



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/40
5 April 2016

ENGLISH/FRENCH/SPANISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twentieth meeting

Montreal, Canada, 25-30 April 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**RESPONDING TO DECISION XI/24 WELCOMING THE IUCN WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS 2014 AND INVITING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE FULL SCOPE OF AICHI
BIODIVERSITY TARGET 11**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a report prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. The Conference of the Parties, in decision XI/24, welcomed the 2014 World Parks Congress, organized in Sydney, Australia, by IUCN. The 2014 World Parks Congress is relevant to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular with regard to implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.
3. The report is presented in the form and languages in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1/Rev.1.



**Responding to Decision XI/24 welcoming the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014
and inviting the further development of technical guidance towards achieving
the full scope of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11**

In CBD Decision XI/24, the COP welcomed the organization of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 by IUCN and the Government of Australia. It also invited IUCN, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other partners, in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to report progress, develop technical guidance and build capacity towards achieving the full scope of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. It highlighted the need to increase the representativeness of the protected area estate, including areas of particular importance for biodiversity, and to ensure its effective and equitable management, inclusive of diversified types of governance for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. IUCN has taken several initiatives to fulfil this mandate and continues to provide support for enhanced implementation. The main initiatives led by IUCN and partners and covered in this note include:

- (i) The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014
- (ii) Developing Technical Capacity and Guidance for Parties to support implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- (iii) The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas
- (iv) Task Force on “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures”

1. The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 (WPC)

The WPC was convened in Sydney, Australia, from 12-19 November 2014 by IUCN and the Government of Australia, attended by over 6000 participants from 160 countries. The Promise of Sydney captures the main outcomes of the WPC, which comprise four components: (i) a Vision, (ii) Recommendations on Innovative Approaches for Accelerating Implementation emanating from the 8 congress themes and 4 cross-cutting themes, (iv) an online platform of Inspiring Solutions reflecting case studies presented at the Congress, and (iv) a suite of Commitments made by national governments to scale up implementation. The Vision is appended in English, Spanish and French versions for the information of Parties. Following the WPC, the IUCN Council adopted the Promise of Sydney at a meeting of the IUCN Council in May 2015, effectively embracing it as part of IUCN’s ongoing programme, and undertaking to monitor the commitments made by the many organisations to accelerate implementation.

1.1 The Promise of Sydney

The **Promise of Sydney Vision** highlighted the need to:

- Invigorate efforts to ensure that protected areas do not regress but rather progress, to scale up protection in landscapes, wetlands and seascapes to represent all sites essential for the conservation of nature, especially in the oceans, and involve all of those who conserve.
- Inspire all people, across generations, geography and cultures, and especially the world's expanding cities, to experience the wonder of nature through protected areas, to engage their hearts and minds and engender a life-long association for physical, psychological, ecological, and spiritual well-being; and to
- Invest in nature's solutions, supported by public policy, incentives, tools and safeguards that help to halt biodiversity loss, mitigate and respond to climate change, reduce the risk and impact of disasters, improve food and water security, and promote human health and dignity.

1.2 Innovative Approaches

The main purpose of the Promise of Sydney is to demonstrate and accelerate efforts to achieve conservation targets embedded in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including through the identification and replication of successful approaches.

Organised across 8 streams and 4 cross-cutting themes, the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 contemplated a number of completely new topics corresponding to some of the greatest challenges faced by society today, to combat the loss of biodiversity and ensure that nature continues to provide solutions to human and planetary well-being. A summary of the recommendations emanating from the WPC is given below. The full suite of recommendations is available per stream and cross-cutting theme in English, French and Spanish at www.worldparkscongress.org.

IUCN and WCPA are giving attention to the ways in which these recommendations can be further considered and taken up into relevant programmes and activities across the Union. Parties are invited to consider these recommendations for application in their own spheres of work.

1. Reaching conservation goals

Recommendations:

- Protected areas must progress, not regress: a step increase is necessary in the scale of protected area investment to deliver conservation goals.
- Protected areas must be established in the right places: those where they prevent extinction and reduce biodiversity loss.
- Protected area quality is more important than percentage targets: protected areas need to be effective (see IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas below).
- Protected area establishment, and its documentation, must broaden from public protected areas: it should also include areas conserved by private, indigenous peoples, and local communities.
- Protected areas will require increased capacity to address novel threats: climate change, wildlife crime, invasive species, and disease.

2. Responding to climate change

Recommendations:

- Countries should bring into the UNFCCC process and COP21 in 2015 outcome the full recognition of biodiversity, ecosystems and particularly protected areas as key to enable countries to adapt and mitigate to climate change.

- All countries should mainstream the concept of “Protected areas as natural solutions to climate change” into national development plans, communication and financial strategies, for natural and social resilience.
- Governments and relevant stakeholders should enhance adaptation and mitigation strategies within and outside protected area boundaries through carbon management, long term monitoring, and integrated landscape connectivity.
- Protected areas must actively engage new thinking in planning and management to ensure equitable participation from society, including youth, women and indigenous and local communities, building on traditional knowledge and working together in finding solutions to climate change.
- Protected areas should adopt and apply innovative, appropriate, and context-specific adaptation measures to ensure that in the face of transformative climatic change they can continue providing the full array of values, functions, and services for people and nature, including climate protection and disaster risk reduction.
- New partnerships must be formed and strengthened within and beyond national boundaries to protect and connect landscapes and seascapes as they transform and adapt to climate; we especially must support coalitions in the polar regions, such as the Arctic Council and the Antarctic Treaty System because these areas are experiencing rapid change.

3. Improving health and well-being

Recommendations:

- Build the evidence for the health and nature connection, and learn from the multidimensional approaches of indigenous and local communities, involving traditional knowledge and practices.
- Strengthen policies to promote nature’s role in health and well-being and address the universal right to nature for health, including inclusive access to nature.
- Integrate the preventative health contribution made by protected areas, including urban parks, into all development planning and accounting processes.
- Revitalize the establishment, governance and management of marine and terrestrial protected areas, including urban parks, to improve biodiversity and maximize human health and well-being outcomes.
- Build capacity across the health and protected area sectors.
- Use innovative mechanisms to connect children to protected areas to improve their health and well-being.

4. Supporting human life

Recommendations:

- Develop the evidence to powerfully demonstrate the value and contributions of protected area ecosystem services to all audiences, and involving all sectors of society.
- Strengthen land, water and marine spatial planning to enhance the role and impact of protected areas in national food and water security and for enhancing local livelihoods.
- Apply a rights-based approach to conservation and natural resource management in protected area systems, leading to equitable and secure access to natural resources.
- Identify legal, institutional and social factors that can optimize the synergy between PA management and food and water security and disaster risk management.
- Promote the conservation and management of freshwater ecosystems and enable civil society in water governance.
- Build strong evidence, policy and practical advice for applying ecosystem-based disaster-risk reduction.

5. Reconciling development challenges

Recommendations:

- Promote the fundamental role of PAs in delivering sustainable development goals, and anchor PAs in environment, governance and land-use planning frameworks.
- Integrate PA values into economic accounting, and measure, account, and report on development and human well-being.
- Better understand PA financing needs and move towards long-term sustainable financing.
- Establish and employ social and environmental safeguards to enable assessment of trade-offs and risks for PAs and communities.
- Apply spatial planning regulation to sustain ecological processes, so that PAs can deliver on conservation goals and development challenges
- Work with such intensive land and sea-use industries to deploy sustainability standards.
- Update the design, management and governance of protected areas to consider a wide array of social and economic benefits, and to build constituency and political will for protected areas.

6. Enhancing governance diversity, quality and vitality

Recommendations:

- Enhance governance for the conservation of nature, and develop stronger and more supportive legal and policy frameworks, including better integration of customary law.
- Fully recognize and support voluntary conservation practices of indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners, etc. for both protected and conserved areas.
- Strengthen the implementation of existing policies and agreements relevant for governance, as well as agreements to respect procedural and substantive human rights.
- Set clear limits to patterns of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources via relevant non-regression principles and “No Go” policies to prevent damage from industrial and extractive activities.
- Advance the “governance frontier” towards action on humanity’s most urgent agenda: moving away from growth-based development models towards more sustainable, equitable and satisfying economies and societies.

7. Respecting Indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture

Recommendations:

- Recognize, strengthen, and appropriately support the collective land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their lands and seas, and expand IUCN categories and governance types to fully take into account indigenous territories management.
- Co-create programmes with the full consent and involvement of traditional knowledge holders for the respectful application and maintenance of traditional knowledge and customary governance systems, including for addressing challenges like climate change.
- Fully observe rights and governance systems and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in the creation, designation and management of protected areas, and in redress mechanisms.
- Integrate natural and cultural aspects for PA and World Heritage Site designations and ensure conservation of natural and biocultural heritage and knowledge systems.

- Create formal educational opportunities to recognize and include Indigenous cultural skills and capacities.

8. Inspiring a new generation

Recommendations:

- Launch a programme (Nature for All) to connect young people, urban communities and other groups to nature, contributing to the achievement of CBD Aichi Targets 1 & 11.
- Adopt organizational policy, strategy, communication and action planning aimed at facilitating youth, urban dwellers, multi-cultural groups, and other new audiences to engage with nature and parks.
- Establish a global framework of metrics to measure and evaluate increasing youth and public engagement in PAs and its impact on health, education, and conservation.
- Put in place programmes that ensure all children have at least one transformational experience in protected areas and nature at an early age (a human right to nature?).
- Operationalize and scale up networking platforms and social media and other mechanisms for connecting people with nature.
- Empower young people to be current and future leaders.

Cross-cutting theme on Marine Conservation

Recommendations

- Urgently increase the ocean area that is effectively and equitably managed in ecologically representative and well-connected systems of MPAs or other effective conservation measures.
- Integrate marine protected areas into the broader seascape and landscape through large-scale marine management initiatives.
- Protect and manage biodiversity in the high seas, including the seabed, by developing, adopting and bringing into force an international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and through regional efforts.
- Collaborate to detect and prevent illegal fishing and other illegal activities at sea, with a focus on MPAs as the front line in this effort.
- Apply and improve environmental standards and transparency in supply chains that influence the oceans.

Cross-cutting theme on World Heritage

Recommendations:

- World Heritage Sites must serve as models for integrated, effective, equitable and enduring natural and cultural conservation,
- Sites must have a good and improving Outlook and resilience in the face of global change,
- Achieve a credible World Heritage List by nomination of only the best sites that fill the few remaining gaps
- Restore the credibility and integrity of the World Heritage Convention by ensuring that decisions are driven by science and objectivity.
- Increase the engagement of civil society, local communities, indigenous peoples and religious groups in the World Heritage Convention, in accordance with a rights-based approach.

- Emphasize that impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Sites may not be compensated by offsets.

Cross-cutting theme on Capacity Development

Recommendations:

- Advance a Road Map for Capacity Development that will guide the development of capacity at different levels to enable and support the transformational change required to mainstream protected areas into greater societal goals.
- Advance new partnerships and strong commitments for implementation, by working with the donor community to establish strategies for project design and funding that foster long term, locally owned and sustainable forms of capacity development; reaching out to other sectors to exchange experience and know-how in capacity development; and promoting the adoption of minimum standards and innovations across PA entities.
- Promote and support professional recognition of protected area managers, stewards and custodians from all types of PAs 'professionals' through systems and tools for professionalization that strengthen performance in PA management through competent individuals and effective organizations.
- Promote and support an accessible diversity of suitable learning approaches, techniques, tools materials and support mechanisms (reaching far beyond training) to support long-term capacity development for individuals and organizations across all protected area categories and governance types, including indigenous and community-conserved areas.
- Develop a standard, globally relevant system for measuring and assessing capacity development in terms of input, reaction, learning, behaviour change and impact.

Cross-cutting theme on Fostering a New Social Compact

Recommendations:

- Incorporate facilitated dialogues at the core of deliberations on critical complex challenges facing conservation.
- Embrace a new ethic that is just, equitable, reciprocal and respectful, linking biological and social-cultural issues.
- Develop a "rapid response" redress mechanism for people impacted by protected areas.
- Co-produce western scientific and traditional knowledge, working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and ensure greater equity when dealing with gender, youth and especially the involvement of women in conservation decisions.
- Take a firm and vocal stance against development activities that are destroying nature and communities, or are opposed by local traditional owners and custodians or that threaten Sacred Natural Sites and Territories.
- Sound the alarm and provide active leadership regarding the global biodiversity crisis including through a discussion of the root causes of the loss of cultural and biological diversity, landscape fragmentation, climate change and instability, and the unequal distribution of costs and benefits of these changes.

These recommendations emanating from the deliberations at the WPC provide a collective view of approaches and proposals that Parties may choose to apply in relevant circumstances. IUCN, including through its Secretariat and Commission-led programmes is identifying priority activities to be incorporated into the IUCN Programme 2017-2020 and in support of the implementation of the PoWPA and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

1.3 Commitments made by governments and other organisations to implement the Promise of Sydney

In response to IUCN's call for commitments to accelerate action, 57 separate commitments were registered at the World Parks Congress for countries and implementing partners to invest further in the achievement of protected area goals. These commitments are registered at:

http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney_commitments.html

The commitments represent bold pledges that will help accelerate implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets, including especially, Target 11 on Protected Areas. Many governments, having made these commitments, are following through with fulfilling their promises. For example, the countries involved in Redparques, the regional network of 18 protected area agencies in Central and South America, lodged and delivered a commitment to expand protected area systems as part of their contributions to addressing climate change at the Climate Conference in Paris in December 2015.

http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/final_infographic_declaration.pdf

Similarly, the Government of Palau, having announced its commitment at the WPC to declare protection of the entire Exclusive Economic Zone of that country, followed through in October 2015 by declaring one of the world's five largest marine protected areas, with an area of 500,000 km².

1.4 Panorama - a platform of Inspiring Solutions for Protected Areas

Supported by UNDP-GEF through a medium-sized project, IUCN has established an electronic platform of Inspiring Protected Area Solutions labelled 'Panorama' to ensure that lessons are learned from the most promising work in the field that can help build capacity and guide implementation. The platform contains a growing suite of case studies that are designed to unpack the elements that make each successful, to enable better understanding and application of similar approaches in other sites and in more general application (transferability and scaling). Working with several partners, including GIZ, UNEP and GRID-Arendal, IUCN has also collated a suite of "Blue Solutions" that address marine and coastal conservation issues, and is currently expanding the platform to be appropriate for a range of user groups and applications. The Platform is designed to be one of the enduring products of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, enabling the continuous capture and dissemination of innovative approaches that have achieved success and learning for enhanced implementation. The platform can be accessed at this link: www.panorama.solutions, through <http://bluesolutions.info/exchange/>

2. Developing capacity and guidance for Parties for enhanced implementation of PoWPA and Aichi Target 11

IUCN, together with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other partners has advanced efforts to provide technical guidance to protected area managers on key topics pertinent to the implementation of the PoWPA and the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, where protected areas must play significant roles. Among these, IUCN has published Best Practice Guidelines in conjunction with the CBD Secretariat, on:

- Ecological Restoration for Protected Areas (supported by Parks Canada and the Ecological Society for Restoration and published in English and French);

- Governance for Protected Areas (supported by the German Government and the EC-funded BIOPAMA project, and now published in English, French, Spanish and Chinese);
- Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories, including for Marine Protected Areas;
- Urban Conservation (supported by the Korea National Park Service);
- Safe Havens: Protected Areas for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (supported by the Government of Japan);
- Transboundary Conservation (supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the MAVA Foundation);
- The Futures of Privately Protected Areas (supported by the Linden Trust for Conservation).

These and other Best Practice Guidelines are all available online at the IUCN website at:

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/

There are several initiatives currently underway to provide further guidance and support for:

- Protected Areas and Climate Change;
- Protected Areas and Tourism;
- Protected Areas and Human Health and Well-being;
- Capacity Development, including new competency standards for PA professionals;
- Guidance on criteria for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures;
- Large-scale marine areas;
- Connectivity Conservation Standards and Guidelines.

IUCN WCPA continues to publish **PARKS: The International Journal of Protected Areas** and Conservation. It is published twice a year as an online, open-access and peer reviewed journal, available at www.parksjournal.org.

IUCN has also provided expert technical support to the first four CBD-led Regional Capacity Building Workshops for achieving Aichi Targets 11 and 12, including for East Asia, Central and South Asia, Latin America and Africa regions, and has facilitated the identification of priority action plans for each country in each region. In each workshop, IUCN has helped participants identify a suite of capacity development and enabling actions that will inform IUCN WCPA and partners of the priority needs for education and training. In each workshop, participants have discussed the outcomes and directions of the IUCN World Parks Congress of relevance to their region. Particular emphasis has been given to better understanding and applying protected area governance and equity assessments, to furthering protected area quality standards through the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (see below), and to ensuring that protected areas are mainstreamed into issues in the wider landscape and seascape, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Aichi Target 11 calls for the inclusion of “especially areas of particular importance for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services”. To this end, IUCN has developed a new standard for “Key Biodiversity Areas” to be adopted by the IUCN Council during 2016. The attention of Parties is drawn to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/10 which describes the process for identifying Key Biodiversity Areas.

Aichi Target 11 calls for protected areas to be “integrated into the wider landscape and seascape”. With support from the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety’s International Climate Initiative, IUCN is:

- (1) Investigating approaches for mainstreaming biodiversity and climate change into spatial planning frameworks, through working at a global level and with Tanzania, Zambia, Colombia and Vietnam. This involves understanding spatial planning laws and institutions and how these can be better integrated and coordinated, evidenced by case studies involving protected areas in landscapes in each country.
- (2) Exploring “Protected area solutions for biodiversity and climate change: achieving quality elements of Aichi Target 11 in support of implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas”. This includes the ongoing development and implementation of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, to encourage partner countries to focus efforts on improving the performance of their protected area estate.
- (3) Working with GIZ and partners in a “Blue Solutions” project that explores ways in which protected areas can contribute to responses for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as disaster risk-reduction in marine and coastal contexts. These case studies are also accessible on the <http://bluesolutions.info/exchange/>

More generally, IUCN continues to expand its Capacity Development Initiative to professionalize protected area management and governance. With support from the European Union’s Africa/Pacific and Caribbean Secretariat-funded BIOPAMA programme, IUCN is working in 4 regions to diagnose the information and capacity-development requirements for enhanced management and governance of protected areas, and to develop regional reference information systems to support better decision-making. Associated with the roll-out of the recommendations of the World Parks Congress on Capacity Development, the work has defined the professional competences required of PA professionals, the body of knowledge that is required to be incorporated in curricula for education and training, and continues to develop resources to support learning. One of these resources developed by IUCN WCPA and published by the Australian National University, with support by BIOPAMA is the new compendium textbook on “Governance and Management of Protected Areas”, freely available for download at: <http://press.anu.edu.au?p=312491>

3. The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (“effectively and equitably managed areas”)

IUCN is developing and testing a new international standard for measuring the performance of protected and conserved areas, and hence the achievement of the quality elements of Aichi Target 11. Building and incentivising action on the CBD’s requirement to conduct management effectiveness assessment, there has been extensive discussion on the criteria that will validate biodiversity and social outcomes of protected areas, in an objective and independently assured manner.

Using an interim Green List standard, IUCN piloted the application of the Green List in eight partner countries during 2014, recognizing 24 ‘Green List’ areas at a launch event at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. In 2015, lessons learned were incorporated into a revised standard and theory of change to be applied in the second phase starting in 2016. A large number of Parties have expressed interest in applying the Green List standard as part of addressing their obligations in demonstrating achievement of the PoWPA and Aichi Target 11. It is expected that IUCN will continue to develop this standard for consideration as an internationally agreed definition of effective and equitable management measured at the level of impact and outcomes for protected area sites and systems.

The goal of ‘green listing’ is to encourage investment in the capacity of protected and conserved areas to deliver conservation results for people and nature. Through the green listing process, the

focus of effort is on improving the performance of individual areas, and then to recognize those successful achievers through 'green listing' sites that demonstrate progress against all the standard criteria.

A more comprehensive description of the new standard is being finalised in the second quarter of 2016 and approved by IUCN. Mandated by a resolution of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012 in Jeju, South Korea, IUCN has been preparing the new IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. In brief summary, it is:

- a **voluntary** commitment by countries and their protected area agencies to evaluate the performance of protected areas
- a **global standard** for measuring conservation success in terms of both biodiversity and social outcomes
- **adaptable** to the local context, but based on a clear internationally agreed standard
- an incentive measure that builds on the outcomes of management effectiveness assessment
- based on a **credible**, and independently assured evaluation procedure
- intended to provide **global recognition** for protected areas and their staff in achieving high standards of performance and outcomes.

As such, the Green List offers an important element to measure and report on the quality components of Aichi Target 11 and the global commitments made by parties to the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The Green List assessment builds on available evidence, stakeholder support, and expert judgement. It is not in itself an assessment tool, but is a global standard and verification process.

The key steps in developing candidate sites for listing include the establishment in each country or jurisdiction of an Expert Assessment Group (EAGL). These are the local experts in several fields relating to protected and conserved areas. The individuals committing time to the EAGL are professionals and are invited to join the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. The EAGL group works with IUCN to adapt the Green List Standard to the local context for their jurisdiction. It also provides the main evaluation of candidate sites against the Green List Standard.

Protected and Conserved areas then register with the Green List network, making a commitment to use the Green List standard, and seek to become candidate sites for the Green List. Assigned, and well-informed 'mentors' are organized to encourage the area to begin putting in place the measures needed to achieve the Standard.

Candidate sites work to develop full nominations, which are evaluated by the EAGL against the Adapted Green List Standard, and are independently verified by a Reviewer appointed by an independent assurance provider (Accreditation Services International, ASI). Qualifying candidate sites are then presented to IUCN's Green List Panel for review, followed which they are listed. Sites that do not meet the standard are maintained as candidates so that specifically identified measures can be undertaken to address the performance issues that have been identified.

In keeping with the development of the Green List as a 'sustainability standard', IUCN is following the code of best practice presented by the ISEAL Alliance, to which IUCN is a subscriber. <http://www.isealalliance.org/our-work/defining-credibility/codes-of-good-practice/standard-setting-code>

4. Task Force on “Other effective area-based conservation measures”

In response to CBD Decision XI/24 (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/24), IUCN WCPA established a Task Force on “Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures” with a view to providing guidance to Parties to the CBD on this topic. The Task Force has over seventy members drawn from a wide range of expertise within and beyond the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Supported by Swiss Development Cooperation, it convened a meeting of experts at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge from 20-22 January 2016 to discuss the criteria for distinguishing areas that could be described as “other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM)” as a first contribution towards developing substantive guidance and issues that require further debate and discussion.

Developing guidance on OECMs is complex. IUCN’s definition of a protected area includes all of those sites designated as protected areas in terms of national and international legislation, but would also cover many sites that may not be recognised currently by governments, or where the custodians or owners of the areas do not desire government recognition. Among these are many privately protected areas, as well as areas and territories conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Guidance to Parties will consider how appropriate recognition can be given to these sites, and how reporting on OECMs can be conducted. Potential OECM sites might also include other areas that provide effective conservation outcomes but do not have a primary objective of conservation (as per the IUCN definition), and the Task Force will explore the benefits of including particular types of such areas.

Better definition of terrestrial and marine OECMs will be important for enhancing ecological representation in the global protected area network and for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ensuring ecological connectivity and providing ecosystem services. Measures of effectiveness (the key variable), permanence, management and monitoring all require further discussion and guidance. It was agreed that a Side Event would be hosted at SBSTTA 20 to inform Parties, a second meeting of experts will be held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm in July, supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and Swiss Development Cooperation. Draft guidance will be circulated to Parties in advance of COP-13 to facilitate further discussion on key issues arising from the work of the Task Force.

Further contact details

For further information on any of the matters raised in this information document, please contact:

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The Promise of Sydney Vision

Over 6,000 participants from 160 countries met at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 in Sydney, Australia. Acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we met, we celebrated an enormous variety of inspiring ways of addressing the challenges facing the planet, through protected area approaches that respect and conserve nature, while benefitting human health and prosperity. We recognized that rebalancing the relationship between human society and nature is essential, and that ecosystems and their variety of life fully support our existence, cultural and spiritual identity, economies and well-being.

We celebrate the expansion and improved governance and management of protected and conserved areas around the world, and the leadership and initiatives of many regions, including the first ever Asia Parks Congress, since we met in Durban in 2003. In particular, we laud the establishment of new marine protected areas, as healthy oceans are critical to life on earth and must be protected at much greater scale. We acknowledge the increasing role of Indigenous Peoples', community, and privately-conserved areas and territories in reaching biodiversity conservation and societal goals, and the opportunities presented by new communication and other technologies to better understand and engage new constituencies, including young people in the world's rapidly expanding cities. We commend numerous improvements of corporate practice, and the many success stories and varied partnerships across sectors for nature conservation and sustainability.

Despite these advances, we recognize that threats to nature, its biological diversity and protected areas are now at the highest level in human history, due to a convergence at immense scale of the impacts of human consumption patterns, population growth, and industrial activity. Many protected and conserved areas are at risk or are poorly managed, and many rangers on the frontline have sacrificed everything for this cause. This reality must be faced directly, truthfully, and collaboratively. Bold vision and concerted action are required if we are to meet both conservation goals and human aspirations for current and future generations. There is no time to lose.

We, therefore:

Promise to **INVIGORATE** ... our efforts to ensure that protected areas do not regress but rather progress. We will scale up protection in landscapes, wetlands and seascapes to represent all sites essential for the conservation of nature, especially in the oceans. We will enhance diversity, quality and vitality in governance and management, including the appropriate recognition and support of areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and private entities. We will strive to promote sustainable land-uses and eliminate activities and policies that degrade, threaten or result in extinction or the loss of ecosystems and their biodiversity, including the rampant illegal wildlife

trade and the impact of invasive alien species. We will recognize, respect, resource and support our frontline staff to do their often dangerous but always critical work.

Promise to **INSPIRE** ... all people, across generations, geography and cultures to experience the wonder of nature through protected areas, to engage their hearts and minds and engender a life-long association for physical, psychological, ecological, and spiritual well-being. We will motivate and engage a new generation of urban and rural communities, as an essential investment in the future of sustainability on the planet, and in the quality of life of people everywhere. Further, by working in partnership with and recognizing the long traditions and knowledge, collective rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to land, water, natural resource and culture, we will seek to redress and remedy past and continuing injustices in accord with international agreements.

Promise to **INVEST**... in nature's solutions, supported by public policy, incentives, tools and safeguards that help to halt biodiversity loss, mitigate and respond to climate change, reduce the risk and impact of disasters, improve food and water security, and promote human health and dignity. We will work to enable protected and conserved areas and their stewards to design and monitor effective, evidence-based and culturally appropriate responses to these challenges and to provide a compelling case for increased recognition, incentives, capacity and direct funding. We will encourage regional learning networks and initiatives that support these aims. We will collaborate with new partners to promote sustainable and equitable economies that respect planetary boundaries and social justice.



Notre Vision – La Promesse de Sydney

Plus de 6000 participants de 160 pays se sont réunis au Congrès mondial sur les parcs 2014 de l’UICN, à Sydney, Australie. Saluant les propriétaires traditionnels de la terre où nous nous sommes retrouvés, nous avons célébré l’incroyable diversité des chemins inspirants suivis pour faire face aux enjeux planétaires, à travers des concepts d’aires protégées qui respectent et conservent la nature tout en profitant à la santé et à la prospérité de l’humanité. Nous affirmons que rééquilibrer les relations entre la société humaine et la nature est essentiel et que les écosystèmes, avec toute la diversité de la vie qu’ils abritent, soutiennent notre existence, notre identité culturelle et spirituelle, nos économies et notre bien-être.

Nous célébrons l’expansion mais aussi la gouvernance et la gestion améliorées des aires protégées et conservées du monde entier, le leadership et les initiatives de nombreuses régions, tel le premier congrès sur les parcs d’Asie, depuis le Congrès de Durban, en 2003. Nous applaudissons en particulier la création de nouvelles aires marines protégées car des océans en bonne santé ont une importance critique pour la vie sur terre et doivent être protégés à bien plus grande échelle. Nous saluons le rôle grandissant des aires et territoires conservés par des peuples autochtones, des communautés et des entités privées pour atteindre les objectifs de la société et de la conservation de la biodiversité, ainsi que les possibilités offertes par les nouvelles technologies, notamment de communication, pour mieux comprendre et attirer de nouveaux publics, y compris les jeunes des villes en pleine croissance. Nous louons les améliorations nombreuses des pratiques des entreprises et les multiples succès et partenariats variés à travers tous les secteurs, pour la conservation de la nature et la durabilité.

Malgré tous ces progrès, nous constatons qu’en raison d’une énorme convergence entre les effets de nos modes de consommation, de la croissance démographique et de l’activité industrielle, les aires protégées n’ont jamais été plus menacées dans toute l’histoire de l’humanité. Maintes aires protégées et conservées sont en danger ou mal gérées et beaucoup de rangers, luttant en première ligne, ont tout sacrifié à leur cause. Cette réalité doit être confrontée directement, franchement et collectivement. Il faut agir avec audace et de concert si nous voulons atteindre les objectifs de conservation et répondre aux attentes de l’humanité pour les générations présentes et à venir. Il n’y a pas de temps à perdre.

C’est pourquoi, nous faisons:

La Promesse de DYNAMISER ... nos efforts pour que les aires protégées ne régressent pas mais progressent. Nous renforcerons la protection des paysages terrestres, des zones humides et des paysages marins pour inclure tous les sites essentiels pour la conservation de la nature, en particulier dans les océans. Nous améliorerons la diversité, la qualité et la vitalité de la gouvernance

et de la gestion, y compris par la reconnaissance et le soutien appropriés des aires conservées par des peuples autochtones, des communautés locales et des entités privées. Nous lutterons pour promouvoir les utilisations durables des terres et éliminer les activités et les politiques qui dégradent, menacent ou causent l'extinction ou la perte des écosystèmes et de leur biodiversité, notamment le commerce illégal effréné des espèces sauvages et les effets des espèces exotiques envahissantes. Nous reconnaitrons, respecterons, équiperons et soutiendrons notre personnel qui accomplit, aux avant-postes, un travail souvent dangereux mais toujours crucial.

La Promesse d'INSPIRER ... tous les êtres humains, de toutes les générations, de tous les horizons et de toutes les cultures pour les engager à faire l'expérience des merveilles de la nature dans les aires protégées, à ouvrir leur cœur et leur esprit et à nouer des liens de toute une vie pour le bien-être physique, psychologique, écologique et spirituel. Nous motiverons et encouragerons l'engagement d'une nouvelle génération de communautés urbaines et rurales, comme investissement essentiel dans l'avenir durable sur la planète et dans la qualité de la vie de tous, partout. En partenariat avec les peuples autochtones et les communautés locales et en reconnaissant leurs longues traditions et leur savoir, leurs droits collectifs et leurs responsabilités vis-à-vis de la terre, de l'eau, des ressources naturelles et de la culture, nous chercherons à réparer et corriger les injustices passées et présentes, dans le respect des accords internationaux.

La Promesse d'INVESTIR... dans les solutions de la nature, soutenues par des politiques publiques, des incitations, des outils et des garanties qui aideront à mettre un terme à la perte de biodiversité, à atténuer le changement climatique et à y réagir, à prévenir les risques et réduire les impacts des catastrophes, à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et de l'eau et à promouvoir la santé humaine et la dignité. Nous nous efforcerons de permettre aux aires protégées et conservées et à leurs gestionnaires de concevoir et surveiller des moyens efficaces, fondés sur des faits et culturellement appropriés, de relever ces défis, et de convaincre de la nécessité d'accroître la reconnaissance, les incitations, les capacités et le financement direct. Nous encouragerons les initiatives et réseaux d'apprentissage qui soutiennent ces objectifs. Nous collaborerons avec de nouveaux partenaires pour promouvoir des économies durables et équitables qui respectent les limites de la planète et la justice sociale.



La Promesa de Sídney: Visión

Más de 6000 participantes de 160 países se reunieron en el Congreso Mundial de Parques 2014 de la UICN en Sídney, Australia. Al tiempo que reconocimos a los custodios tradicionales de la tierra donde nos reunimos, celebramos una enorme variedad de formas inspiradoras de responder a los retos que enfrenta nuestro planeta, por medio de enfoques de áreas protegidas que respetan y conservan la naturaleza a la vez que benefician la salud y bienestar humano. Reconocimos que es fundamental reencontrar el equilibrio en la relación entre la sociedad humana y la naturaleza, y que los ecosistemas y la variedad de vida que encierran son indispensables para nuestra existencia, identidad cultural y espiritual, economías y bienestar.

Celebramos de manera entusiasta el incremento, así como la gobernanza y gestión mejoradas, de las áreas protegidas y conservadas alrededor del mundo desde que nos reunimos en Durban en el 2003, lo mismo que el liderazgo y las iniciativas de muchas regiones, incluyendo el primer Congreso de Parques del Asia en la historia. En particular, recibimos con beneplácito el establecimiento de nuevas áreas marinas protegidas, ya que los océanos saludables son fundamentales para la vida sobre la tierra y deben ser protegidos a mucha mayor escala. Reconocemos el creciente papel que juegan las áreas y territorios conservados por pueblos indígenas, comunidades y entidades privadas para poder alcanzar los objetivos sociales y de conservación de la biodiversidad, así como las oportunidades que presentan las nuevas tecnologías de comunicación y otras para comprender mejor y reclutar nuevos constituyentes, incluyendo a jóvenes de las ciudades en rápido crecimiento alrededor del mundo. Aplaudimos las numerosas mejoras en prácticas corporativas, así como las variadas historias de éxito y diversas alianzas intersectoriales logradas en pos de la conservación de la naturaleza y la sostenibilidad.

A pesar de estos avances, reconocemos que las amenazas a la naturaleza, su diversidad biológica y las áreas protegidas han alcanzado su nivel más alto en la historia, debido a la convergencia a inmensa escala de los patrones de consumo humano, el crecimiento de la población y la actividad industrial. Muchas áreas protegidas y conservadas se encuentran en riesgo o son víctimas de una mala gestión, y muchos de los custodios de áreas en la primera línea de campo lo han sacrificado todo por esta causa. Es necesario enfrentar esta realidad en forma directa, veraz y colaborativa. Requerimos de una visión valiente y una acción concertada si queremos alcanzar tanto los objetivos de conservación como las aspiraciones humanas de las generaciones presentes y futuras. No hay tiempo que perder.

Por lo tanto, nosotros:

Prometemos VIGORIZAR... nuestros esfuerzos para garantizar que las áreas protegidas no retrocedan sino que avancen. Aumentaremos la protección de paisajes terrestres, humedales y paisajes marinos para asegurar la representación de todos los sitios esenciales para la conservación

de la naturaleza, especialmente los océanos. Mejoraremos la diversidad, calidad y vitalidad de la gobernanza y la gestión, incluyendo un reconocimiento y apoyo apropiados a las áreas conservadas por pueblos indígenas, comunidades locales y entidades privadas. Nos esforzaremos por promover los usos sostenibles de la tierra y eliminar las actividades y políticas que degradan, amenazan o producen la extinción o la pérdida de los ecosistemas y su biodiversidad, incluyendo el desenfrenado comercio ilegal de vida silvestre y el impacto de especies exóticas invasoras. Reconoceremos, respetaremos, aportaremos recursos y apoyaremos a nuestro personal de primera línea en el campo para que puedan llevar a cabo su trabajo, a menudo peligroso pero siempre decisivo.

Prometemos INSPIRAR... a toda la gente, de todas las generaciones, geografías y culturas, para que experimenten la maravilla de la naturaleza por medio de las áreas protegidas, para seducir sus mentes y sus corazones y generar una asociación de por vida para su bienestar físico, psicológico, ecológico y espiritual. Motivaremos y reclutaremos a las nuevas generaciones de las comunidades urbanas y rurales, como una inversión en el futuro de la sostenibilidad en el planeta, y en la calidad de vida de la gente en todas partes. Más allá de esto, trabajando en alianza con y reconociendo la larga tradición y conocimiento, los derechos colectivos y las responsabilidades de los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales en relación con la tierra, el agua, los recursos naturales y la cultura, trataremos de rectificar y remediar las injusticias pasadas y presentes en cumplimiento de los acuerdos internacionales.

Prometemos INVERTIR... en las soluciones de la naturaleza, con el apoyo de políticas públicas, incentivos, herramientas y garantías que ayuden a detener la pérdida de biodiversidad, mitigar y responder al cambio climático, reducir el riesgo y el impacto de los desastres, mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y de suministro de agua, y promover la salud y dignidad humanas. Trabajaremos para permitir que las áreas protegidas y conservadas, así como sus custodios, puedan diseñar y controlar respuestas eficaces, basadas en la evidencia y culturalmente apropiadas para esos retos, y para presentar una defensa irresistible de la necesidad de un mayor reconocimiento, incentivos, capacidad y financiamiento directos. Estimularemos las redes regionales de aprendizaje y las iniciativas que apoyan estos objetivos. Colaboraremos con nuevos socios para promover economías sostenibles y equitativas que respetan los límites planetarios y la justicia social.