



Putting plans to work: IUCN's commitment to protected areas

Dear Delegates, IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, believes that protected areas lie at the heart of all effective biodiversity conservation strategies. They offer much more as well: clean water, food security, health and wealth; protection against natural disasters; carbon sequestration; recreational opportunities; sacred natural sites; homes and employment.

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas is one of the great successes of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has helped stimulate rapid growth in both the number and

effectiveness of protected areas throughout the world. We congratulate the Parties on this vital initiative and the many local and international NGOs that are supporting this effort. But there is still a lot to do. IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas, in partnership with many governments, intergovernmental bodies and NGOs, played a major role in crafting the agenda for the Programme. We remain committed to supporting the CBD as the work on protected areas enters a new phase after Nagoya. The latest research tells us that without a significant investment, protected areas may not be able to

continue to provide the multiple benefits which we have enjoyed up until now. This booklet tells you why we think investing in protected areas is important and lays out our commitments to making the vision of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas a reality.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Julia Marton-Lefèvre' and the second is 'Nik Lopoukhine'.

*Julia Marton-Lefèvre, IUCN Director General and
Nik Lopoukhine, Chair IUCN World Commission
on Protected Areas*



Values of protected areas

Protected areas are a critical tool for conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services. They act as refuges for species and ecological processes that cannot survive in intensely managed landscapes and seascapes. Well-connected protected area networks allow space for natural evolution and maintain functioning ecosystems that can serve as guideposts for ecological restoration.

We have an ethical obligation to prevent species loss due to our own actions, but we also derive many important benefits from protected areas. People – nearby and far away – benefit from the genetic potential of wild species for crop breeding, pharmaceuticals and other materials; the environmental services of natural ecosystems provide clean water, maintain fish stocks, stabilize soil

and help mitigate natural disasters; and national parks and wilderness areas offer recreational opportunities and sustain the economies and knowledge systems of many indigenous peoples and traditional societies. The world's protected area system provides an extensive and globally distributed resource for mitigating climate change through carbon storage, and resilient ecosystems can help us adapt to the impacts of rapid environmental change. Many of the world's most important sacred sites are inside protected areas, which also play a major cultural, historical and aesthetic role within societies.

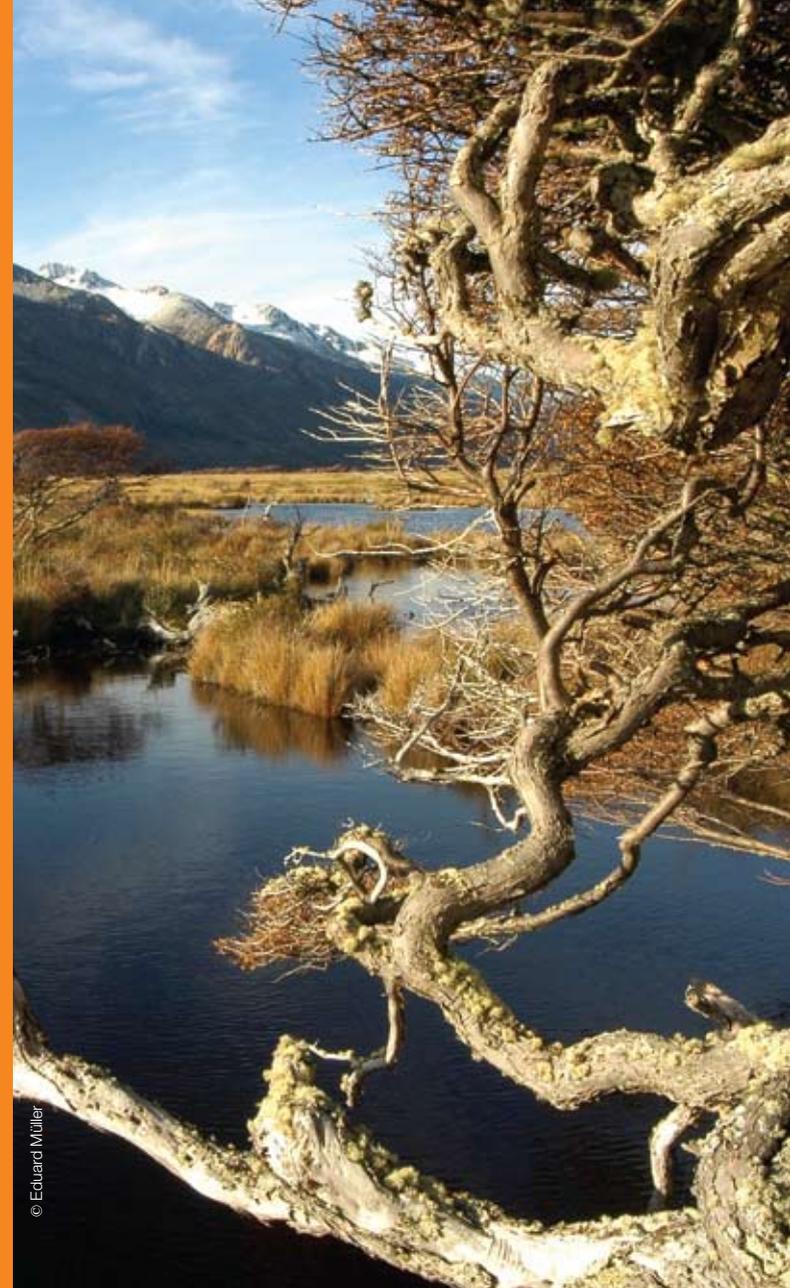
Well-designed and managed protected areas can create wealth and thus help to address issues of poverty and social inequality. Transboundary protected areas promote coordinated conservation practice, international harmony and even peace. Protected areas are not an optional extra; they are essential components of a stable, sustainable future. Apart from benefitting millions of people, protected areas offer ways in which governments, the private sector, local communities and indigenous peoples can work together to secure human well-being.



IUCN's role in the Programme of Work

IUCN played a critical role in developing the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). IUCN's 2003 World Parks Congress in South Africa brought together three thousand experts and helped create an agenda for change, culminating in the "Durban Accord", a manifesto that was largely incorporated within PoWPA at CBD COP7 in 2004. At the CBD's request, IUCN carried out a number of specific actions to support PoWPA between 2004 and 2010 in addition to its other protected areas work:

- Compiled information on financial incentives for protected areas (*Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas*, 2006) and set up a task force on costs and benefits (Activity 3.1.12)
- Developed guidance on: protected area selection (*Identification and Gap Analysis of Key Biodiversity Areas*, 2007); working with faith groups (*Guidelines on the Management of Sacred Natural Sites*, 2008); climate change (*Natural Solutions*, 2009); and connectivity (*Connectivity Conservation Management*, 2010) (Activities 3.2.6 and 4.2.6)
- Published a major text book (*Managing Protected Areas*; 2006), developed a database of protected area courses and established an on-line teaching module for national PoWPA focal points with the CBD and partners (Activity 3.5.7)
- Started development of a Green List as a voluntary standard for best practice in protected area management (Activity 4.1.1)
- On management effectiveness assessment: published a new edition of technical guidance; analysed global assessment results; and provided capacity support in World Heritage sites, West Africa, ASEAN countries, Finland, South Korea, Australia and Colombia (Activities 4.2.1 and 4.2.2)
- Produced new guidance on protected area management categories and worked with UNEP-WCMC to improve the World Database on Protected Areas, to standardize data on the extent and coverage of protected areas (Activities 4.3.6 and 4.3.7)



IUCN's commitments after 2010

IUCN is committed to supporting, reviewing and improving the Programme. At the CBD's request, IUCN held a major workshop on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, in 2009* to plan next steps and feed into the preparations for the 2010 SBSTTA14 meeting. The SBSTTA14's recommendations made requests of IUCN, which we have moved to address:

- **Regional action plans:** working with CBD focal points and other stakeholders to develop regional action plans based on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for protected areas. **IUCN's commitment:** continue to participate with partners in plans such as the West African Marine and Coastal Conservation Challenge, the Pan-Amazonian Vision, Global Island Partnership in the Coral Triangle, Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges, and the Caribbean Initiative.
- **Regional and sub-regional workshops and capacity building:** collaboration with the CBD Secretariat on capacity building workshops, particularly on PoWPA Element 2; on-line material; and an accreditation system for protected area courses. **IUCN's commitment:** develop a full protected area training syllabus and associated accreditation system by the Rio +20 meeting in 2012.
- **Cost-benefit methodologies:** working with IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy on methodologies for fair assessment of costs and benefits of protected areas and applying these to assist PoWPA. **IUCN's commitment:** develop an agreed cost-benefit methodology by 2013.
- **Technical advice on other governance types:** working with partners such as UNEP-WCMC and the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Consortium helping governments, the private sector and communities to recognise the value of and incorporate sacred natural sites and co-managed, private and community-managed protected areas into national protected area systems. **IUCN's commitment:** produce guidelines on application of protected area categories in: (1) Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas; and (2) private sector reserves by end of 2012.
- **Restoration:** working with Parks Canada and the Society for Ecological Restoration to provide technical guidance on restoration within protected areas. **IUCN's commitment:** publish restoration guidelines in 2012.
- **Monitoring biodiversity:** working with IUCN's Species Survival Commission and partners in a major study on the role of



protected areas in biodiversity conservation.

IUCN's commitment: report on the role of category V protected areas in biodiversity conservation by 2011 and complete a full study of biodiversity and protected areas, with lessons learned and advice, by 2013.

- **Connectivity:** working with UNEP-WCMC on mechanisms to delineate connectivity conservation areas on datasets and maps; undertaking capacity building; facilitating a voluntary international network of large



connectivity conservation areas; and working on projects like the Altai-Sayan Connectivity Conservation Corridor, the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Mesoamerican Reef System. **IUCN's commitment:** establish critical new connectivity conservation areas by 2014 and put in place systems for management and data recording.

- **Management effectiveness:** continued capacity building and technical guidance on data analysis, along with technical input into

system level assessments in e.g. Thailand, East and West Africa, and Colombia. **IUCN's commitment:** develop, test and refine social indicators and indicators relating to climate change impacts and responses in protected area management; and develop and implement assessments in marine protected areas (MPAs).

- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation:** working with UNDP, the German government and other partners to produce case studies on using protected areas to

mitigate and adapt to climate change; developing tools to identify climate change benefits from protected areas; and guidance for protected area managers in addressing climate change, and for governments in incorporating protected areas into national climate change strategies and action plans. **IUCN's commitment:** publish management guidelines and case studies by end of 2012.

* With support from the CBD, the Korea National Parks Service, governments of Finland, the Netherlands and Canada, the UNEP – Spain Partnerships for Protected Areas and Conservation International

Other IUCN commitments

IUCN's commitment to protected areas is not confined to places where we are mentioned by name in CBD decisions. Other CBD priorities, where IUCN will take action, include:

Expand marine protected areas:

working to grow the global MPA network, building public support with Google Ocean, Protect Planet Ocean and other partners, consolidating data management with UNEP-WCMC, and providing technical guidance across many areas including climate change adaptation, response to risks and disasters and implementation of the *Global MPA Plan of Action*. **IUCN's commitment:** work with governments to support expanded coverage of representative MPA networks and their integration into large-scale ocean conservation management; implement MPAs on the high seas and areas beyond national jurisdiction by 2013.

Highlight benefits of protected areas including their ecosystem services:

identifying, quantifying and managing for multiple benefits, including ecosystem services and adaptation and mitigation to climate change. **IUCN's commitment:** provide guidance on identifying and managing for multiple benefits and building

protected area networks that provide the widest range of possible benefits without compromising biodiversity conservation.

Governance, equity and benefit-sharing:

working with partners, from international development organisations, to indigenous peoples' organisations in ensuring that protected areas are fair, equitable and meet the needs and aspirations of local communities. Protected areas work well if there is participation, good governance and equitable benefit sharing. **IUCN's commitment:** ensure that protected areas do not unfairly disadvantage particular communities and allow those managers of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas who want to be incorporated into national protected area systems to have the tools and advice to achieve this.

Engage youth:

working with partners to involve emerging leaders of tomorrow in conservation activities supporting PoWPA implementation. **IUCN's commitment:** increase proactive and meaningful participation of young conservation and sustainability professionals in the work of IUCN through facilitating a Task Force on Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability.



Re-launching the IUCN Global Protected Area Programme



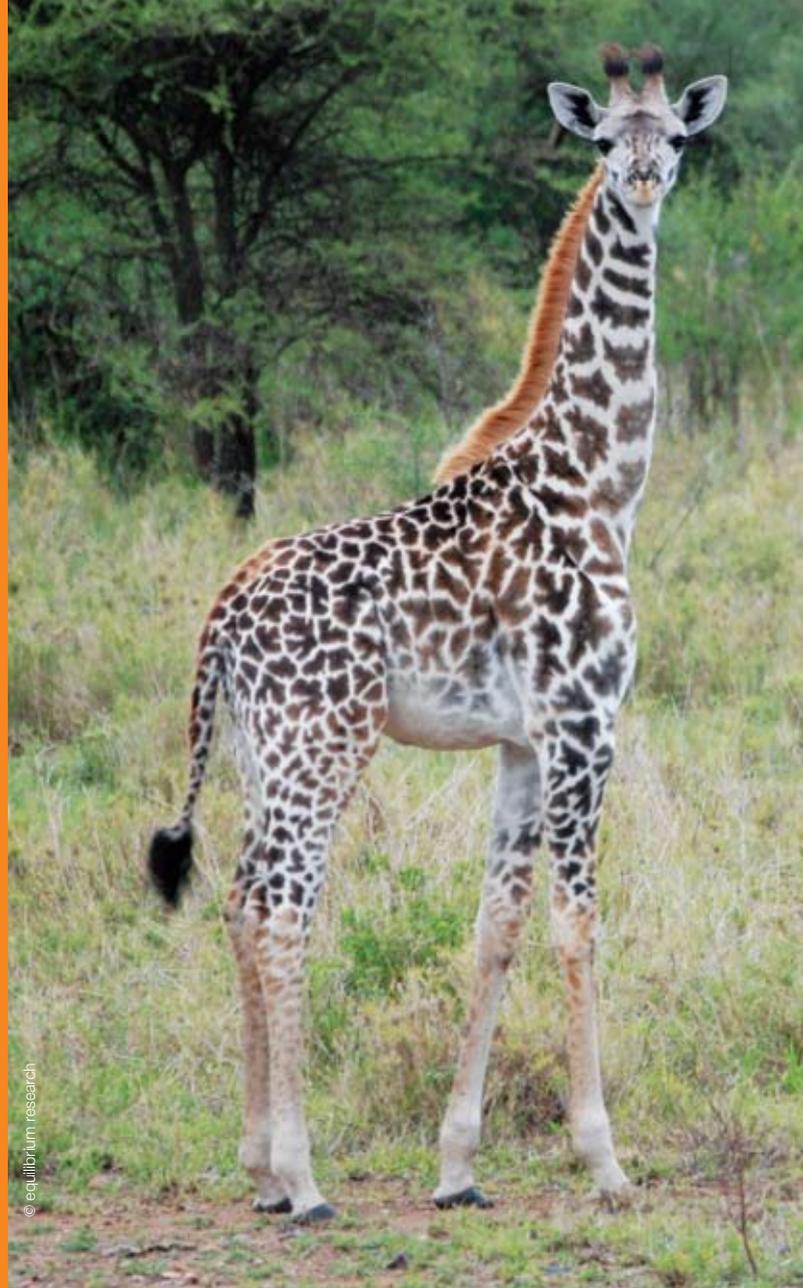
© Mark Godfrey, TNC

Trevor Sandwith has been appointed the head of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme, and will be based in Switzerland from November

2010. Trevor is currently deputy chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, comes from The Nature Conservancy and formerly worked with the South African National Biodiversity Institute and the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service. Trevor brings a wealth of experience to IUCN and will raise the profile of protected areas in the Union. His immediate priority is to increase IUCN's capacity and resources through its global secretariat, commissions and membership (both governmental and non-governmental) to co-ordinate, communicate and catalyze further action on:

- adopting and achieving a clear and measurable vision for addressing biodiversity loss through protected areas;
- building scientific and technical capacity to help national governments implement the Programme of Work;
- promoting the use of protected areas to increase resilience and decrease vulnerability to global climate change and related impacts;
- mobilizing social partners and development agencies to ensure that the benefits of protected area e.g. for livelihoods, health, water, tourism are achieved; and
- promoting strategic financing for protected area systems.

A key aspect of the next five years will be to prepare for the 6th IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014, which will initiate a new phase of action for protected areas to meet the CBD's 2050 Vision.



© equitulum research

Aspirations

It's not all good news. Targets for biodiversity conservation are failing, as are most social commitments of the Millennium Development Goals. Protected areas are under pressure: often squeezed by industry and governments; under-resourced; and facing a climate change crisis. The Programme of Work, with its huge ambition, provides an important beacon of hope.

IUCN is committed to doing a lot and wants to do more. Over the next five years we will work with partners including other IUCN members, Commissions and networks to expand our programme and the role of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas. We aim to:

- Develop landscape/seascape approaches that embed protected areas within larger conservation strategies
- Ensure protected areas are seen as key delivery mechanisms for addressing climate change, including by increased collaboration between the CBD and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Support states in facilitating civil society approaches to conservation and sustainable use within protected areas

- Consolidate a global network of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and sacred natural sites committed to the aims of the CBD
- Help ensure improved management capacity and effective governance during a time of rapid environmental and social change
- Build a scholarship fund for protected area staff to receive professional training, with access to the highest standards of training material
- Ensure optimal management and governance through the development of standards and best practice
- Build a stronger inland waters protected area system
- Develop an independent Natural Heritage Fund to support improved management of globally important but endangered protected areas
- Ensure that national protected area system plans are included in broader development cooperation
- Maintain the global management effectiveness database linked to the World Database on Protected Areas
- Convene an inspirational 6th IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014 that contributes to the CBD's vision for 2050



Putting these plans to work will only be possible with support and partnership of IUCN member governments and NGOs and we urgently invite potential partners to join us in this exciting and rewarding effort.

© IUCN 2010

Design: millerdesign.co.uk

Citation: IUCN-WCPA (2010); *Putting plans to work: IUCN's commitment to protected areas*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland