

WCPA STEERING COMMITTEE
June 16 to 19, 2004
Savolinna, Finland

DRAFT Minutes:
Draft of 11 November, 2004

PARTICIPANTS

33 persons from 19 countries attended the WCPA Steering Committee. The full participant list is outlined in Annex A.

OPENING CEREMONY

The meeting was formally opened by the representative of the Government of Finland, Rauno Vaisanen. Mr Vaisanen welcomed WCPA Steering Committee delegates to Finland and noted the potential of the WCPA SC to follow up the World Parks Congress and to assist the process of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas, which was adopted at the CBD COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February, 2004.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Lee Thomas and David Sheppard noted the objectives of the Steering Committee meeting were to:

- ✓ (1) bring forward recommendations to the WCPA Members Meeting¹ relating to the future direction and structure of WCPA, in the light of the 2003 World Parks Congress and the CBD COP 7 Programme of Work on Protected Areas
- ✓ (2) discuss a number of key issues relevant to the current and future activities of WCPA.
- ✓ (3) determine targeted input from WCPA to the IUCN WCC²
- ✓ (4) hear from the two short listed candidates for the position of WCPA Chair
- ✓ (5) enable WCPA SC members to make presentations on matters relevant to their activities

These objectives are dealt with in sequence in these minutes

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF WCPA (Meeting Objective 1)

The WCPA Steering Committee met in three Working Groups to discuss aspects relevant to the future direction of WCPA and each group reported back to the Plenary

¹ To be held in Bangkok on 16 and 17 November at the time of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

² IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Bangkok from 17 to 25 November, 2004

Session (the power point presentations used in the reporting back session are attached within Annex B of these minutes) . A wealth of material was presented and major findings are highlighted below. These will be tabled for consideration by the WCPA Members Meeting at the WCC (16 and 17 November, 2004). This will also inform and assist the preparation of the new Strategic Plan for WCPA which will be developed under the leadership of the new WCPA Chair as soon as possible after the WCC. This section is structured as follows:

- ✓ Strengths and weaknesses of WCPA (1.1)
- ✓ Principles for the future work of WCPA (1.2)
- ✓ Future roles of WCPA (1.3)
- ✓ Future issues that WCPA should address (1.4)
- ✓ Implementation (structure, fundraising and partnerships) (1.5); and
- ✓ Process from here (1.6).

(1.1) Strengths and weaknesses of WCPA

Working Groups identified a number of strengths and weaknesses of WCPA, including:

Strengths

- ✓ The excellent people in the network
- ✓ Ability to convene at a range of levels, particularly at the global level, as seen at the World Parks Congress
- ✓ Influence and impact as seen through products such as the IUCN PA Category System and the Mining and Protected Areas Position Statement
- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Strong relationship between WCPA and PPA at the global level
- ✓ Volunteer nature
- ✓ Potentially strong network

Weaknesses

- ✓ Structure: Current structure is designed to achieve the WPC and needs revision. Specifically, it is not designed to suit implementation of the CBD. The current structure is becoming too complex. More balance is required between biome, theme and regional programmes

- ✓ Regional issues. Regions need a higher profile within WCPA – they have slipped in the last 4 years. There is variability in regional coverage and performance. Weak capacity and synergy between WCPA regions and IUCN regional offices. Poor integration between Themes/Task Forces and Regions
- ✓ Funding. Limited funding for activities. No Business Plan Business or Business Development Position
- ✓ People in the network. Gender imbalance. Becoming harder to find good people willing to work as volunteers
- ✓ Process for global programming not fully functional

(1.2) Key Principles for the Future Work of WCPA

Context - the future work of WCPA must be developed within the context of the outcomes of the World Parks Congress and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The binding nature of the CBD PoW has given IUCN/WCPA/PPA a mandate and an opportunity as never before. The PoW provides the criteria for setting priorities for determining priorities for the future work of WCPA;

Integration – the “seamless integration” between WCPA and the Programme on Protected Areas needs to continue, in line with the overall direction that the Commissions have to be integrated within the overall IUCN Programme. Integration at regional levels needs more attention, however.

Strategic - future work must be strategic and choices must be made – we cannot continue business as usual but we need to adapt to the changing realities;

Leadership - future work should strengthen the leadership role of WCPA in relation to protected areas around the world – we need to be ahead of the race;

Focus - it is important to focus future activities of WCPA on a limited number of key issues and recommendations arising from the World Parks Congress and the CBD COP 7 Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It is important to recognize that WCPA has limited resources and that it needs to focus on what it can best deliver;

Multicultural - future approaches need to apply a range of approaches, in addition to “western approaches”;

Clarity - the future work of WCPA and the associated structure of WCPA should be as clear, logical and simple as possible; and

(1.3) Future role of WCPA

The Working Groups suggested that the future role of WCPA should be to:

- (a) provide leadership – provide global leadership and support in relation to protected areas and, specifically, for implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on

Protected Areas. Leadership also involves establishing and advocating positions on key issues and encouraging innovation;

- (b) generate and disseminate knowledge, particularly through PALNet;
- (c) provide technical services and input to key partners and stakeholders in relation to protected area matters;
- (d) convene, coordinate and network, to facilitate and encourage communication between those involved in protected areas, particularly amongst WCPA members; and
- (e) develop capacity, for key stakeholders involved in protected areas.

(1.4) Future issues that WCPA should address

The Steering Committee agreed that the future focus of the work of WCPA should be on the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Specifically, the objectives of the future Strategic Plan of WCPA should be oriented to the objectives and programme elements outlined in the PoW. These objectives may also need to be appropriately broadened to include the full dimension of the Durban Action Plan. In addition, objectives should reflect WCPA/PPA role in leadership and support.

There were two suggestions for broad structuring of WCPA and these are outlined below as option 1 and option 2. These options were put forward for consideration by the WCPA Full Members Meeting in November 2004, along with other information, at the time of the WCC.

Option 1:

One of the Working Groups (WG 1) considered that priorities of work should be considered in terms of four key “domains” of concern.

These key domains were suggested as:

- ✓ Protected areas conserve biodiversity across the landscape and seascape, including working at broader scales, including transboundary activities
- ✓ Protected areas contribute to sustainable development
- ✓ Appropriate governance for protected areas is in place, with particular emphasis on encouraging different and diverse forms of PA governance
- ✓ Effective management of protected areas is enabled

Working Group 1 further suggested that the key roles and the key domains of work could enable a framework to be developed to guide for the future strategy for WCPA, as illustrated in the following table:

Domains of	PAAs	PAAs	Appropriate	Effective
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Work (across)	conserving biodiversity across the landscape/ seascape	contributing to sustainable development	governance for PAs in place	management of PAs enabled
Roles for WCPA (down)				
Leadership				
Knowledge				
Technical Services				
Convene, coordinate				
Capacity				

Working Group 1 noted that this in turn provides the framework for considering specific activities of WCPA, as shown below in relation to one of the objectives, as an example of application of the approach:

EXAMPLE (not all current elements of WCPA are included)

Domains of Work (across)	PAs conserving biodiversity across the landscape/ seascape (examples of targets set out below)
Roles for WCPA (down)	
Leadership	Bioregional conservation programmes developed and promoted
Knowledge	Frameworks and targets for achieving representative PA systems established for all biomes
Technical Services	Contractual obligation to World Heritage Centre undertaken
Convene, coordinate	Regional networks established to identify gaps in the global PA system
Capacity	Regional capacity to implement biome specific action plans developed

The domains also provide a framework for considering the future structure of the work of WCPA.

Option 2

Another Working Group (WG 3) suggested that WCPA should be organised around the 4 objectives from the CBD PoW and the Durban Action Plan, covering:

- ✓ Linkages to the Sustainable Development Agenda (and specifically the Millennium Development Goals)
- ✓ People, Governance and Equity

- ✓ Knowledge and Science
- ✓ PA Management

With this providing the framework for the development of Theme and Task Forces as suggested in the example shown in the table below:

EXAMPLE (not all current elements of WCPA are included)

Objective (Theme)	Elements (Task Forces) that could be covered (those not existing are highlighted with an *)
Linkages to the Sustainable Development Agenda	Cities; Tourism; Poverty alleviation*; Ecosystem Services*; Landscape scale approaches etc
People, Governance and Equity	Cultural and Spiritual Values; Indigenous peoples and Local Communities*; Governance* etc
Knowledge and Science	Conservation Planning; Transboundary Protected Areas; Task Forces relating to specific IUCN categories (Wilderness (1b), Protected Landscapes (5) etc
Management	Management Effectiveness; Capacity Building; Information Management; Categories system; Sustainable Finance; Certification* etc

In addition to this the Working Group considered there should be a continuation of the existing Regional (16 regions) and Biome Structure (Marine and Mountains and with addition of a Freshwater Biome Programme) and adding a WCPA component dealing with Convention Liaison (World Heritage and CBD).

(1.5) Implementation (structure, knowledge management, fundraising and partnerships)

Structure - general

The Working Groups noted the following suggestions regarding the future structure of WCPA:

- ✓ The future structure must reflect the new Strategic Plan adopted after the WCC. The structure should follow the key objectives identified in the Strategic Plan (form should follow function) and should be as clear, logical and simple as possible;
- ✓ The SC noted that the existing WCPA structure covering: regions; themes/task forces; biomes; and implementation mechanisms has served WCPA well. However this structure should not constrain or be seen as a “straightjacket” for the new Chair after the WCC;

- ✓ The future structure should enable WCPA to quickly and effectively respond to key, and emerging, priorities and should enable integration, both within WCPA and between WCPA and other partners;
- ✓ One option suggested was that the future structure of WCPA should reflect the structure of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas;
- ✓ the selection of future WCPA Vice Chairs is critical and must be carefully undertaken. The qualities of the Vice Chair and the presence of institutional support are important factors to consider in this selection;
- ✓ all Vice Chairs and Theme/Task Force Leaders should have clear Terms of Reference to provide guidance for their tasks/activities;
- ✓ the WCPA network needs to be more effectively linked with IUCN Regional and Country Offices; and
- ✓ the relationships between themes and taskforces were an area noted by the Working Groups as needing further attention.

Structure - specific

The Working Groups and the Steering Committee made a number of suggestions regarding the specific structure of WCPA, for consideration by the incoming WCPA Chair, including:

- ✓ The SC noted the requirement of the IUCN Statutes to have one Deputy Chair for each Commission. In addition to this, there was general support for the future Chair being supported by 3 Senior Level WCPA positions (perhaps referred to as Senior Advisors) with specific responsibilities for: Regional Support; Commission Outreach and Fundraising;
- ✓ In relation to WCPA Biome Programmes, the SC agreed that the existing programmes on Mountains and Marine were important and should continue. It was recommended that a new Biome programme should be established in relation to “Water and Protected Areas”, in view of the importance of issues associated with water, particularly associated with water scarcity. It was noted that a leader for this programme would need to be identified before proceeding further and that a clear TOR would need to be developed. This programme, when developed, should be linked with IUCN’s overall Water and Nature Initiative;
- ✓ Given the importance of the CBD the SC agreed that a strong network needs to be developed within WCPA under the leadership of a Vice Chair;
- ✓ There was some discussion on the WCPA PA Sustainable Financing Theme. It was agreed that this theme should continue but that it is important that it link with and not duplicate the work of the Conservation Finance Alliance.

- ✓ The possibility of a youth programme within was discussed and it was agreed that this has merit and should be further investigated (note – this was discussed further – see below)
- ✓ The possibility of having Task Forces on: (a) Climate Change; and (b) landscape were discussed by the SC but were considered premature – certainly in the absence of a leader for each group and the resources/people to make it happen

Structure – decisions taken

The SC agreed that there should be maximum flexibility to the new chair in relation to the establishment of the new Structure of WCPA. However there is a need to take some decisions now and the SC agreed:

- ✓ To confirm the previous decisions of the WCPA Executive Committee to establish Task Forces on: Conservation Planning (lead by Bob Pressey); Cities and Protected Areas (lead by Ted Tryzna); and PA Management Categories (led by Jerry Harrison).
- ✓ To approve the establishment of new Task Forces on: Islands (lead by Pippa Heylings, to come under the Marine Biome); and High Seas (led by Graeme Kelleher, to come under the Marine Biome)

The TOR for all of the above Task Forces were included in the background papers for the SC Meeting. The SC noted that these decisions would be subject to review and revision by the next Chair of WCPA

Knowledge Management

The Steering Committee endorsed the importance of PALNet (the Protected Areas Learning Network) as the key tool for ensuring that WCPA reaches its potential as the global Knowledge Network for Protected Areas. PALNet is discussed further below.

Fundraising

The Steering Committee noted the importance of fundraising for WCPA and noted the following:

- ✓ A major increase in funding is required for WCPA to fully reach its potential;
- ✓ There is a need to build on the success of fundraising for the World parks Congress and apply lessons learnt from this experience to future fundraising efforts of WCPA;
- ✓ Fundraising should be focused around implementation of the key programmes identified in the new Strategic Plan;
- ✓ There should be a senior level WCPA position established to address this issue; and

- ✓ A Business Plan needs to be developed as soon as possible.

Partnerships

The Working Groups all noted the importance of partnerships for the future of WCPA, if it is to adequately achieve its mission. Partnerships with the following organisations were noted as important:

- ✓ International Ranger Federation, noting that there is a proposal for signing of an MOU at the time of the WCC
- ✓ The CBD Secretariat, in the context of support for the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, noting that there is a proposal for signing of an MOU at the time of the WCC
- ✓ The NGO Consortium in the context of support for the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas
- ✓ With other components of IUCN in relation to specific issues, including with Commissions (such as in relation to the joint Theme programme with CEESP – TILCEPA) and also with IUCN Programmes (such as in relation to the joint activity with the IUCN Marine Programme on Marine Protected areas)
- ✓ Broadening the existing partnership with relevant organisations in relation to protected areas data and the World Database on Protected Areas, to include organisations such as NASA etc

The Steering Committee noted that all partnerships need to be guided by clear Terms of Reference and Agreements/MOUs.

(1.6) Process from here

The Steering Committee noted that recommendations and material discussed at the meeting in Finland would be presented to the WCPA Members Meeting at the WCC.

The SC further agreed that a process should be initiated as soon as possible after the commencement of the new WCPA Chair to prepare a new Strategic Plan, taking into account the views of this Steering Committee, as expressed in these minutes, and recommendations from the WCPA Members Meeting. This process should allow for maximum possible input from members and that it should be jointly led by a small group of WCPA members and the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas.

(2) DISCUSSION ON KEY ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF WCPA (Meeting Objective 2)

The WCPA Steering Committee discussed a number of issues relevant to the current and future activities of WCPA. These were as follows:

(2.1) IUCN Protected Areas Categories – Speaking a Common Language Project

(2.2) World Heritage – the role of IUCN/WCPA

(2.3) Capacity Development

(2.4) UN List of Protected Areas

(2.5) Involvement of Younger Generations in the work of WCPA

(2.6) Protected Areas Learning Network

(2.7) Membership of WCPA

Issues raised in relation to each of these is outlined below.

(2.1) IUCN Protected Areas Categories – Speaking a Common Language (SACL) Project

Progress with the Speaking a Common Language project was outlined by Adrian Phillips and Nigel Dudley. This project has assessed the application of the IUCN protected Areas Categories around the world and identified options for the future application of the IUCN categories. It was noted that this system was agreed by the WCPA (then CNPPA) Steering Committee in 1992 and subsequently endorsed by the IUCN 1993 General assembly in Buenos Aires. It has subsequently become a principle flagship product for both IUCN and WCPA. It was further noted that:

- ✓ many countries are applying the IUCN PA System to assist their protected area planning (more than 20 countries have applied it in their legislation and policy) and that, in general, the IUCN PA system enjoys support;
- ✓ the system is being used in a range of ways, many of which were not originally anticipated. Such new uses include the use of the category system for advocacy and also for the regulation of activities, such as is the case in relation to the IUCN Recommendation on Mining and Protected Areas, adopted at the 2000 IUCN World Conservation Congress;
- ✓ there is support for the system having an objectives based approach and there is little support for changing the system; and
- ✓ the application of the system could be improved and further guidance is required at a number of levels.

The Steering Committee discussed the application of the IUCN Category system and agreed it was a “flagship product for both IUCN and for WCPA. The Steering Committee welcomed with appreciation the work of the project on Speaking a Common Language - SACL (considered by the SC to be a very good descriptor of the rationale for the Category System) - and made the following observations:

- ✓ The category system should retain the six category system: the basic framework of the system should not be changed;

- ✓ Further guidance on the application is very important and this is a high priority. Such guidance should include: application of the category system in different biomes, including forest and marine; application at regional levels; and specific guidance in relation to specific categories (along the lines of the guidance on Category V that has been published recently);
- ✓ In relation to application in the marine environment, it is important to consider problems associated with zonation of large multiple use Marine protected areas, of which the Great Barrier reef is one example. It is also important to involve the Fisheries sector in decisions regarding the design and application of the Category system;
- ✓ In relation to guidance on application of specific categories it was noted that there has been concern expressed from some quarters regarding the application of category VI in terms of the potential for sites to be placed on the UN List which do not meet the definition of a protected area;
- ✓ The designation of non traditional protected areas, including those managed by Indigenous Peoples was raised as a specific issue and it was agreed that more work is required in relation to this issue;
- ✓ The Steering Committee noted that further information would be useful in relation to: (a) criteria for compatibility/incompatibility of uses within different categories; (b) the process for assignment of sites to categories – the SC agreed that a better process for assignment is required; (c) reporting on multiple use areas; (d) application of the governance matrix for the categories – the SC supported proposals to include an overlay of governance within the Category System; (e) the relationship between the Category System and Biosphere Reserves and broader land corridor initiatives. The SC noted that multiple owned and managed areas are demanding a new response in relation to categories;
- ✓ There should be greater emphasis on communication and the involvement of stakeholders in relation to the IUCN PA Category System. It was noted by one SC member that: “the guidelines are pretty good but most people do not read them”, underlining the need for more effective communication and improved dissemination of information on the system;
- ✓ IUCN should emphasise that all categories are important, rather than the view in some quarters that categories I as “best” and Category VI is “worst”. It was noted that some NGOs are only referencing Category I to IV and this was not supported by the Steering Committee;
- ✓ More effective and widespread application of the categories will require significant additional resources and this must be allowed for, and raised, in relation to the future development of the system. A concerted fundraising effort, targeting key donors, will be required; and

- ✓ The SC discussed the ownership of the System and agreed that this is particularly relevant given the high profile of the Category System within IUCN. It was agreed that any changes to the Category System would require agreement from the IUCN World Conservation Congress, on the recommendation of the WCPA Steering Committee. The need to have the IUCN Category System copyrighted was also noted by the SC.

Finally the Steering Committee noted that this issue is vitally important for the work of WCPA and that quick and effective follow up is essential, after the Speaking a Common Language Project is launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

2.2 World Heritage - The Role of IUCN/WCPA

IUCN is the Advisory Body in relation to natural and mixed World Heritage Sites and its role includes: evaluation of new World Heritage Sites; monitoring of the State of Conservation of existing World Heritage sites and input to capacity development activities. WCPA plays a key role in the provision of advice to IUCN in relation to this advisory role.

IUCN has recently prepared a Strategy Paper on the future development of natural World heritage sites and this was presented to the 2004 World Heritage Committee Meeting in Suzhou, China. The key elements of this paper were included in the WCPA SC Background papers from pages 155 to 172 and were summarised in a presentation by Adrian Phillips. This presentation noted, *inter alia*:

- ✓ Suggestions as to priority biomes and sites within these biomes that may have potential as natural World Heritage sites; and
- ✓ The principle that there is a finite number of World Heritage Sites.

The WCPA Steering Committee welcomed this presentation and made a number of observations:

- ✓ the classification system currently used in the report has a terrestrial bias and revision is required to ensure the system can be applied to the marine environment. The application of World heritage to the High Seas was notes as an area where more consideration is required;
- ✓ It is important to clarify what the terms “gaps” mean in relation to World Heritage and it was noted that there may be some misunderstanding or confusion with other organisations, such as Conservation International, that use the term gaps in relation to their conservation planning;
- ✓ There was some concern expressed regarding the suggestion that there is a finite number of World Heritage sites. There was not a consensus on this point within the Steering Committee; and
- ✓ The need to consider tundra and polar as separate ecosystems and not as being under grasslands, as is currently the case in the draft report.

The Steering Committee noted that the draft Strategy paper will be further circulated for review comment in 2004 and that a final revised draft would be submitted to the 2005 World Heritage Committee (to be held in Durban, South Africa in June, 2005)

2.3 Capacity Development

A presentation on Capacity Development was provided by John Hough, Leader WCPA Theme on Capacity Development. This defined capacity development as: “helping develop the ability of individuals, institutions and society as whole to perform functions, solve problems, and formulate and achieve their own goals”. Points noted in the presentation included:

- ✓ Capacity for What? - The overall objective of capacity development should be to assist the achievement of the WCPA mission³
- ✓ Capacity for Whom? - Capacity development should be targeted at specific audiences; nine target groups were suggested⁴
- ✓ Capacity How? Capacity development can be implemented through vertical (both systematic - such as training, guidelines and opportunistic – such as The Institute@) and horizontal (peer exchange) means. It was noted that horizontal mechanisms are a clear potential role for WCPA. The key to horizontal exchange working is setting up the forums for exchanging information; this is often the level where real learning takes place.
- ✓ There are a range of activities that the WCPA Capacity Development Theme could undertake. These include: (a) encouraging horizontal means of capacity development, particularly mechanisms for knowledge exchange among peer groups and train the trainer approaches; (b) disseminating knowledge and best practice on capacity development; (c) establishing targets and standards for capacity development, including the establishment of goals for protected area systems; and (d) overall leadership and guidance to WCPA on capacity development
- ✓ Next steps and requirements include: (a) identifying leaders for each peer group; (b) securing the resources for network operations; (c) identifying “key resource people” to join a “coordinating group”, with each peer group leader; and (d) identifying priorities for the work of the Theme Programme.

The Steering Committee noted this presentation with appreciation and noted that the approach suggested provided an excellent way to capitalise on the momentum generated on this topic from the Workshop Stream on Capacity Development at the World Parks Congress. The following specific points were noted in the SC discussion on this issue:

³ The establishment and effective management of a world wide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas

⁴ (1) political leaders, decision makers; (2) system managers; (3) site managers, resource managers; (4) rangers; (5) community and indigenous managers and planners; (6) private managers and planners; (7) trainers; (8) global policy, planners, analysts; (9) national and sub-national policy, planners, analysts

- ✓ Capacity development should be a priority area for WCPA’s future work. However, it is a very large area and there is great potential to become “swamped”. Accordingly, WCPA’s work in this area should be focused on where we have particular strengths and where we can provide “added value”, particularly through effectively using and applying knowledge within the WCPA membership;
- ✓ It is important to develop a focused programme, with clear definition of theme objectives and targets;
- ✓ WCPA should work at a higher level than most others working on capacity development. Thus WCPA’s role should be stimulating, catalysing, and supporting others rather than implementing specific training programmes, for example ;
- ✓ Work on capacity development should be linked with other areas of activity, particularly PALNet, which could be used as a delivery vehicle;
- ✓ The Steering Committee emphasised that this is a very important area for the future of WCPA, particularly for the work of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs. It is important to tailor different approaches to different regions and, where possible, to link WCPA capacity development activities with relevant GEF protected areas projects;
- ✓ There is a clear link between the work of this Theme Programme and the work of the WCPA Theme Programme on Management Effectiveness – capacity development should clearly build on and support efforts to enhance management effectiveness of protected areas;
- ✓ In general the niche of WCPA should be to work at an advisory and catalytic role rather than the implementation of specific on ground capacity development initiatives, such as training. In fulfilling this role it is important to work in partnership with others and not to “re-invent the wheel”; and
- ✓ The work of the WCPA Capacity Development theme should also be used to ensure more effective application of key WCPA products, such as the Best practice guideline Series;
- ✓ In general Capacity development should be used as a tool for increasing the involvement of members in the activities of WCPA

In terms of moving forward it was agreed that the Steering Committee strongly supported the work undertaken to date and requested John Hough to bring forward a detailed programme of work for further consideration

(2.4) UN List of Protected Areas and World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

A presentation on the UN List of Protected Areas and the World Data base on protected was provided by Stuart Chape (UNEP-WCMC) and Silvio Oliveri (Conservation International). Points noted in the presentation included:

- ✓ The 2003 edition of the UN List was released at the World Parks Congress. This was in a different format than previous versions and was prepared with support from a number of donors and partners, consistent with a process for wide involvement of stakeholders. The majority of the funding for the UN List came from UNEP with significant contributions from the private sector. It was noted that much of the information comes from government so they are the effective owners of the UN List;
- ✓ The involvement of WCPA Regional Vice chairs was variable and is an area where there is potential for future improvement
- ✓ The UN List is an important product of the WDPA: it is one of the few intergovernmental mandates (1959 ECOSOC resolution) and obligations regarding protected areas. However it needs to be one of the outputs of a continuously updated WDPA and requires more effective engagement with WCPA, particularly at national levels.
- ✓ The next release of the of the UN List will be in 2007 and 2013
- ✓ The WDPA was endorsed and supported at the World parks congress and has the potential for playing a major role in measuring global biodiversity conservation, particularly relevant in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- ✓ Issues relevant for both the UN List and the WDPA in future include: (a) the need for more effective assignment of IUCN categories; and (b) the need to improve reporting on governance, marine protected areas and tourism (see below)

The Steering Committee noted this presentation with appreciation and noted that the UN List and WDPA are flagship products for IUCN and partners. The following specific points were noted in the SC discussion on this issue:

- ✓ There was a specific suggestion from Paul Eagles, Head of the WCPA Task Force on Tourism and Protected Areas that future issues of the UN List should include visitor statistics. The Steering Committee agreed that this should be undertaken subject to available resources and agreed that Paul Eagles should be asked to develop a strategy, including resources, to develop a strategy for moving forward.
- ✓ It was also agreed that the governance dimension of protected areas needs to be added in future issues of the UN List and WDPA
- ✓ It was agreed that the process of assignment to the IUCN Protected Areas Categories is a weak point and that more attention needs to be given to this

area. Also support and guidance to countries is required to assist in this process as is the need for greater involvement of WCPA members.

- ✓ It was noted that the WDPA is a real success story in terms of partnership and cooperation. For future development of the WDPA the SC recommended development of a Business Plan and associated Marketing Strategy. Silvio Oliveri noted that 4-5 million \$US is required to re-design the system in the first instance and that an annual amount of 1 million US\$ per annum would be required for maintenance and updating.
- ✓ Graeme Kelleher noted the previous decision of the WCPA Steering Committee (December, 2002) that, in the case of recognizing large marine ecosystems within the UN List and the WDPA, zonation within such areas should be reflected in the WDPA, under the following conditions: (a) zones are clearly mapped; (b) zones are clearly identified with the IUCN protected area categories; and (c) zones are recognized by law.
- ✓ There is an opportunity to scale up the existing mandate, provided through the original 1959 ECOSOC resolution, through the CBD Programme of Work on protected Areas and the mandate given for data collection within this PoW
- ✓ It is important to monitor the use that is being made of the UN List and the WDPA as this will greatly assist future strategic development as well as marketing and fundraising

Finally the Steering Committee noted that the UN List and WDPA is continually in a stage of sequential development and continual development and that the level of development is constrained by available finance. Nevertheless the SC noted that the development of the UN List and the WDPA has been a real success story and particularly thanked Stuart Chape and Silvio Oliveri for their efforts.

2.5 Involvement of Younger Generations in the work of WCPA

Bruce Amos, Regional Vice Chair for North America, introduced a paper prepared as a volunteer project by Kristy Facer, a young PA professional from Canada who has an interest in WCPA. Members expressed their thanks to Kristy for this very helpful contribution and for her willingness to play an ongoing role in this subject as a volunteer. The Steering Committee noted the following points in relation to this area:

- ✓ That this is an important area for the future activities of WCPA
- ✓ That specific activities that WCPA could undertake could include: (a) linking WCPA efforts with broader youth activities of IUCN and also those of other key partners such as the International ranger Federation (IRF) which has a youth chapter; (b) seeking input from regional and theme vice chairs of WCPA in terms of ways in which youth could be better involved in WCPA activities; (c) develop and apply a mentoring system where SC members could be asked to work closely with a young person to ensure they are fully involved in the activities; and (d) use the WCPA newsletter to communicate and highlight what young professionals are doing.

- ✓ Ideally work on youth should be nested within a specific component of WCPA, such as the Capacity Development Theme. It was agreed that a specific Task Force on this subject was not appropriate at this time.

The general conclusion was that the primary focus of future WCPA efforts in this area should be on more effectively engaging young professionals in the work of the Commission. The concepts set out in the paper by Kristy Facer should be further developed in consultation with others and a revised paper should be the basis of discussion among members of the Commission at the WCPA meeting in Bangkok.

2.6 Protected Areas Learning Network

A presentation on PALNet was provided by Kishore Rao. Points noted in the presentation included:

- ✓ The PALNet is being developed as an integral element of the Ecosystems, Protected Areas and People Project. WCPA Steering Committee Meetings have been briefed on this project over the last 4 years. The main goal of the EPP Project is to enable protected area managers to adapt their strategies, policies and practices to the threats and opportunities of global change. The key elements of the EPP Project are: (a) network of field learning sites; (b) 5 technical working groups; (c) consultative and training workshops; and reports and publications; and
- ✓ A prototype of the PALNet web site was developed and discussed at the World Parks Congress and a launch of PALNet is planned at the time of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The aim is to establish PALNet as an interactive web based knowledge management tool and to ensure that it is developed as the key peer based learning system for WCPA and the world's protected area managers.

The WCPA Steering Committee noted the following points:

- ✓ There is a need to integrate learning from a number of sites not just those identified through the EPP Project. In this regard the World Heritage sites identified under the Management Effectiveness project were noted;
- ✓ The need to link the PALNet website with other web sites, particularly the existing WCPA web site was noted by a number of SC members. Linkage with other key websites such as the transboundary protected area web site (tbpa.net) was noted;
- ✓ The importance of monitoring the use of the PALNet and WCPA web sites was mentioned as was the need to ensure that the needs of the target users are clearly identified; and
- ✓ The need to ensure long term management and sustainability of any web site were also noted as critical long term success factors.

The Steering Committee confirmed PALNet as the key delivery mechanism for WCPA and also noted that the long term direction of PALNet should be discussed and agreed at the first WCPA Steering Committee Meeting after the Bangkok World Conservation Congress.

(2.7) Membership of WCPA

The draft WCPA Membership Directory was tabled for comment and discussion. The Directory records that there are currently 1,300 members in 140 countries. It was noted that the WCPA membership has increased and become more diverse in recent years. The following points were made by WCPA Steering Committee members in relation to membership:

- ✓ The aim with membership is to strive for quality rather than quantity. At all times the aim should be to encourage more active involvement of members in the activities of WCPA. Undertaking this, and keeping a record of membership, is a key role of regional WCPA Vice Chairs;
- ✓ It was noted that WCPA membership can comprise a core of a larger network. For example, only 25% of the mountain protected areas network are actually WCPA members; and
- ✓ The experience with National Chapters of WCPA has been positive in Brazil and this experience may be worth replicating elsewhere. Similarly the experience with WCPA Regional Email List Servers has also been positive.

The Steering Committee noted that the revision of the WCPA Membership is an important task after the Bangkok World Conservation Congress and that the opportunity should be taken to weed out members who have not contributed to WCPA over the 2001-4 period. It was agreed that a standard letter (based on the existing letter used by Bruce Amos) should be sent to members, after Bangkok, asking if members would like to continue as members (non response will be taken as a negative response).

(3) INPUT FROM WCPA TO THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS (Meeting Objective 3)

The WCPA Steering Committee noted that the IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held from 17 to 25 November, 2004 in Bangkok. This will be the four yearly meeting of IUCN members and will have three components: (a) Commission meetings on 16 and 17 November; (b) World Conservation Forum on 18 to 20 November; and (c) the IUCN Members Business Assembly from 22 to 25 November.

The Steering committee noted that protected areas will not be a major focus of the WCC, as it was for the World Parks Congress and that neither the Protected Areas programme nor PPA are in the box seat for organisation of the WCC. However, it was noted that there are still a large number of events and activities that relate to protected areas. These are anticipated to include:

- ✓ The WCPA Steering Committee Meeting on 15 November;

- ✓ The WCPA Members Meeting on 16 and 17 November;
- ✓ Various protected areas events - workshops, conservation platforms and exhibitions will be held during the Conservation Forum from 18 to 20 November. This will include a key Conservation Platform on the topic of “Durban Delivers” – highlighting follow up to the WPC - and also a range of events relating to PALNet (to be undertaken under the umbrella of the Conservation Commons suite of initiatives at WCC); and
- ✓ Various motions relating to protected areas will be addressed by IUCN Members at the Members Business Assembly of the World Conservation Congress.

The following points were raised by the WCPA Steering Committee:

- ✓ The main aim should be to ensure effective follow up to the outcomes of the World Parks Congress and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas;
- ✓ There should be clear and consistent messaging around the theme of Durban Delivers;
- ✓ There needs to be one main motion dealing with the follow up to the WPC and the CBD PoW and an IUCN Member should be asked to ensure that this is submitted;
- ✓ Key WCPA members at the WCC should be involved in leading in relation to specific recommendations and motions which relate to protected areas; Infuse pas into global synthesis workshops. It was suggested that leads could be identified at the WCPA Steering Committee Meeting on 15 November;
- ✓ The WCPA Members Meeting on 16 and 17 November should be used to get feedback from WCPA members in relation to where the members feel we should be going in the future; and
- ✓ An overall booklet on the theme of “Durban Delivers” should be prepared and distributed at the WCC – this should also include a guide to protected areas activities at the WCC.

(4) PRESENTATIONS FROM THE TWO SHORT LISTED CANDIDATES FOR WCPA CHAIR (Meeting Objective 4)

The process for selecting the next WCPA Chair was outlined by WCPA Deputy Chair, Lee Thomas. It was noted that, following a request from Council for recommendations from the Commission for the next Chair, a search Committee comprising Lee Thomas (Chair) Mohamed Bakarr, Graeme Kelleher, Marija Zupancic-Vicar and Ashish Kothari was established. The Search Committee subsequently received 9 nominations and these were the subject of careful evaluation against the Selection Criteria (these criteria were circulated to the WCPA Membership for information). Based on the results of the evaluation the search committee

recommended to IUCN Council's Nomination Committee the names of two preferred candidates for Chair. Based on these recommendations and after its own deliberations the Council Nomination Committee submitted the names of three candidates to Council. One of these candidates subsequently withdrew. The endorsed candidates were Mr. Nik Lopoukhine of Canada and Dr Ishwaran Natarajan of Sri Lanka. The election of the Chair will take place at Bangkok at the forthcoming World Conservation Congress.

Presentations were made by N. Ishwaran and N.Lopoukhine (this presentation was given on his behalf by B.Amos). The text of the presentations were included in the Background Papers for this Steering Committee Meeting and it was noted that these will be subsequently placed on the WCPA website at

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wcc/election.htm>

The following comments were made by members of the WCPA Steering Committee:

- ✓ Concerns were expressed regarding the Council Search Committee adding an additional name to the two provided by the WCPA Nomination Committee. Mohamed Bakkar, the Chair of this session, noted that there was no formal legal mandate for WCPA Search Committee and that it was within the power of the IUCN Council Committee to do this. It was asked if another name could be added given that the third candidate suggested by the Council Committee had withdrawn. Mohamed Bakkar responded that this was not possible and that the IUCN President did not want to re-open this issue. It was again confirmed that the two candidates that will be considered by the WCC will be Nik Lopoukhine and Natarajan Ishwaran.
- ✓ The process for the selection of the two candidates for Chair was questioned by Claudio Maretti, (on behalf of WCPA members from Latin America), who noted that the process followed by the WCPA Search Committee was unclear and specifically, that the 2 regional councilors from South America did not know what was happening within the WCPA Search Committee, and also did not like the approach of the Council in adding another candidate. Mohamed Bakkar noted these comments for the future process of selecting WCPA Chairs.

In closing it was noted that the two applicants for WCPA Chair would have the opportunity to address the WCPA members meeting on 16 and 17 November and that voting for the all contested positions at the WCC will be by paid up IUCN members. It is anticipated that the results will be announced in the IUCN Members Business Assembly.

(5) PRESENTATIONS BY WCPA SC PARTICIPANTS (Meeting Objective 5)

A number of presentations were given by WCPA SC participants; key points covered are set out below.

The World Parks Congress and the CBD COP 7⁵ Programme of Work on Protected Areas - presentation by David Sheppard, IUCN

This presentation outlined the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2003. The aim of the Congress was to: “review the global status of protected areas, assess the critical issues facing them and map out directions and actions for the next decade and beyond”. It proved to be the largest gathering of protected area experts in history, with over 3,500 participants from 157 countries. The Congress included a wide range of workshop sessions (organised under 7 thematic areas), side events, training courses and field excursions. There was a deliberate focus on outreach to a range of key groups, including indigenous peoples, the private sector and youth.

Key products from the congress included the Durban Action Plan, WPC recommendations, the UN List of Protected Areas, and a range of African protected areas initiatives. Four key messages from Durban were highlighted in the presentation:

- ✓ The importance of building the global system of protected areas, with the need for particular emphasis on under represented biomes including marine, freshwater and lake systems
- ✓ The need for protected areas to be better linked within the landscape, through initiatives such as corridor initiatives and the ecosystem management approach (adopted by the CBD)
- ✓ That the effectiveness of protected areas needs to be strengthened, particularly in the areas of: sustainable financing; skills development and governance
- ✓ There is a need to better involve and work with local communities and indigenous peoples

A key outcome from the WPC was adoption by the CBD COP 7 of an ambitious, target driven Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The WCPA Steering Committee noted that the CBD Programme of Work on protected Areas is a very significant document for the work of WCPA, reinforcing the previous discussion on WCPA future directions – see above – point (1). The WCPA Steering Committee noted the importance of working closely with the CBD Secretariat and strongly supported initiatives to develop a memorandum of Understanding between IUCN/WCPA and the CBD Secretariat.

Presentation on Finland Protected Areas Issues - presentation by Rauno Vaisanen, Finland

Mr Vaisanen outlined a number of key issues associated with protected areas in Finland. He noted that the protected areas were managed by the Natural Heritage Service which was an integral element of a larger organisation (Metsähallitus), a State Enterprise within Finland. Mr Vaisanen noted the Natural Heritage Service is

⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity Convention of the Parties Meeting 7 : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February, 2004

responsible for a range of natural and cultural conservation functions throughout Finland, including the management of 34 national parks and the protection of species, such as the Saimaa Ringed Seal. The Service is also responsible for a range of marine conservation functions, including the administration of all State owned coastal waters in Finland

Key areas of current focus were noted as outreach and partnership across the landscape in relation to planning and implementation of conservation programmes. This includes a number of transboundary protected area initiatives with Russia, Estonia, Sweden and Norway. Finland has also recently initiated a comprehensive review of protected area management effectiveness. This will, inter alia, provide a platform for testing and developing an outcome focused model for the future management of protected areas in Finland, based on the IUCN/WCPA Framework for assessing management effectiveness.

Applications of remote sensing data and other technology for protected areas -- presentation by Gary Geller, NASA

This presentation provided an overview of the application of remote sensing and other technologies to protected area management. It was noted that there would also be a presentation to the IUCN World Conservation Congress at Bangkok. It was emphasised that technology, such as remote sensing, is readily available and that there is great potential for developing applications that can assist protected area managers. It was emphasised that it is important to develop systems that are easy to use and understand. The Steering Committee noted this presentation with appreciation and noted potential linkages with the PALNet and the specific use of remote sensing technology to the monitoring of protected areas and specifically changes in biophysical attributes over time. The SC asked Gary Geller to prepare a more detailed paper for consideration by the WCPA Steering Committee and Executive for further consideration.

Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Protected Areas – the New Paradigm from Durban -- presentation by Grazia Borrini Feyerabend and Ashish Kothari

The World Parks Congress provided a unique and unprecedented platform for showcasing the role of communities in conservation. The level of activities and events was a tribute to the hard work of many members of TILCEPA⁶ role was critical. The key outcomes from Durban, specifically the Durban Accord, Durban Action Plan and WPC Recommendations, incorporated significant statements regarding Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, particularly in relation to the recognition of rights. Many of these key themes and messages were subsequently picked up in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, particularly in the PoW Programme Element on “Governance, Participation, Equity and Benefit Sharing”. Durban also showcased, through more than 40 events, the considerable expertise of local communities in protected areas and in relation to the management of areas for conservation.

⁶ Joint WCPA and CEESP Theme Programme on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Protected Areas

There were a wide range of TILCEPA products from Durban, particularly in relation to governance models of protected areas and community conserved areas. All products are available on the WCPA web page. TILCEPA itself has proved to be a model of inter-Commissional activity within IUCN and provides an approach for other areas of work between WCPA and other Commissions.

Protected Areas in Russia -- presentation by Natalia Danilina

Natalia Danilina outlined progress with the GEF project which is aiming to develop training and support programmes which will strengthen and build support for protected areas in Russia. One outcome from this project will be a network of training centres for North Eurasia, including in Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. This project will also prepare packages of programmes, guides, resource material and its work will include translation of the WCPA PA Best Practice documents into Russian. The GEF Project Team will cooperate with PA agencies in North Eurasia, as well as with the WCPA SC, in implementing its activities.

Sacred Values of Protected Areas -- presentation by Allen Putney

Allen Putney outlined progress with a GEF project on biodiversity rich sacred natural sites, which is being implemented in a number of countries, including Mexico, and Equador. Work is also being undertaken by the WCPA Sacred Values Task Force on the sacred values of sites in the developed country context; this will be developed as a complement to the GEF project.

Excellent progress is being maintained on the Gran Ruta Inca (Great Inca Highway) Road. This project is based around the traditional 8,500 km road (25% still intact) along sacred landscapes of the high Andes; it has generated considerable interest and is becoming a major regional activity. This project involves other IUCN Commissions, IUCN National Committees and a wide range of partners. A feasibility study for establishing a network of PAs associated with GRI is currently underway, as is a proposal for “The Inca Challenge” - a race to raise funds and awareness.

This project is being used as a basis for building more general cultural support for PAs and may provide the basis for an International Symposium on “Conserving Sacred Natural Sites”. Many interesting lessons are also arising which may have application for the general planning and management of sacred natural sites around the world.

Species and Protected Areas -- presentation by Gustavo Fonseca

Gustavo Fonseca outlined the work of the Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems Theme and the specific work in analysing the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in relation to species coverage. It was noted that the adequacy of data has always been an issue but that the situation is improving. For example the 2004 Red List of Threatened Species will include much more comprehensive data on mammals, birds and amphibians. This improved database can also assist assessing the level of threats and in turn assist highlighting epicentres of possible species extinction. The assessment of protected area coverage and species data can develop a better picture of global gap analysis at global, regional and national levels. It can also assist

in determining priorities for the future establishment of protected areas and their management. Leading from this Gustavo proposed the establishment of a joint WCPA/SSC Theme Programme/Task Force on this topic. The Steering Committee noted that this would be an issue for the consideration of the new WCPA Chair but noted broad agreement, in principle, with this idea

ANNEX A: PARTICIPANT LIST – TO BE ADDED