



Recommendations – Granada Summit on Protected Areas and Climate Change

19 November 2009

The participants at the Summit on Protected Areas and Climate Change held in Granada, Andalucía from 16 to 19 November 2009:

Express deep appreciation to the government of Junta de Andalucía and the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain for their proactive leadership regarding the importance of protected areas in addressing the global climate crisis, and their generous support in hosting the Summit to plan an immediate and long-term programme of action;

Endorse the findings contained in the report *Natural Solutions: Helping People Cope with Climate Change* as an impressive body of evidence supporting the role of protected area systems in the global response to climate change and as a foundation for further research and action;

Reaffirms that protected area systems can provide cost-effective means, which when coupled with the extensive expertise and experience already available in the governance and management of protected area systems, offer immediate and long-term contributions to climate change responses;

Notes, however, that protected areas are just part of the natural solutions to address climate change; therefore the world's governments, the economic sectors and the civil society should do their utmost to reduce changes in land and water uses that could exacerbate the existing and future threats to protected areas and other remaining natural ecosystems pressures in order to maintain their natural attributes for providing goods and services as well as their capacity to mitigate impacts from climate change;

Recognise that the investments made by governments in developing comprehensive systems of protected areas for biodiversity conservation offer the additional benefits of maintaining ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water provisioning and food security, especially for the most vulnerable communities affected by climate change;

Recognise that increasing ecosystem resilience through effective protection will enhance the persistence and functions of protected areas in reducing climate change risks to society and biodiversity.

Therefore, the Summit Participants

Recommend that:

1. Investment in strengthening the planning and effective management of protected area systems be undertaken through a partnership of donors, governments, communities, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to ensure greater protection of essential ecosystem services in the face of climate change.
2. A concerted programme of policy engagement be undertaken to integrate the role of protected areas and ecosystem connectivity in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies at local, national, regional and global scales;
3. Landscape connectivity and full range of governance types. Land-use and sectoral planning processes should fully incorporate the role and requirements of protected areas systems across the regional landscape/seascape as a critical component of natural resource management in the face of climate change;
4. A programme of complementary piloting and demonstration projects be planned and undertaken to develop tools and guidance, and to build capacity to integrate protected areas into climate change strategies;
5. Further emphasis be placed on developing the capacity of protected areas institutions and managers to enhance the resilience and maintenance of PA values in the face of climate change;
6. Dedicated financing be provided by multilateral and bilateral donors and national governments, including through market mechanisms, to support and enhance the role of protected areas systems in mitigation and adaptation;
7. Further specific analysis be undertaken of the costs and benefits, and cost-effectiveness, of using protected areas as part of a comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategy and the consequences of not recognizing and supporting their role to address climate change as well as to increase the livelihoods of local people;
8. A co-ordinated communication campaign be implemented to influence decision-makers and society at large of the important role of protected areas in contributing to climate change responses.

Further,

Notes with appreciation the investment by the Junta de Andalucía and their innovative experiences of adaptive management that are being developed in protected areas such as the National Parks of Sierra Nevada and Doñana in Andalucía, where future scenarios include economic and ecosystem valuation through research and international follow-up initiatives. *Further notes* that these experiences should be used as a reference for implementing similar projects worldwide;

Confirms that the Mediterranean Ecosystems have been shaped due to the long/term interaction between man and nature through traditional activities and that have resulted in a mosaic that needs to be maintained to better address global change by increasing the resilience of these territories.

Applauds the work implemented by Junta de Andalucía, and its commitment to establish the Andalusian Network of Global Climate Observatories, which will integrate research projects developed in protected areas; as a reference initiative that could be used by others, to:

- Incorporate protected areas as a valuable source of knowledge in terms of biodiversity, and gather and assess this knowledge to design adaptation policies.
- Use protected areas as a reference for designing and applying climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in the Mediterranean region.

Further,

Calls upon IUCN, and in particular its World Commission on Protected Areas, to continue to co-ordinate and promote a programme of action based on the outcomes of this workshop, and to engage partners in its design and implementation.