoring will show whether this action is effective.

BirdLife's work on management strategies for IBAs can contribute

to ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas. Through its UK partner, the RSPB, BirdLife is supporting the work of the Conservation Biology Group at Cambridge University, which has been developing a methodology to evaluate the funding shortfall in the existing system of Protected Areas, and the costs of an expanded system of protected areas which would fully meet globally agreed targets.

**A COMPREHENSIVE AFRICAN
 PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM
 WOULD COST A TOTAL
 OF \$800 MILLION
 PER YEAR**

An international workshop in February, co-organised by BirdLife and the African Protected Areas Initiative, announced that \$300 million will be required every year to manage Africa's 1200 existing protected areas. A comprehensive African Protected Area system would cost a total of \$800 million per year. This is a fraction of the estimated \$30 billion annual cost of a comprehensive worldwide protected area system, and highlights Africa as an achievable step towards the 2010 Target.



Protected area systems in France

Protected areas in France belong to more or less ten different types differing in terms of status and governance system. A first axis in this diversity is the way the protection is achieved by regulation measures (national parks, nature reserves, biotope protection areas), by contract (Natura 2000 sites, regional nature parks) or by land tenure (Department's sensitive

AS THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DIVERSIFIED, NEW WAYS OF COORDINATION BETWEEN ACTORS HAVE BEEN SET UP AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

nature areas, littoral conservation agency, regional agencies for natural areas). A second

axis is by the level of the decision taking authority (State, region, department, individuals or NGOs). These include areas varying from a few hectares to several hundred thousand hectares. They are often set up in a complementary way (e.g. a nature reserve can offer regulation measures for some specific habitats within a regional nature park, a national park often serves as a Natura 2000 site for habitat and species protection). This complex situation offers a great deal of possibilities for stakeholders to be involved in the processes of creating and managing protected areas. As the system has been diversified, new ways of coordination between actors have been set up at the regional level: Regional orientations for the management of wildlife and habitats have been com-

pleted, and regional strategies for biodiversity and nature will be established. The common reference is the national nature inventory.

Altogether protected areas concern about 20 per cent of metropolitan France. The main orientation in developing the network is firstly to fill the main gaps: habitats and species at risk, marine areas, and protection of overseas biodiversity. Secondly an effort is made to harmonize approaches, develop complementarities and facilitate exchange of information. As a contribution to it, an institution associating managers of natural areas and the ministry of ecology and sustainable development, named ATEN, is in charge of professional training, technical development and knowledge dissemination.

The President of the French Republic, during the International Conference entitled "Biodiversity: Science and Governance," held in Paris in January 2005, declared:

...France will give impetus to the creation of national parks. By 2006 at the latest, and with the full agreement of local authorities, the Reunion Island and French Guyana national parks will be up and running. Illegal Gold washing will be eradicated. Gold mining will be strictly controlled and restricted to very limited peripheral areas. The Amerindian and Guyana Maroon populations will benefit from preservation of their traditional activities. This reform will also make it possible to create new natural marine parks, in the Iroise Sea, for instance.

France will create natural reserves in the French Southern hemisphere and Antarctic regions, Mayotte and Reunion Island. With the support of New Caledonian representatives, it will also strengthen the protection and management of the coral barrier reef with a view to having it declared a UNESCO World Heritage site."





Mr. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary,
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Bonn, Germany

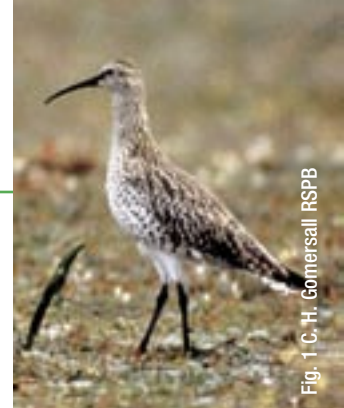


Fig. 1 C. H. Gomersall RSPB

Conserving wildlife pathways and corridors



Fig. 2 CMS

Biodiversity - the web of life on Earth- has no boundaries; ecosystems transcend geopolitical regions and several animals regularly migrate across national frontiers as they rely on a number of different and distant habitats for their survival. For instance, the historic range of the slender-billed curlew (Fig. 1), one of Europe's most threatened bird species, spans 29 countries. The humpback whale (Fig. 2) migrates from summer feeding grounds in polar seas to warmer waters near the Equator where they breed in winter. The Arctic tern migrates practically from pole to pole, flying to the Antarctic after breeding in the Arctic, year-after-year.

During their journeys, migratory animals define marine, terrestrial and aerial “highways”, natural networks of interconnected ecosystems. These pathways split into a number of alternative routes and some species or individuals can cross from one pathway to another. Along the way they identify suitable breeding, nursing, resting and feeding grounds.

However, for most of the migratory species, crossing geopolitical boundaries is increasingly becoming a risk, as large stretches of migratory range are being lost at an accelerating pace as a result of degradation and fragmentation of habitats and conflicts with human activities. Moreover, different standards for conservation apply in each country through which they pass.

By bringing together the States through which animals migrate - the Range States- the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) lays a legal foundation for conservation measures through extended migratory ranges, measures that can then be embedded and defined in detailed conservation and management plans. Through a number of agreements developed under the aegis of the Convention, migratory

BY ESTABLISHING AND CONNECTING PROTECTED AREAS TO HELP THE ANTELOPES, CMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

species, and the pathways they rely on for survival, are identified and conserved.

In addition, CMS has initiated a number of projects to conserve species and their habitats through the establishment of networks of protected areas. For instance, a project initiated by CMS and backed by the Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEMM) is working towards the development of a network of protected areas to ensure the survival of habitats suitable for African Antelopes in the Saharan region, as well as addressing specific and immediate threats such as illegal hunting which have driven some of these priceless species to the very edge of extinction. Only 200 specimens of the Addax antelope are thought to survive in the wild (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Newby, USA

By establishing and connecting protected areas to help the Antelopes, CMS will contribute to the sustainable development of the local communities. There are untapped opportunities for ecotourism and, in the longer-term,

managed sport hunting, which can bring real economic benefits to the local people.

The Convention is also at the final stages of negotiating a pioneering agreement to conserve the habitats and pathways needed for one of the truly 'charismatic megaspecies' - the West African Elephant (Fig. 4). It is expected that in November 2005 the agreement and action plan, which CMS have negotiated with the support of IUCN, will be ready for signature by 13 States in or through where the West African Elephant lives and migrates. Here, again, we are clearly demonstrating how connectivity of ecosystems and

CONNECTIVITY OF ECOSYSTEMS AND NETWORKS OF PROTECTED AREAS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MIGRATORY SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS

networks of protected areas are crucial to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats and, consequently, to the reduction of biodiversity loss by 2010, and beyond.

MIGRATORY ANIMALS DEFINE MARINE, TERRESTRIAL AND AERIAL "HIGHWAYS", NATURAL NETWORKS OF INTERCONNECTED ECOSYSTEMS



Fig. 4 Douglas Hykler/CMS

Status of protected areas in Thailand



Denis Hamel, SCBD/Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Doi Chiandao, Thailand

In Thailand, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries form the backbone of the country's protected area system. Legal distinction between these two can be made by the fact that each was created by two different pieces of legislation. The National Park Act of 1961 gave rise to establishment of national parks in Thailand, while wildlife sanctuaries were actually developed as a mechanism for protection of wild animals as envisaged by the 1992 Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act. Management carried out in these two types of protected areas also reflects such distinction with national parks being stringently regulated while protection in wildlife sanctuaries tends to be more lenient, including allowing limited use of natural resources by locals in adjacent areas.

A competent national authority, currently assigned to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, nominates both national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The nominations are then submitted to the Cabinet for endorsement. Up to March 2005, 103 national parks (including 21 marine national parks) and 56 wildlife sanctuaries have been officially endorsed by the government. The national parks currently cover a total area of 5.5 million ha while the wildlife sanctuaries add another 3.6 million hectares to the protected area system. The government spends approximately 150 million US dollars to maintain national parks and wildlife sanctuaries on an annual basis. This budget includes payments for roughly 7000 park officials, employees and rangers assigned to these protected areas.

NATIONAL PARKS CURRENTLY COVER A TOTAL AREA OF 5.5 MILLION HA WHILE THE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES ADD ANOTHER 3.6 MILLION HA TO THE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM



National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation in Thailand/Narok, Khao Yai National Park

In recent years, the government has adopted several measures to reinforce protection in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. These range from local mechanisms the likes of zoning to preserve head watershed forests to international instruments such as nomination of these protected areas for inclusion in the list of World Heritage (i.e. nomination of Khao Yai National Park). Furthermore, specific protection has been provided for critical habitats, such as mangrove forests where the enlisted forests enjoy the equivalent level of protection as that for national parks. With the recent ratification of Convention on Biological Diversity in early 2004, the government also initiated a project to introduce the "ecosystem approach" in management of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in order to provide inline agencies with a new approach for maintaining these protected areas.

Qechua communities launched first natural sacred site in Peru

Qechua communities of Q'eros and Ausangate, from Cusco, Perú, launched the Vilcanota Spiritual Park on the 6th of December 2004. This is the first Natural Sacred Site in Peru, a model which recognizes and promotes Qechua values and principles in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This community led initiative is being implemented with technical support from Peruvian governmental organizations such as CONAM and INRENA, and international organizations including the "Sustaining Local Food Systems, Agricultural Biodiversity and Livelihoods Programme" of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) United Kingdom.

The Vilcanota region includes the second most important glacier system in Peru. The mountain range is dominated by the snow-capped peak of Ausangate (6,372m), which is considered the main Apu of the Southern Andes. This site includes great ecological diversity due to the different Andean altitudinal and climatic zones. It is recognized as a hot-spot of biodiversity, a critical ecosystem, and one of the main centres of genetic diversity of important Andean crops.

Traditional peoples such as the Q'eros who live in this area, demonstrate the vitality and continuity of the ancient Qechua culture. The Q'eros are known as holders and transmitters of principles and practices of environmental sustainability which are being proposed as the basis of a modern ethic of conservation. For them, mountains or Apus are sacred beings that represent the most important expression of human aspirations.

Because of restricted access to some areas with voluntary protection measures exercised by the local population, Natural Sacred Sites conserve local ecosystems and their unique biodiversity in an effective and efficient way, so they could serve as repositories of critical biological resources for the rehabilitation of depleted Andean

landscapes. Additionally, the area is a prime tourist destination in high demand due to its beautiful mountain landscapes.

BECAUSE OF RESTRICTED ACCESS TO SOME AREAS WITH VOLUNTARY PROTECTION MEASURES EXERCISED BY THE LOCAL POPULATION, NATURAL SACRED SITES CONSERVE LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY IN AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAY, SO THEY COULD SERVE AS REPOSITORIES OF CRITICAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DEPLETED ANDEAN LANDSCAPES

The Vilcanota Spiritual Park is being implemented by the Pro-Vilcanota Spiritual Park Committee and the Asociacion ANDES, an indigenous NGO based in Cusco Peru, as a Community-Conservation Area, a concept based on community-based landscape management, integrating traditional models with modern ones. Internationally, it is considered a unique and innovative proposal that could serve as a model for the establishment of other special conservation areas in the Peruvian Andes.





Dr. Claudine Ramiarison, *Directeur Exécutif*
Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement (SAGE), Antananarivo, Madagascar



UNEP / Alphapresse

Madagascar's approach to protected areas



Bry / UNEP/Alphapresse: River Erosion

- The establishment of new protected areas focuses, in particular, on corridors connecting two existing protected areas.
- The current protected-area-management policy is to develop an integrated approach to the development and use of land and natural resources at national and regional levels (region means an administrative area at the national level).

- One of these regional planning structures is the Protected Area Steering and Support Committee (Comité d'Orientation et de Soutien à Aire Protégée) (COSAP). The majority of the members of the Committee come from communities bordering protected areas and civil society. The Committee is also represented in the governing body of the National Association for the Management of Protected Areas (Association Nationale pour la Gestion des Aires Protégées) (ANGAP), which is in charge of the national network of protected areas.

IUCN CATEGORIES OF PROTECTED AREAS IN MADAGASCAR

IUCN categories	Number of protected areas
I	5
II	18
III	-
IV	23
V	-
VI	-

As living natural resources are limited and endemic biological diversity is highly sensitive to any unsustainable activity, it will be a matter of priority to identify viable alternative uses of those resources in the areas bordering the protected areas. In line with the principle of equitable benefit-sharing, ANGAP allocates 50 per cent of its income to the financing of small scale development projects that are identified, planned and managed from villages bordering protected areas. This is direct financing based on an agreement tied to conservation indicators identified jointly.

Recent developments in the status of protected areas in Madagascar under the national planning process have given priority to the following elements:

- Improved representativity and representation of under-represented ecosystems such as wetlands and marine and coastal environments (three new marine protected areas).
- Protected areas in Madagascar fall under IUCN categories I, II and IV and the country intends to establish category V and VI protected areas to open up land and natural resources for sustainable use.

THE PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR
 MR. MARK RAVALOMANANA PLEDGED
 IN SEPTEMBER 2003
 TO TRIPLE MADAGASCAR'S
 PROTECTED AREA COVERAGE





IUCN/Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, Peru

Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine, *Chair,*
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Gland, Switzerland

Protected areas for today's world

Science tells us that protected areas are good for protecting biodiversity. Yet, it is not science alone that drives the establishment of protected areas. Rather, it is the emotion around the loss of charismatic species, the aesthetics of a land or seascape and, now more than ever, the people that live within and next to these areas and their cultures.



IUCN / Viewing Lions in the Amboseli National Park, Kenya

To be clear, protected areas are not set up to protect something from people. Rather, protected areas are conserving nature for the benefit of

and conservation) are innumerable. This fact deflates the stilted view that protected areas are one-dimensional and not multi-purposed.

Protected areas are by definition dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. As such a primary tool for meeting the 2010 target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss. They are a contribution to this critical target, while offering a clear demonstration of how people and nature can co-exist to the benefit of both - a model for today's world.

Despite the world's enthusiasm for the idea of protected areas the reality is less encouraging. Budgets are stagnating, infrastructure is collapsing, marine ecosystems are woefully underrepresented and the protected values are increasingly at risk from threats that are global as much as local.

DESPITE THE WORLD'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE IDEA OF PROTECTED AREAS THE REALITY IS LESS ENCOURAGING. BUDGETS ARE STAGNATING, INFRASTRUCTURE IS COLLAPSING, MARINE ECOSYSTEMS ARE WOEFULLY UNDERREPRESENTED AND THE PROTECTED VALUES ARE INCREASINGLY AT RISK FROM THREATS THAT ARE GLOBAL AS MUCH AS LOCAL

both people and nature, now and in the future. Ecosystem services, tourism, human health, spirituality, sacredness, peace, justice and equity, employment, education, and, of course conservation - the values of protected areas (for people

This shift may be a reflection of changing societal values as the world's population becomes urbanized and divorced from nature. The basis of understanding and experience of nature is declining. Added to this, climate change is poised to



IUCN / Peucang Island in the Ujung Kulon National Park Indonesia

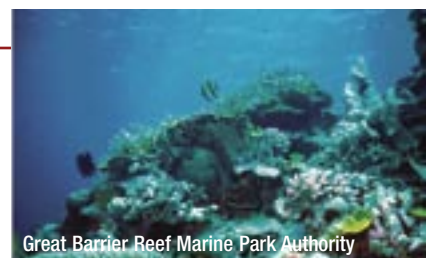
cause dramatic changes within protected areas and likely exacerbate the already nefarious influences of invasive species. Pervasive global poverty poses another challenge facing all protected area managers.

PROTECTED AREAS ARE CONSERVING NATURE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH PEOPLE AND NATURE, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

There is hope however. The agreement of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Programme of Work on Protected Areas provides a blueprint for renewing the fervour that initially built up the protected area estate. It sets out a clear direction with deliverables and targets for all to follow. In turn, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas is rolling up its sleeves. Its global network of experts along with partners is poised to help the 188 Parties to the Convention realize the defined deliverables and targets.

With financing in place there is no reason why the mandate of protected areas cannot be met and targets achieved. It is time to bring experts, science, funding and emotion together for the good of the world.

Protected areas and the 2010 biodiversity target - Australia's role



Australia has a federal system of government comprising one Commonwealth and eight separate State and Territory governments. Each government establishes and manages terrestrial and/or marine protected areas throughout their jurisdictions.

In terrestrial environments, all protected areas managed by the governments, non-government organisations and private individuals including indigenous landholders, form the 'National Reserve System' (NRS).

In marine environments, State governments manage marine protected areas (MPAs) between the coast and three nautical miles offshore. The Commonwealth manages MPAs from three nautical miles offshore to the limit of its Exclusive Economic Zone. Together, Australia's State and Commonwealth MPAs make up the 'National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas' (NRSMPA).

The concept underpinning both the NRS and the NRSMPA was developed to meet Australia's commitments under Article 8 (a & b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Terrestrial Protected Areas

Under the NRS, Australia has developed a national collaborative approach to setting priorities for incorporation of lands within the reserve system and establishing protocols for tracking additions to the system. The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) divides the Australian continent into 85

bioregions defined by their major ecosystems and reflect patterns in geology, landform, soils, vegetation and climate. Sub-regions have also been defined based on major geomorphological features in each bioregion. IBRA and sub-regions form the major planning tools for establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system.

Marine Protected Areas

The NRSMPA aims to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of MPAs that contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, maintain ecological processes and systems, and protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels.

67 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA'S ECOSYSTEMS ARE SAMPLED WITHIN EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS

The Commonwealth Government manages a grants program that has provided over \$80 million over a number of years to address gaps in the national reserve system. Funding is provided to state agencies, NGO groups and Indigenous communities for purchase and/or management of land for protected areas.

Governments in Australia are finalizing a document "Directions for the National Reserve System - A Partnership Approach that will provide a strategic national approach for quantifiable progress towards the establishment and management of a CAR terrestrial reserve system. The Directions cover reserve system planning and design, establishment of protected areas, management of protected areas and progress in the NRS. The work program is consistent with the CBD Decision VII/28 on the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The most recent national assessment of progress in establishing a CAR reserve system concluded that, 67 per cent of Australia's ecosystems are sampled within existing protected areas.

Guidelines were developed to assist governments work consistently toward establishing the NRSMPA, and to help stakeholders understand the process. A Strategic Plan of Action was developed to integrate the policy and planning framework and to list actions required to achieve the goals of the NRSMPA.

The Australian marine jurisdiction has been divided into large marine domains for the purposes of regional marine planning. As part of this process, MPA proposals are being developed to ensure each bioregion is represented in the NRSMPA. The south-east marine region is the first region covered by a comprehensive and integrated plan. In this region, 11 broad areas of interest have been identified based on ecological data. Scientific guidelines have been prepared for identifying an MPA within each of these broad areas of interest. The guidelines will ensure the criteria of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness are met. A northern regional marine plan is under development and a south-west plan has been initiated.

The Nature Conservancy and the programme of work on protected areas



Mark Godfrey/TNC Frog on Gunnera leaf, Valdivian Coastal Preserve, Chile

Protecting the diversity of life on Earth received a huge boost at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity when the 188 Parties to the Convention gathered and agreed to an extraordinarily ambitious and specific program of work on protected areas: to create a global network of ecologically representative and effectively managed protected areas on land by 2010 and at sea by 2012.

At COP-7, governments embraced an approach to conservation that has the potential to be comprehensive and lasting. Furthermore, they recognize that time is not on our side.

This bold, international Program of Work meshes perfectly with The Nature Conservancy's conservation goal of protecting functioning ecosystems that represent the whole of our planet's biological diversity. The nations of the world have set the bar very high. Now, they-and we-need to make good on our collective commitment.

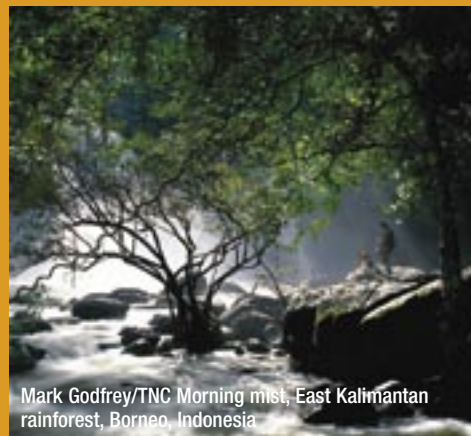
Protected Areas are a key component of the work of The Nature Conservancy. For example, through the Parks in Peril program, a partnership between the U.S. Agency for International Development and The Nature Conservancy, we have

worked to achieve enduring conservation at 45 landscape-scale protected areas in 16 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The U.S. Government's \$85 million investment has generated roughly \$390 million from private and public donors since 1990, which has allowed tangible progress in 45 of the region's most biologically important areas.

Since COP-7, The Nature Conservancy has mobilized to provide support to countries for the implementation of the programme of work. In 16 countries we have joined government-led partner-

funding for early actions related to the Programme of work. We are helping to compile with other key partners critical technical expertise on specific themes relevant to the Programme of work that will serve as tools to those responsible for Programme of work implementation. And we are working closely with other NGO partners to support these activities.

Building on these kinds of efforts around the world is what the Programme of work calls-for and it is a daunting task. But looking at the early achievements, we are inspired to forge ahead.



Mark Godfrey/TNC Morning mist, East Kalimantan rainforest, Borneo, Indonesia

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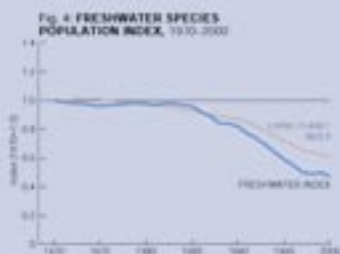
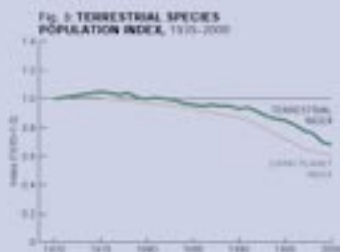
ships and signed formal agreements aimed at bringing multiple stakeholders together to collaborate around implementing the Programme of work. We have significantly reallocated the responsibilities of our existing staff as well as committed \$4 million in grant

At a time of pressing urgency for the future of biological diversity in the world, it is refreshing-indeed, historic-to see protected areas and their critical role in supporting sustainable development as a rallying point for global unity and real hope.



World Wide Fund for nature and the 2010 biodiversity target

The Living Planet Index (LPI), published by WWF International every two years, shows a dramatic decline in species populations over the last 30 years. The index aggregates population data of more than 1100 species and consists of three separate biome indices: the terrestrial and marine species population indices which declined each by about 30 per cent, and the freshwater index which dropped by as much as 50 per cent over this time period. While the LPI is not synonymous with a measure of the world's biodiversity, it is at the very least indicative for the challenge we face with the 2010 biodiversity target.



Planet

WE IN THE CONSERVATION/BIODIVERSITY COMMUNITY ARE NOW FACING THE CHALLENGE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PROTECTED AREAS, AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN GENERAL, ARE MAKING A CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA

Since the mid 1990's, WWF pursues targets it set itself - to increase the protected areas coverage in the forest, marine and freshwater biomes. In the past 10 years, with the important engagement of many governments and local communities, we have been able to significantly contribute to the rapid increase of the area under protection. Now, the world's terrestrial protected areas equal the size of China and India combined. Although some may argue that increasing protected areas is only a sort of an immune reaction to the increasing loss of biodiversity, one could also stress that if it were not for the world's protected areas, the state of biodiversity conservation would be much worse. Indeed, the addition of new protected area initiatives in some of the most vulnerable habitats, e.g. under the Congo Basin Partnership, the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) plan, the Heart of Borneo initiative and, most importantly, in many marine areas, such as the tri-national agreement to conserve

the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, must remain a high priority for conservation.

THE "END OF POVERTY" WILL REMAIN AN ILLUSION IF IT IS CONCEIVED IN ISOLATION OF THE VERY BASE ON WHICH LIVELIHOODS DEPEND - ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



WWF International



However, increasing protected areas coverage should not simply be seen as incremental business. We in the conservation/biodiversity community are now facing the challenge to demonstrate that protected areas, and biodiversity conservation in general, are making a crucially important contribution to the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and in particular to the poverty reduction agenda. This is an aspect of our work that currently tends to be neglected and therefore risks to be forgotten in the allocation of resources for bilateral and multilateral aid. The "End of Poverty" will remain an illusion if it is conceived in isolation of the very base on which livelihoods



WWF International

depend - ecosystem services such as regular water and rainfall supplies, sustainable fisheries and wildlife populations, medicinal plants and wild genetic resources, as well as many other elements of biodiversity. In order to sustain the important biodiversity achievements over the last decade, it is critical that these resources and their services be properly valued to ensure they gain the weight they deserve in national accounts and on international development agendas.



WWF International



WWF International

IT IS CRITICAL THAT THESE RESOURCES AND THEIR SERVICES BE PROPERLY VALUED TO ENSURE THEY GAIN THE WEIGHT THEY DESERVE IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS



Dr. Yaroslav Movchan, Director
*Department of Land Resources Protection, EcoNet and Biodiversity
 Ministry of Environmental Protection with Kiev, Ukraine*

Ukraine and protected areas: looking forward



Dmytro Kovalenko

of Formation of National Ecological Network, some 29 new national nature parks and 7 new biosphere reserves are being established and the territories of 3 nature reserves, 3 biosphere reserves and 5 national nature parks will be expanded.

gramme envisages coherence of a national econet with those of neighbouring countries by the creation of joint transboundary econets and Low-Danube Green Corridor. Existing transboundary nature-protected areas include: Ukrainian-Romanian "Danube delta" and Ukrainian-Slovakian-

THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ENVISAGES COHERENCE OF A NATIONAL ECONET WITH THOSE OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES BY THE CREATION OF JOINT TRANSBOUNDARY ECONETS

Ukkraine is a land of rich biodiversity and unique cultural landscapes. Ukrainian indigenous traditions support the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use. Since independence in 1991, Ukraine witnessed a twofold increase in the number of protected areas and area to protected areas. Current number of protected areas includes 7085 sites covering 27 million ha, which constitute 4.5 per cent of the total geographic area of the country. The country is poised to enlarge this area to more than 10 per cent by 2015. In accordance with the State Programme

Ukraine is one of the leading European countries in the development of econetworks. The Parliament of Ukraine enacted special sector-oriented Laws "State Program of Formation of National Ecological Network of Ukraine for 2000-2015 years" (2000) and " Ecological network of Ukraine" (2004), towards this end. Ukraine actively participates in development of Pan-European Ecological Network. The national pro-

Polish "Eastern Carpathian". Furthermore, the following transboundary biosphere reserves will be established: Ukrainian-Polish "Western Polissya" and "Rostochchya", Ukrainian-Russian "Desnyansko-Starogytskiy-Bryansky forests" and "Meotida", Ukrainian-Moldavian "Low-Dniester" and "Prout River", and Ukrainian-Byelorussian "Prypyat-Stokhid".



Pavlo Moskalenko

SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1991, UKRAINE WITNESSED A TWOFOLD INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS



Pavlo Moskalenko



Ramsar

The South Alligator River is a Ramsar site, included within the boundary of Kakadu National Park, Australia. The Park is home to an Aboriginal community who use the area for traditional activities, although it is largely protected.

Mr. Peter Bridgewater, *Secretary General*
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Gland, Switzerland

Managing the matrix or protected areas in their place

In 2003, following the World Parks Congress, a short publication termed the DurbanLink was produced. This publication listed 10 key issues for the post Durban decade, most of the time, in other words, to seeing the 2010 targets implemented. These key issues were:

- poverty alleviation;
- better Governance;
- ensuring the right institutions are in place;
- recognising and managing global change;
- giving due prominence to Socio-cultural aspects;
- bridging the marine/coast interface;
- having sufficient science available to understand ecological aspects;
- ensuring sufficient funding is available to implement agreed strategies;
- supporting the right research;
- gaining the support of the private sector;
- putting in place a defined CEPA strategy.

These issues also summarise the Ramsar approach to protected areas. Ramsar has, within its rubric, the global list of Wetlands of International Importance. Yet not all wetlands on this list are protected areas, and there are many wetlands in protected areas not on the list. But the Ramsar approach is to identify a comprehensive set of global wetlands, which are important as ecological systems holding the biosphere together, or sites of scientific interest, or sites of cultural interest. Ramsar's other key plank is the wise use approach. The wise use of wetlands anywhere in a contracting party's demesne is a key obligation under the Ramsar Convention. For Ramsar, the wise use of wetlands links also to the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, so that a definition could be:

“the maintenance of their ecological character within the context of sustainable development, and achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches.”

In that sense, and linking with CBD's Ecosystem Approach, wise use = ecosystem approach; wise use = sustainable development, and wise use - depends on ecological character.



Ramsar

The Ria de Mundaka-Guernika Ramsar site is part of the Urdaibai Biosphere reserve. The area is almost entirely privately owned. The most important traditional human activity is shellfish harvesting. The area is also used to collect worms for bait and there is some livestock grazing on the marsh itself, while the surrounding land is cultivated.

And for Ramsar, ecological character is “The combination of the ecosystem components, processes and services that characterise the wetland at a given point in time.” Which means that functioning biodiversity at all levels is critical to the success of the Ramsar convention's implementation.

In this sense, the protected area work of Ramsar can be effective only if the surrounding matrix of other wetlands and ecosystems is also managed effectively. And so, to reach the 2010 targets, yes, protected areas are needed, but only if set in a well-managed matrix of surrounding land and sea scapes.

TO REACH THE 2010 TARGETS, YES, PROTECTED AREAS ARE NEEDED, BUT ONLY IF SET IN A WELL-MANAGED MATRIX OF SURROUNDING LAND AND SEA SCAPES



Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, *Vice Chair, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)*
 World Conservation Union-IUCN
 Bugnax Vaud, Switzerland

Understanding and optimising governance: a quiet revolution for protected areas?

COUNTRIES THAT TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ALL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AND GOVERNANCE TYPES CAN BUILD A FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE NATIONAL SYSTEM, CAPABLE OF EXPANDING THE NATIONAL PA COVERAGE, ADDRESSING ITS GAPS, IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY AND ENHANCING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION



Cristina Eghester

Women collect and make sustainable use of wild plants in Kayan Mentarang National Park (Indonesia), the first Indonesian protected area under a co-management regime with the resident Dayak people.

Why is “governance” such a crucial new concept in the programme of work on protected areas (PAs) of the CBD? There are at least three main reasons:

- it broadens the perspective on what can be included as part of a national system of protected areas;
- it broadens the spectrum of the social actors recognised as legitimate protected area managers;
- it introduces the consideration of principles and values, affecting what is perceived as possible and desirable for protected areas.

Governance has to do with power, relationships, responsibility and



Patricia Pinto da Silva.

accountability. A specific governance setting reflects what a society enables as fair, or is prepared to accept as such, in terms of the who's and how's of authority and responsibility. In a protected area context, governance affects the achievement of management objectives (effectiveness), the sharing of costs and benefits (equity) and the generation and sustenance of community, political and financial support. At the level of a protected area system or individual site, however, governance depends on much more than formal institutions and processes. It depends on history, culture, legal and customary rights, access to information, markets, financial flows and informal influence on decisions.

Since the IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas of 2003, the first cut at understanding governance is made on the basis of “who holds relevant authority and responsibility and can be held accountable”. In this sense, four main types of protected area governance have been identified:

- A. Government managed protected areas
- B. Co-managed protected areas
- C. Private protected areas
- D. Community conserved areas

Besides the well known IUCN six management category systems (defined on the basis of main management objective), a protected area can also be characterised by its governance type. Field based analyses reveal that all such governance types include examples of major



conservation value, and that they can all be compatible with all IUCN categories. In other words, a protected area can be managed by a variety of actors, including sub-national and local administrative bodies, NGOs, private and corporate landowners, indigenous peoples and local communities- either sedentary or mobile. In particular, examples of areas harbouring important biodiversity managed by indigenous peoples and local communities can be found in most terrestrial and coastal ecosystems. As “Community Conserved Areas” these local contributions to con-

Community members pull in the net in the Marine Extractive Reserve (MER) of Arraial do Cabo (Brazil). This is the oldest of Brazilian MERs and is governed by a local fishing community in collaboration with a federal environmental agency. The resources remain under the exclusive access of the community that possesses customary rights and has developed through time a complex system of rules for their sustainable use. CREDIT: Patricia Pinto da Silva.



US Forest Service Officials discuss with local residents a variety of management issues, including a revised management plan for the San Juan National Forest in Colorado.

A sacred lake in the region of Toulear (Madagascar). This lake and several sacred groves in the same region remain remarkably conserved within a territory dominated by destructive and unregulated exploitation.



Claudine Ramiarison.

Randall K. Wilson.

ervation become recognised as part of national protected area systems.

Territories and resources managed by indigenous people and local communities are the oldest form of governance of natural resources and often reveal a symbiosis between people and nature that some refer to as “bio-cultural units” or “cultural landscapes/seascapes”. Characteristically, they are established and managed by customary or locally agreed



The Ingano peoples have themselves proposed to the Colombian government that their traditional sacred territory is declared “protected area”. This was agreed, and now Alto Fragua Indiwasi is a National Park... managed by its traditional owners.

institutions, following interlocked objectives and values (spiritual, religious, security-related, survival-related). Thus, the areas in which indigenous peoples and local communities successfully conserve biodiversity include “sacred” areas and resources but also resources collectively managed for sustainable use, community safety and general well being.

Countries that take full advantage of all management categories and governance types can build a flexible and responsive national system, capable of expanding the

national PA coverage, addressing its gaps, improving connectivity and enhancing public support for conservation. Arguments are also accumulating that such an expansion of the national PA system may be not only important for biodiversity and equity, but also economically advantageous for the concerned countries. Yet, most countries remain confined to a few management categories and governance types. Indigenous management systems and community conserved areas are still generally unrecognised, when not actively undermined. Many private protected areas receive no incentive from the state. And co-management is often confined to marginal experiments. Fortunately, with the impulsion of the CBD leadership, all this might change.

The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas not only stresses the need to recognise and support different types of Protected Areas governance, and community conserved areas in particular. It also encourages its Parties to seek “good governance” by establishing criteria, principles and values to guide action. Specifically, the CBD Programme of Work requires “not to harm” the indigenous, local and mobile communities living close to the relevant biodiversity, in full respect of their human rights, and it calls for “equity”, sharing in a fairer way the costs and benefits of protected areas management and ensuring recourse to justice when conflicts ensue. Other principles include “legitimacy and voice”- the

capacity of men and women to influence decisions, built on freedom of association and speech; “subsidiarity” attributing management authority and responsibility to the institutions closest to the resources at stake; “accountability” – ensuring a transparent flow of information on processes and institutions, with decision makers assuming responsibility for their choices; “performance” meeting the needs and concerns of all stakeholders according to agreed plans and while making a wise use of resources; and “direction” – following a broadly agreed conservation vision rooted on ecological and historical complexities.

In the light of the principles of good governance, and with the full spectrum of IUCN management categories and governance types at their disposal, national protected area systems can enter an era of renewed strength. The new challenges will then be: achieving management effectiveness; harmonising the governance type of each protected area site within the broader system of governance at the landscape and regional level; and optimising the policy decisions– made by even higher bodies that can ultimately make or break conservation. The emerging IUCN classification system for protected areas, comprising both management category and governance type.



Olot River, Samar Island Natural Park / Dickson Bernales

The national integrated protected area system of the Philippines

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES IS PRIMARILY AIMED AT ENSURING THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE REMAINING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY IN COORDINATION WITH THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 governs the establishment and management of protected areas in the Philippines. The Law provides that the State shall secure for the Filipino people the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals and their associated habitats and cultural diversities through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas. It further provides that the use and enjoyment of these protected areas must be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and conservation of biological diversity.

Since the enactment of the NIPAS Act, the Philippines has established 101 proclaimed protected areas covering 3.21 million hectares (Table 1). These protected areas consist of 69 terrestrial protected areas with a total of 1.57 million hectares and 32 marine protected areas of about 1.64 million hectares. This is in recognition of the fact that the Philippines is globally significant for biodiversity conservation and at the same time a conservation hotspot. The establishment of protected areas in the Philip-

pinas is primarily aimed at ensuring the protection and conservation of the remaining biological diversity of the country in coordination with the various stakeholders. In 2002, a National Priority Setting Program for Biodiversity Conservation was implemented to identify the areas in the country that are very important for biodiversity conservation. Table 2 shows the number of terrestrial and marine sites throughout the Philippines needing immediate action by way of establishing as protected areas under the NIPAS or by designating as critical habitats of wildlife pursuant to the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (RA 9147). In accordance with the country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, these areas shall be the priority for protection to assist the global community address biodiversity loss as put for

ward in the WSSD and in the CBD's various Programmes of Work.

Aside from the management of established protected areas, the Philippines is currently pursuing the development of relevant policy reforms to strengthen governance and partnership with local communities and local government units over management of protected areas, valuation of biodiversity resources within protected areas, development and implementation of monitoring systems both for terrestrial and marine protected areas, capacity assessments on biodiversity conservation within and outside protected areas, and preparation of project proposals in cooperation with the civil society such as for the implementation of the Conservation Plan for the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion along with the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia, among others.

Table 1. PROCLAIMED PROTECTED AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES (As of March 2005)

ECOSYSTEM TYPES	PA's PROCLAIMED (No.)	AREA (Million Hectares)
Terrestrial	69	1.57
Marine/Aquatic	32	1.64
TOTAL	101	3.21

Table 2. PROPOSED SITES FOR INCLUSION UNDER THE NIPAS OR DESIGNATION AS CRITICAL HABITATS

ECOSYSTEM TYPES	No. OF SITES	ESTIMATED AREA (Million Hectares)
Terrestrial	106	15.03
Marine/Aquatic	24	1.4
TOTAL	130	16.43

Mr. Natarajan Ishwaran, Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
UNESCO, Man and the Biosphere Programme, Paris, France

Biosphere reserves



Cerrado Biosphere Reserve, Brazil. The system of ecological corridors of the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve in Brazil, showing how the core protected areas (dark green) are connected up.

In the 1970s, at the request of its Member States, UNESCO's MAB Programme launched the biosphere reserve concept as a tool to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with economic development. In doing so, the biosphere reserve concept has been a pioneer in the ideological and practical evolution of protected areas in several ways:



The multifunctional approach of biosphere reserves is now adopted by modern types of protected areas.

a) by emphasising the active implication of local communities in designing and managing areas dedicated for biodiversity conservation, encouraging human activities to develop “quality economies” which enhance livelihoods and also take pressure off wild resources;

b) by introducing a zoning system with a legally established core area, a surrounding buffer zone to enhance protection, and a transition area to integrate conservation actions into the development policies of the larger landscape. In turn, this implies the creation of new governance mechanisms between government agencies, local communities, and the private sector;



Person in Mangrove, The Can Gio Biosphere Reserve in Vietnam comprises the largest area of reforested mangrove in the region, rehabilitating the natural biodiversity and allowing new economic ventures in aquaculture and fisheries.

c) by engaging the scientific community in conservation efforts, applying conservation science and undertaking long-term monitoring to track management effectiveness;

d) by building up a World Network of Biosphere Reserves as an operational structure to facilitate exchanges of experience and ideas, and to train personnel.

BIOSPHERE RESERVES ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN *IN SITU* CONSERVATION SINCE THE ORIGINAL FOCUS WAS ON ENCOURAGING COUNTRIES TO MAKE A GLOBAL SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO CONSERVE “REPRESENTATIVE ECOLOGICAL AREAS”

All these dimensions are now integral parts of the “modern” protected area paradigm as understood at the 5th World Parks Congress in 2003.

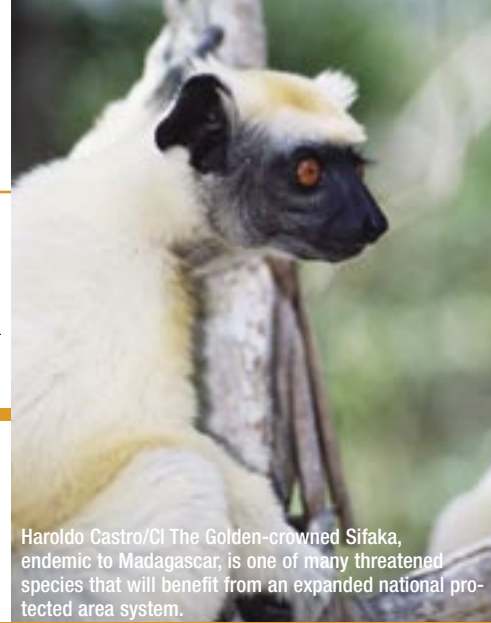
Today, there are 459 biosphere reserves in 97 countries, with many more in the making, including numerous trans-boundary biosphere reserves. The MAB programme is currently renewing its research agenda to further help countries to meet the 2010 target and the MDGs. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves, comprising sites nominated by countries for international cooperative work, is a robust structure for this. Some avenues being explored are the role of biosphere reserves as “living laboratories” to test out the CBD Ecosystem Approach, understanding landscape level planning to address the conservation of

biodiversity in the 89per cent of land and water outside the recognised “protected areas”, developing and testing indicators of patterns and trends in environmental sustainability and biodiversity loss. Biosphere reserves are playing an increasingly important role in *in situ* conservation since the original focus was on encouraging countries to make a global systematic effort to conserve “representative ecological areas”, including agrological diversity, and not focus only on rare and endangered species. This dimension is now being further researched within the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development.

More information can be found on www.unesco.org/mab



Mr. Russell A. Mittermeier, *President, Conservation International*
 Washington, D. C., United States of America



Haroldo Castro/CI The Golden-crowned Sifaka, endemic to Madagascar, is one of many threatened species that will benefit from an expanded national protected area system.

Conservation international and the programme of work on protected areas

The CBD program of work on protected areas is a landmark agreement for biodiversity conservation and its implementation will be critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

A recent global gap analysis shows that the current worldwide network of protected areas is far from complete in terms of representing species diversity. Concrete actions are required at the national level to address such gaps. The most irreplaceable and vulnerable sites - where extinction is imminent - must be targeted urgently for conservation if we are to reach the 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

Expanding protected area systems in an effective and equitable manner will require working in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, and employing a range of governance types. Conservation International (CI) actively engages with indigenous and local communities to support their capacities and opportunities to establish, manage and conserve their own lands. For example, in partnership with Asociación de Autoridades Indígenas de la Pedrera Amazonas (AIPEA), a local indigenous organization representing 9 indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon, CI has provided technical

training as well as funding support and administrative capacity. These efforts have contributed to the implementation of an indigenous

EXPANDING PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS IN AN EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE MANNER WILL REQUIRE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND EMPLOYING A RANGE OF GOVERNANCE TYPES

community management plan to protect and conserve nearly 67,000 hectares of land.

Through its in-country offices, CI is supporting government-led initiatives to implement the CBD program of work on protected areas in a number of countries including Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. CI technical support involves helping to define site level priorities through protected area gap analysis, capacity building to enhance protected area management effectiveness, biodiversity monitoring, financial analysis and planning, and other key activities.

Finally, CI's Conservation Funding Division provides financial resources to CI programs and partner organizations for protected areas work. The Global Conservation

Fund (GCF) portfolio includes support for the creation of 22.5 million hectares of new protected areas. For example, GCF will contribute \$1 million to the newly established Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity. This Foundation, supported by many donors, will provide long-term financing for the management of Madagascar's unique biodiversity. It represents a powerful response from the international community to President Marc Ravalomanana's September 2003 commitment to triple his country's protected area coverage.

CI looks forward to continuing work with CBD Parties, indigenous and local community leaders, NGOs, and other partners towards achieving ecologically representative and effectively managed protected area systems by 2010.



National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation in Thailand

Dr. Gonzalo Castro, *Team Leader, Biodiversity*,
Global Environment Facility (GEF), Washington D. C., United-States of America



How is the global environment facility supporting the CBD programme of work on protected areas?

The relationship between the Conference of the Parties of the CBD and the GEF is governed by a MOU under which the COP determines policy, strate-

THE KEY OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRIORITY IS TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS THROUGH THE EXPANSION, CONSOLIDATION, AND RATIONALIZATION OF NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS

gy, program priorities and eligibility criteria for access to the GEF, while the GEF Council translates this guidance into operational policies, strategies, operational modalities, and strategic priorities. In applying the guidance, the GEF and its Implementing Agencies support country-driven national priority activities. This country-driven process determines the relative emphasis of the guidance at the project level.

As a result, and because the majority of eligible GEF countries consider functional protected areas as a fundamental step towards implementing the CBD, the resulting GEF portfolio is very strong in protected areas. In fact, protected areas represent the largest share of the GEF portfolio in biodiversity. Since 1992, the GEF has financed more than 200 projects in over 1,000 sites covering over 250 million hectares. GEF investments exceed US\$1.1 billion, with an additional US\$2.5 billion mobilized in co-financing. Nevertheless, and despite the large magnitude of

these funds, they are not sufficient. Therefore, the GEF has strongly supported innovative financial mechanisms for sustainability, including the creation and capitalization of Trust Funds, and projects to establish systems of payments for environmental services. It is understood that although in the short term direct support to sites is essential in most contexts, the dependency from outside funding must be broken through the development of local capacities and sustainable financing tools.

During GEF-3, the GEF Council mandated the GEF to strengthen operationalization of COP Guidance through the definition of strategic priorities. Of the four priorities in biodiversity during GEF-3, Strategic Priority 1, "Achieving Sustainability of Protected Area Systems", encompasses the achievement of ecological, institutional, social, political and financial sustainability in the context of national-level PA systems. Inherent to this strategic priority is an understanding that sustainability is a long-term, systematic process that requires continued support over the life of several projects and progress along a variety of axes, including the policy, institutional, management, capacity, ecological, and financial dimensions. Through this strategic priority, the GEF supports systematic country efforts to strengthen systems of protected areas at national and sub-national levels.

Implementation of this priority responds to the guidance from the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas, and is consistent with the

Durban Accord of the World Parks Congress. The key objective of this priority is to conserve biodiversity in protected area systems through the expansion, consolidation, and rationalization of national protected area systems. Its operational focus is flexible and is based on a thorough understanding of key strengths and weaknesses at the system and national institutional levels, and on how any given individual intervention contributes towards long-term sustainability within a protected area comprehensive systems context. The measurement of progress in achieving the objectives of Strategic Priority 1 is accomplished through the application of portfolio-level tracking tools adapted from the WCPA Tracking Tools for protected areas.

In addition, and as an immediate direct response to the Program of Work, the GEF (through UNDP) is preparing a project currently in the pipeline for Early Action that will concentrate on those countries that have had limited access to GEF support through Strategic Priority 1.

As a result of the Program of Work on protected areas, and because protected areas remain the critical foundation of biodiversity, it is proposed that this priority will continue to be supported as a major thrust of GEF-4.

In conclusion, protected areas have been and will remain at the core of GEF activities in biodiversity. We look forward to supporting the efforts of countries as they implement the Program of Work on Protected Areas.

Targets in the programme of work on protected areas

The overall purpose of the programme of work on protected areas is to support the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas. The programme of work consists of four interlinked elements, mutually reinforcing and cross-cutting in their implementation.

Programme element 1 deals with what protected area systems need to conserve and where. Programme elements 2 and 3 cover how to effectively implement protected area systems, including issues such as the policy environment, governance and participation, and capacity building. Programme element 4 addresses the steps needed for assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of actions taken under programme elements 1-3.

Each programme element is structured into specific goals, targets and activities. The programme of work contains 16 goals, which are outcome-oriented statements of ultimate purpose. Each goal has a target that sets a specific date by which the goal is to be accomplished, and in many cases indicators to measure progress towards the goal. Each paired goal and target is followed by a list of activities, that individual countries should implement to meet their commitments to achieve these goals and targets.

The overall target deadline for implementation of the programme of work is 2010 for terrestrial and 2012 for marine areas. The Conference of the Parties has put forward intermediate target dates for many activities with time bound deadlines of either 2006/2008 or 2010/2012, in recognition of the fact that many of the goals and targets will require a phased, step-by-step approach.

By 2005:

- evaluate effectiveness of existing financial resources and financial needs (3.4.1)*

By 2006:

- establish national protected area targets and indicators (1.1.1)
- establish or expand protected areas in, intact or unfragmented or highly irreplaceable natural areas, or areas under high threat, (1.1.2)
- address the under-representation of inland water ecosystems (1.1.3)
- review existing and potential forms of conservation, (1.1.4)
- complete protected area system gap analyses (1.1.5)
- evaluate efforts to integrate protected areas into land- and seascapes (1.2.1)
- undertake to identify legislative gaps and barriers (3.1.1)
- capacities needs assessments, and establish capacity building (3.1.1)
- develop standards, and indicators for evaluating management effectiveness, (4.2.1)

By 2008:

- address the under-representation of marine (1.1.3)
- undertake steps for the integration of protected areas into land- and seascapes, (1.2.2)
- undertake measures for preventing, / mitigating negative impacts of key threats (Goal 1.5)
- establish mechanisms for equitable sharing of both cost and benefits (Goal 2.1)
- ensure effective participation of indigenous and local communities (Goal 2.2)
- ensure supportive enabling environment (Goal 3.1)
- ensure sufficient financial, technical and other resources (Goal 3.4)
- implement country-level sustainable financing plans (3.4.2)
- increase public awareness (Goal 3.5)
- develop standards, criteria, and best practices (Goal 4.1)

By 2009:

- designate protected areas identified through gap analysis (1.1.6)
- address legislative gaps and barriers (3.1.1)

By 2010:

- establish terrestrial protected areas (Goal 1.1)
- establish and strengthen transboundary protected areas (Goal 1.3)
- address approaches to liability and redress measures (1.5.2)
- undertake comprehensive capacity building programmes (Goal 3.2).
- ensure transfer of appropriate technologies (Goal 3.3)
- establish frameworks for management effectiveness (Goal 4.1)
- undertake management effectiveness evaluation (4.2.2)
- undertake effective monitoring of protected-area coverage, status and trends (Goal 4.3)

By 2012:

- establish marine protected areas (Goal 1.1)
- achieve effective management (Goal 1.4)

By 2015:

- integrate protected areas into the wider land- and seascape, (Goal 1.2)



Mark Atwater/GRASP
Mountain gorilla

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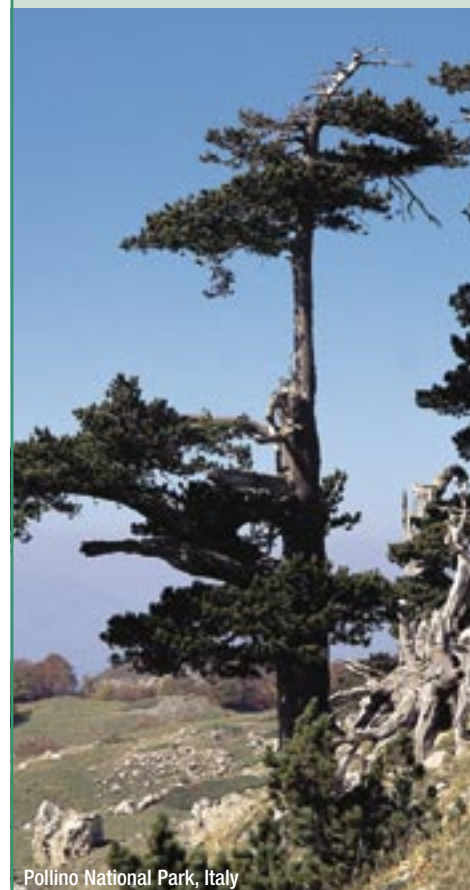
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Pollino National Park, Italy



Protected areas are the cornerstones for *in situ* conservation of biological diversity. Their importance ranging from conservation of biological diversity, storehouses of genetic material, provision of essential ecosystems services for human welfare, and contribution to sustainable development, have been recognised at multiple levels, from international bodies, to national governments, local groups, and communities. There are now more than 100,000 protected area sites worldwide. However, many of these protected areas are not yet effectively managed, nor do they adequately represent all ecosystems habitats and species important for conservation.

In order to address these gaps and threats, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a programme of work on protected areas. The overall purpose of the programme of work on protected areas is to support the establishment and maintenance by 2010 for terrestrial and by 2012 for marine areas of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas that collectively, *inter alia* through a global network contribute to achieving the three objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, national and subnational levels.



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