

Cultural and Spiritual values of Protected Areas Priority Activities

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*Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of
Protected Areas*

**WCPA Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday 7th of April 2011**



Cultural and Spiritual Values
of Protected Areas

www.csvpa.org
Specialist Group of IUCN WCPA



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS



Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas CSVPA

CSVPA is a global network of 100 voluntary members since 1997



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Current issues:

- 1. Inter Commission Task Force on Culture and Conservation**
 - Not active/funding
- 2. Working Group on Culture and Conservation (FFI)**
 - World Heritage
 - Other themes
- 3. Sacred Natural Sites Initiative**



Sacred Natural Sites

Best Practice Guidelines for PA Managers

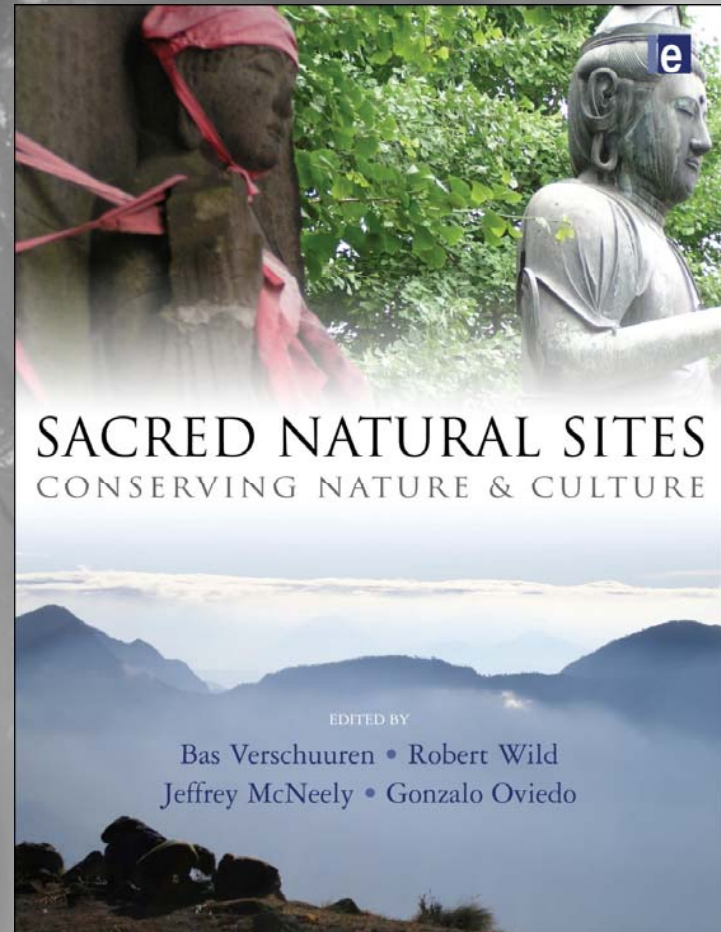
- ✓ Launched at World Conservation Congress 2008
- ✓ Translating and Testing the Guidelines (up to 12 languages for essential)



Sacred Natural Sites

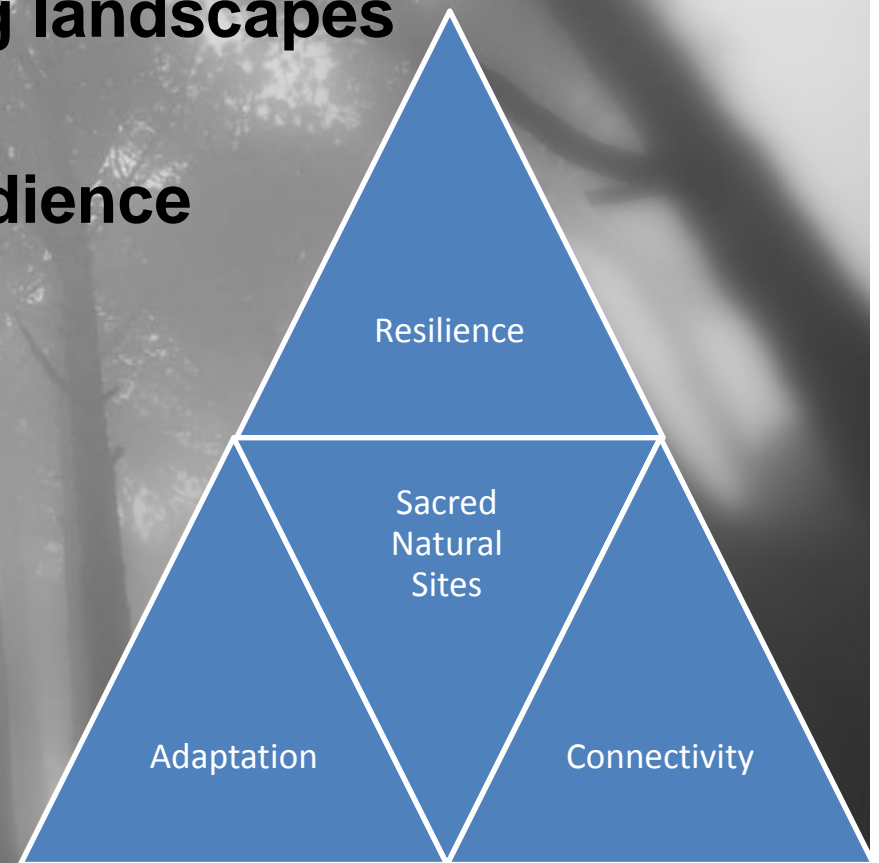
Edited Volume – Benchmark Publication!

- ✓ 26 case studies many presented WCC4 - 2008,
- ✓ 55 authors, scientists, practitioners, indigenous peoples, custodians,
- ✓ Published in Sept 2010,
- ✓ Launch at CBD COP10, supported with a policy brief
- ✓ Contains an Action Plan
- ✓ Copies available for ‘needy causes’



Sacred Natural Sites – conservation resonance

- ✓ Supported with a Motion (99% NGO, 97% Gov.), a Custodian Dialogue and Statement
- ✓ Dynamic socio-ecological systems
- ✓ SNS Broad concept – including landscapes territories
- ✓ Resonance to a much wider audience
- ✓ Good fit to other programmes
- ✓ Governance, POWPA element 2, Social assessments,
- ✓ Capacity building and learning
 - restore cultural practices and provide technical support for nature conservation



Sacred Natural Sites Initiative

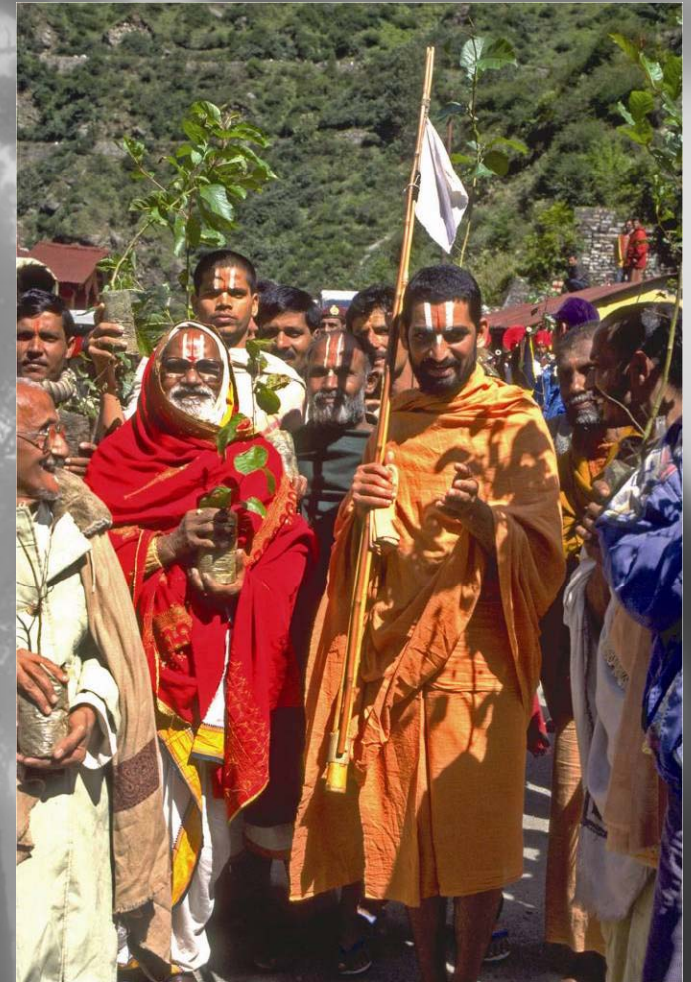


Photo: E. Bernbaum

Sacred Natural Sites Initiative - Process

- ✓ **Consultation – internal & external**
- ✓ **Setting up the secretariat and website**
- ✓ **SNS Custodian Advisors,**
- ✓ **Other Advisors**
- ✓ **Fundraising!!!!**



Photo: R. Wild

Challenges

- ✓ Many SNS at risk
- ✓ Industrial threats – mining, infrastructure, commercial forestry
- ✓ Avoiding perverse effects e.g. REDD+.
- ✓ Cultural attenuation intergenerational loss
- ✓ Cultural restoration



Photo: J. Spoon

Immediate Priorities

- ✓ Translation and Testing of guidelines – *invitation for assistance!*
- ✓ The Sacred Lands Film Project launch Earth day 2012 (22 April)
- ✓ FPIC – sensitive data management, secret-sacred, visibility/concealment
- ✓ Laws, community statements/protocols policy, CBD, etc
- ✓ Dialogue with key SNS stakeholders



Photo: G. Porter

Brainstorming

- ✓ Recognition –Award for **collaboration** between PA managers and SNS custodians in PA management
- ✓ SNS/ICCA as indicators (social and biological, ITTO, CBD...),
- ✓ Geoparks dialogue – geological feature often prominent



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Other opportunities



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