Protected areas and climate change:
Resilience through site-level planning

Jamison Ervin, UNDP Senior Advisor
NBSAPs

PoWPA Action Plans

Climate resilience and adaptation plans

Valuation studies

Incentives

5th National Report

PoWPA reporting

PA resilience

Biodiversity resilience

PA valuation studies

Biodiversity valuation studies
3 Relevant COP Decisions (X/31)

Para 1b....develop a long-term PoWPA Action Plan, with detailed activities, timelines, budget and responsibilities, and submit to CoP-11

Para 10b....use prioritized PoWPA Action Plans as the basis for accessing GEF funding

Para 13....align GEF funding to projects within prioritized PoWPA Action Plans
Blank Template for PoWPA Action Plan

Action Plan for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Samoa (Insert country name)

Submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity: October 6, 2011
### Status, Prioritization and Action Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has a multi-stakeholder advisory committee been formed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the progress on assessing gaps in the protected area network? (1.1)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in assessing protected area integration? (1.2)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in establishing transboundary protected areas and regional networks? (1.3)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in developing site-level management plans? (1.4)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in assessing threats and opportunities for restoration? (1.5)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in assessing equitable sharing of benefits? (2.1)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in assessing the policy environment for establishing and managing protected areas? (3.1)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in assessing protected area sustainable finance needs? (3.4)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in conducting public awareness campaigns? (3.5)</td>
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<td>What is the progress in developing, best practices and minimum standards?</td>
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STATUS, PRIORITIZATION AND ACTION PLANS

**Action 1: (Describe action)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key steps</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsible parties</th>
<th>Indicative budget</th>
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**Action 2: (Describe action)**

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</table>
CLIMATE CHANGE IS BECOMING PERSONAL...
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

“...large, persistent changes in the structure and function of ecological systems”

www.regimeshifts.org
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

www.regimeshifts.org
Key Concepts

- **Regime shift**
- **Tipping point**
- **Resilience**
- **Adaptation**
- **Mitigation**

**Definition**: The point at which a driver causes a significant regime shift that is considered unalterable, or recoverable on only very long timescales

**Drivers**: Overfishing, disease, invasive species, climate-related event
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- **Resilience**
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

**Definition**

“...the ability of an ecosystem to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses, or pressures, by either resisting or adapting to change.”

www.reefresilience.org
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

www.reefresilience.org
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

Principles of reef resilience:

- Representation, replication, redundancy and risk spreading
- Critical habitats for replenishment and recovery
- Connectivity among reefs
- Effective management by reducing threats

www.reefresilience.org
Healthier reefs showed more resilience (faster recovery) from 1997-98 bleaching event.
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

- Nature’s ability to adapt to climate impacts (often through human intervention); and....
Key Concepts

- Regime shift
- Tipping point
- Resilience
- Adaptation
- Mitigation

➢ Human’s ability to adapt to climate impacts (often through nature’s buffering and provisioning services)
Key Concepts

• Regime shift
• Tipping point
• Resilience
• Adaptation

• Mitigation...reducing the scope and magnitude of climate change and its impacts...
Strengthening resilience by incorporating climate into site-level PA management:

- Management planning
- Threat assessments
- Restoration plans
- Capacity needs assessments
- Management effectiveness
- Participation and benefits
- Research and monitoring
Management Planning
Management Planning

• About 90,000 (>2/3) of the world’s protected areas do not have management plans
• Of those plans that do exist, only a miniscule fraction incorporate climate change issues
Management Planning – typical elements

- Specific **goals and objectives**
- Important **areas and species**
- Identification and prioritization of **key threats**
- Identification and prioritization of **critical actions**
- Identification of protected area **zones and regulations**
- Develop **indicators** for measuring biodiversity
Management Planning for resilience

• Develop **specific goals and objectives** for improving climate resilience
• Identify **areas and species** of particular importance to climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience
• Identify and prioritize **threats** that exacerbate climate impacts
• Identify and prioritize **critical actions** for strengthening resilience
• Identify areas important for climate change adaptation and mitigation into **protected area zones and regulations**
• Develop **indicators** of climate resilience
Management Planning

Discussion questions:

• To what extent do the management plans in your country incorporate climate resilience and adaptation?

• What are the most feasible strategies for incorporating climate resilience and adaptation into management plans?

• What is the single most important thing you could do to incorporate climate resilience and adaptation into management plans in your country?
Threats Assessment

- **Threat assessment**: An assessment of the degree to which human activities impact the integrity of biodiversity
Threats Assessment

Typical protected area threat assessments are a one-page (or a one-paragraph) summary of existing threats within the protected area.
Threat assessments – incorporating climate

- Identify species and systems that enable resilience and adaptation
- Incorporate resilience thresholds and principles into threat assessments
- Assess the synergies between a variety of threats
- Conduct species and ecosystem climate vulnerability assessments
- Develop threat scenarios
Assessing threats with climate in mind

Discussion questions:

• What are the threats to your protected areas that will likely be exacerbated by climate change?

• Which threats are most likely to lead to a regime shift?

• Which species and ecosystems are most threatened by climate change?
Protected Area Restoration

- Most restoration efforts focus on the past, not the future
- Few restoration plans or actions consider climate resilience or adaptation
Setting traditional restoration targets and priorities

• Focus on **historical ranges of variation**

• Focus on areas of **high threat**

• Areas important for **species habitat**

• Restore **large and potentially intact habitat** patches

• Focus on **vulnerable species**
Incorporating climate into restoration priorities

Focus on:

- **Resilience thresholds** as well as historical ranges of variability
- Those areas most likely to have **negative synergistic threats** and impacts
- Areas important for **species adaptation**, including ecotones, altitudinal, latitudinal and longitudinal gradients, and riparian and connectivity corridors
- **Refugia and areas important for climate resilience**, including large and intact habitat patches, particularly areas with a history of resilience and resistance to stressors
- Those species most **vulnerable to the impacts of climate change**
Restoration

Discussion questions:

• How well do your restoration plans and priorities include climate resilience and adaptation issues?

• What are the most important priorities for restoration in your country? How important are these areas for climate resilience and adaptation?

• What’s the single most important restoration priority in your country for strengthening climate resilience and promoting climate adaptation?
Protected Area Capacity

- Inadequate capacity is one of the most limiting factors of effective management
- Lack of capacity to effectively address climate change impacts will further limit the effectiveness of protected areas in the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Capacity Areas:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protected area policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Threat assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Protected Area Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Areas:</th>
<th>New skills needed:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protected area policy</td>
<td>Designing new policies and working with <strong>new sectors</strong> to address climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management planning</td>
<td>Incorporating climate issues into management plans; assessing <strong>species vulnerability</strong> to climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat assessment</td>
<td>Incorporating climate into threat assessments; understanding <strong>climate impacts and predictions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communicating the value of protected areas in climate change resilience and adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Identifying new <strong>constituencies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site design</td>
<td>Adapting site design for improved <strong>resilience</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource management</td>
<td>Understanding <strong>tipping points and thresholds</strong>, and managing natural resources for climate resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and research</td>
<td>Identifying <strong>climate-related indicators</strong> for vulnerable species and ecosystems, and for affected human communities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Capacity

Discussion questions:

• What are your most important capacity weaknesses relative to climate change resilience and adaptation?

• What are the best mechanisms for addressing these weaknesses?
PA Participation and Benefits

*Traditional focus on participation and benefits*

- Focus on consultation
- Focus on finding representative and diverse community members
- Emphasis on rights and benefits for resource use
PA Participation and Benefits

**Emerging focus on participation:**

- Providing an *early detection* and warning system for climate-related threats
- Identifying *localized impacts* of climate change
- Sharing *traditional resource management knowledge* to promote resilience
- Participating in *resource management* trials for climate resilience, adaptation
Participation and benefits

Discussion questions:

• Who will likely be most negatively affected by climate change?

• Who has the ecological and agricultural knowledge needed to contribute to climate change resilience?

• Who is best placed to detect climate change impacts on the ground, monitor impacts and provide early detection services?
PA Management Effectiveness Assessments

- Traditional focus on degree to which management achieves PA objectives (biodiversity conservation)
PA Management Effectiveness Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Effectiveness Elements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inputs (staff, funding)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes (management planning, participation, resource management)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs (resource management, restoration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes (ecological integrity)</td>
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## PA Management Effectiveness Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAME Elements</th>
<th>New Questions to Consider</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context &amp; Threats</td>
<td>How are climate-related threats impacting, or likely to impact, biodiversity and ecosystem services within the protected area?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>How suitable is the PA design for climate resilience? Do landscape/seascape linkages account for climate change?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inputs</td>
<td>Are there adequate data systems for monitoring climate impacts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes</td>
<td>How well do PA staff understand climate-related issues, and how well are these issues incorporated into management plans? Are research and monitoring priorities aimed at climate resilience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs</td>
<td>Are restoration efforts aimed at climate resilience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Is the protected area resilient to climate change? Does it enable adaptation of human and natural communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management effectiveness

Discussion questions:

• How important is it within your protected areas to assess management effectiveness for climate resilience and adaptation?

• Which of these potential indicators would be most important in assessing management effectiveness for climate resilience?

• What are some practical steps that you could take soon to assess and improve management effectiveness for climate resilience and adaptation?
PA Research and Monitoring

- Traditional monitoring focuses on current status and trends in biodiversity health
- Research priorities are largely driven by researcher interests and funding
PA Research and Monitoring

**EMERGING PRIORITIES**

- Determine the **potential magnitude and rate** of climate change impacts on protected areas
- Predict ecosystem structures and functioning and services under **different climate scenarios**
- Assess the **effects of temperature** and enhanced CO2 levels in various ecosystems
- Conduct cross-sectoral research on the impacts of climate change on human wellbeing, and on **relationships between climate and poverty**
PA Research and Monitoring

**EMERGING PRIORITIES**

- Develop general *climate adaptation principles* that could be applied locally
- Determine *resilience thresholds* for a variety of ecosystems
- Estimate the cascading effects and negative *synergies of multiple threats*
- Assess the impact of climate change on *large-scale migration patterns*
Research and Monitoring

Discussion questions:

• What are the most urgent climate-related research and monitoring needs in your protected areas?

• Who are some potential partners and collaborators for research and monitoring on climate issues in your region?
Developing a PA climate resilience plan

- Capacity needs assessments
- Management planning
- Threat assessments
- Restoration plans
- Participation and benefits
- Management effectiveness
- Research and monitoring

PA climate resilience and adaptation plan
Exercise

1. Country:

2. Description of strategy:

3. Proposed national target/s:

4. Potential indicators:
Exercise

1. **Country**: Tanzania

2. **Description of strategy**: Strengthen capacity of protected area staff to manage forests for water supplies under climate scenarios

3. **Proposed national target/s**: By 2015, Tanzania’s protected area staff are fully equipped to manage Tanzanian protected areas under various climate scenarios

4. **Potential indicators**: Number of staff trained in climate-adaptation techniques for forest management
Exercise

1. **Country**: Botswana

2. **Description of strategy**: Improve management planning for climate resilience

3. **Proposed national target/s**: By 2015, Botswana has a climate resilience plan for every protected area

4. **Potential indicators**: Percent of protected areas with climate-ready management plans
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Identify at least one strategy that is relevant for your country.
2. Using the template, describe your strategy.
3. Next, develop national targets and indicators based on the strategy or strategies that you have chosen.
4. Post your strategies, targets and indicators on the wall.

D'identifier au moins une stratégie qui est pertinente pour votre pays.
2. En utilisant le modèle, décrivez votre stratégie.
3. Ensuite, élaborer des cibles et des indicateurs nationaux basés sur la stratégie ou les stratégies que vous avez choisi.
4. Message vos stratégies, objectifs et indicateurs sur le mur.