

DRAFT MINUTES

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Joint WCPA – CEC Steering Committee Meetings

(11 – 15 May 2009)

Hacienda Cusin, San Pablo del Lago, Ecuador

PARTICIPANTS

Khaldoun ALOMARI, Charles BESANCON, Nigel CRAWHALL, Nigel DUDLEY, João DE QUEIROZ, Joerg ELBERS, Penny FIGGIS, Pascal GIROT, Paul GRIGORIEV, Marc HOCKINGS, Victor INCHAUSTY, Stig JOHANSSON, Charlotte KARIBUHOYE, Svetlana KOPYLOVA, Cyril KORMOS, Nik LOPOUKHINE, Ronald McCARTHY, Maher MAHJOUR, Geoffroy MAUVAIS, Julia MIRANDA, Eduard MULLER, Cristi NOZAWA, Allen PUTNEY, Pedro REGATO, Pedro ROSABAL, Trevor SANDWICH, Jane SMART, Peter VALENTINE, Zoe WILKINSON, Graeme WORBOYS.

Apologies - Received from Dan LAFFOLEY, Peter SHADIE and Seong-il KIM

Day 1 – 11 May 2009

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOINT WCPA-CEC MEETING

Participants to this joint meeting were welcomed by João de Queiroz, Director of IUCN Regional Office for South America. He noted the importance of this joint meeting as issues on protected areas are highly important in the region due to the increasing pressures and threats to them derived from development projects, such as mega infrastructural projects taking place in the Amazon Basin as well as potential impacts associated to the increasing expansion of bio-fuels projects in the region. He also emphasized the critical role that CEC should play in translating key environmental messages into convincing economic and social arguments that can influence policy and decision makers in the region. He was proud of having SUR associated to this joint meeting and he noted the important role that commissions should play on innovation and the need for synergy across commissions and the IUCN Secretariat at global and regional levels.

This welcoming was followed by a short presentation from Jane Smart, Head of IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Group, who explained the new proposed structure of the IUCN Secretariat which aims to enhance integration and facilitate working in partnership. She emphasized the importance of linking the work of IUCN global and regional component programmes with that of commissions.

Nik Lopoukhine and Keith Wheeler welcomed participants to this joint meeting and noted the importance of this initiative as it is the first time that member of the Steering Committees of two commissions meet for joint planning and to identify priority for actions in line with the “One Programme” approach adopted by IUCN to implement the IUCN Programme 2009-2012. They encourage participants to make the best possible use of this opportunity and acknowledge the excellent support provided by SUR for organizing this meeting in Ecuador as well as the support

provided by the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador for its implementation. After this introduction individual sessions of WCPA and CEC Steering Committee started.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION TO THE WCPA/SC MEETING

Nik Lopoukhine opened the meeting reinforcing its importance as a way to address the requirements of the “One Programme” approach. On the same line the WCPA Regions have been aligned with the IUCN Statutory regions to facilitate regional coordination with IUCN Regional Offices (IUCN/RCOs). He stressed the need to get closer to on the ground realities working closely with IUCN/RCOs and noted progress achieved on this in some regions such as South America, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia and Europe. He stressed the need for this regional integration reason why he decided to invest from the WCPA/COF to invite the IUCN regional focal points for protected areas to participate in this meeting. He also requested all Regional Vice-Chairs to provide ideas on how this regional integration can be enhanced.

Nik also noted that the Barcelona Congress was very successful in raising awareness on protected areas (PAs) as this issue dominated through the agenda of the WCC Forum and in a number of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by IUCN members. However PAs are still facing too many challenges and are not getting enough attention by governments and the international community. WCPA needs to address this problem by creating different levels of thinking and commitment towards PAs and by using the opportunities arising from the CBD and UNFCCC processes.

After this briefing the different participants introduced themselves and noted their expectations from the meeting; which included:

- Need to get IUCN and WCPA more active on the ground through joint projects. It was noted that in some regions there is a need to explore ways to better “institutionalize” RCOs-WCPA relationship and joint work as to work more effectively.
- There is a need for better understanding on modalities for joint work at the regional level particularly to address challenging issues such as PAs and climate change, sustainable livelihoods, and the establishment of new protected areas in identified gaps. It was noted by a number of participants that the link between PAs and Climate Change represents an important opportunity to develop and promote new projects.
- Implementation of the “One Programme” approach needs to be better articulated not only in relation to regional integration but also on the role that commissions should play in interacting with IUCN members as to achieve greater impact from this joint work.
- Need to enhance WCPA communications with RCOs and with IUCN members in the regions.
- The importance of using WH sites to promote joint work as they represent an important subset of PAs that are also increasingly gaining political attention.
- WCPA should make better use of CBD/POWPA to promote and deliver its work mainly through enhance capacity building. A number of comments noted the need for WCPA to enhance its work towards supporting the implementation of CBD/POWPA.
- There is an urgent need to expand the scope of WCPA work by promoting a greater involvement of scientists and researchers in WCPA activities.
- There is a problem to enhance RCOs and WCPA work in regions such as the Pacific and the complexity and practical difficulties associated to this.
- It was noted the need to bring youth perspectives into WCPA work including considerations on how to better engage young professionals in WCPA global and regional activities.

- It was emphasized the need for WCPA/SC members to provide guidance and input on how to develop and implement the recently established Capacity Building Theme, including ideas on how to include the species dimension into this work which will offer opportunities for joint work with SSC.
- It was emphasized the need to enhance the branding of WCPA products such the Protected Areas Categories System and WDPA. More efforts are needed from WCPA and IUCN to provide input to WDPA.
- Linkages should be promoted with other regional networks sharing WCPA objectives such as Red Parques in Latin America.
- WCPA should more actively promote protected areas planning using a long-term horizon (on 30-50 years timeframe) and taking into account challenges associated to shifting patters on land-use.
- It was emphasized the need to further promote the work on establishing large-scale connectivity conservation initiatives building on the momentum and expectations created on this by the Barcelona Congress.
- It was noted that a number of resolutions and recommendations from the Barcelona Congress are requesting to enhance IUCN and WCPA work on Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas. This work needs also to promote the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and asses the implications of its implementation.

AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN PROTECTED AREAS

The discussion on this issue was introduced by a joint presentation from Julia Miranda and Eduard Müller (all PowerPoint presented during the SC meeting are available at http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_focus/wcpa_events/wcpa_scmeeting/)

The presentation includes technical input received from a Google discussion forum on PAs in the region. Key points noted include:

- Most PAs and PAs Systems in the region have been the subject of numerous studies and planning programmes however full implementation of many of them is lacking. Many of these studies are associated to a number Biosphere Reserves and with the Amazon region which create the potential to enhance the work with UNESCO, FAO and other relevant institutions.
- Most countries have surpassed the CBD goal of 10% of PAs coverage; however but many of these areas are just “Paper Parks” therefore there is a role for WCPA to play in promoting implementation through capacity building.
- An increasing number of protected areas are affected by urbanization plans as a new trend of rich people is to live closer to nature which leads to land speculation in and around existing PAs. Mining and increasing expansion of land dedicated to bio-fuels are also serious threats. These are just examples reflecting the conflicts created by inter-sectoral policies that are not respecting environmental laws and regulations.
- In spite of the existing problems there are a number of success stories such as progress achieved in implementing co-management arrangements in PAs; the implementation of five large transboundary protected areas project including on MPAs; the development of large connectivity initiatives in the Amazon Basin; increasing informal cooperation between PAs managers; successful implementation of innovative financial mechanisms, and; greater recognition of the importance of PAs for local economies thus opening opportunities to enhance the work on PAs with local governments.

The key challenges for PAs in the region are:

- The need to develop and implement programmes for professionalizing PAs management.
- Weak PAs institutions that are not able to cope with increasing threats and are often unable to promote inter-sectoral cooperation.
- Civil society is not empowered to play a more active role on PAs conservation and management.
- Role of Indigenous Peoples in PAs conservation and management is not recognized including their rights to access and use natural resources in PAs.
- Increasing level of corruption leading to illegal activities and the authorization of development programmes that are often incompatible with PAs laws and regulations.
- Reporting to conventions and international agreements is not truthful.
- There is an urgent need to invest in developing effective ways for data and information sharing, communication and outreach and applied research in support of adaptive PAs management.

This presentation was followed by a discussion during which it was proposed the need to re-think on existing alliances exploring the possibility to involve other actors such as the church, different faiths and the tourism industry in addressing conservation challenges. The Chair of WCPA noted how useful this presentation was for Steering Committee members to better understand the PAs challenges and opportunities in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 3: INTRODUCTION TO IUCN PROGRAMME AND WORKPLAN

Jane Smart made a presentation outlining the new structure in place to enhance integration and synergy towards an effective implementation of IUCN Programme 2009-2012. She emphasized that one of the objectives of the "One Programme" approach is to provide greater links between IUCN global and regional programmes and the work of commissions. She stressed her willingness, in her role as Head of the Biodiversity Conservation Group, to support WCPA work and provide linkages with the global programmes associated to this group and with SSC as there are a number of priorities that could be addressed by this joint work.

She recognized that there is concern among WCPA/SC members on the management decision to make redundant the position of the Head of PPA due to the economic difficulties faced by IUCN as well as other institutions and NGOs due to the impact of the international financial crisis, however she emphasized that this cannot be seen as a decrease in IUCN interest and commitment towards PAs work. She explained that in the DG's message concerning the redundancy of the Head of the Programme a number of measures have been proposed to maintain PPA's support to WCPA work. She committed to increase the support to WCPA policy work through greater involvement of the Biodiversity Policy Officer in the IUCN Global Policy Unit. She also stressed that the proposed PPA Review aims to identify ways and means to enhance the capacity of PPA and increase the relevance and impact of protected areas work at global and regional levels. She noted that PPA Review is of high priority for IUCN Management and that it is expected that this process will count with the support and valuable input of WCPA members.

During the discussion on this agenda item the following points were noted:

- The decision to make redundant the position of the Head of PPA sends a negative message to IUCN members that decided at the Barcelona Congress through Res. 4.035 that IUCN should enhance its support to PAs work including financial support. It was noted that some members have noted dissatisfaction with this management measure to the point of thinking to withdraw IUCN membership. This decision also sends a wrong signal to members and organizations that would like to support IUCN's work on PAs as they may not support

something that is not receiving enough attention in IUCN itself. In addition the timing for this decision cannot be worst considering the need for PPA and WCPA to be fully engaged with the process for reviewing the CBD/POWPA.

- In relation to PPA Review it is considered a critical step towards enhancing PPA thus it was noted the need to give the greater priority to implementing it as a matter of urgency. It was also stressed that the review in itself is less important than the management measures that will be taken after it to enhance PPA and develop its capacity.
- A few members of the SC noted that the funding that will be dedicated to implement this review should be better used for fundraising towards enhancing the capacity of PPA. In this context it was questioned the rationale for this review as well as how IUCN makes decisions on budget allocation as it seems that this process does not consider the importance of core competencies of the Union and the mandate from IUCN members resulting from Barcelona. It was also questioned the business model for supporting PPA and the need to ensure that fundraising is combined with adequate core funding; otherwise PPA staff would need to continue looking for funding to support the staff time which limits their ability to deal with technical work and the required input to WCPA work.
- It was noted that other reviews are also taking place like the one on IUCN Regional Office for Europe (IUCN/RofE) which have taken a lot of time and efforts. The implementation of PPA Review should be expedited due to its importance and should also fully consider the experience from the review of IUCN/RofE particularly to identify and involve strategic partners and donors. In this context it was noted the need to open this review to key PPA agencies and BINGOs who are key stakeholders of PPA and WCPA.
- A number of comments noted that PPA Review could open-up new and innovative opportunities for PPA leading to an enhanced programme and to a renewed commitment from IUCN management to PPA issues which doesn't seem to be the case at present, despite the mandate from IUCN members. Thus the involvement of WCPA/SC was considered very important in supporting this process.
- The SC members noted the importance of recognizing the excellent contribution from David Sheppard to PPA and WCPA work over many years of hard work and commitment to IUCN. In this regard a motion recognizing David's contribution was discussed and agreed (see Annex 1).

Jane Smart thanks everyone's input to this discussion and noted that as a learning institution IUCN has decided to undertake reviews of all global and regional programmes and that PPA was already scheduled to be reviewed; however the implementation of this exercise was advanced to identify changes needed to enhance this programme. She noted that the review of the Species Programme was very helpful to improve its work. She agrees that the review can help opening new opportunities for the programme and could lead to greater investment from IUCN on one of its core competencies. She reiterated her commitment and interest to protected areas and to maintain the profile of PPA and WCPA within IUCN whilst noting that there is scope for enhancing collaboration with SSC on protected areas and issues of biodiversity conservation outside them. In relation to fundraising for IUCN work on PAs she stressed that this is something that cannot wait for the review and that can start right away as she believes that all secretariat members should be engaged in fundraising. Once more she emphasized the importance to understand that the decision taken on the Head of PPA should not be seen as a lack of interest from IUCN on PPA issues; this argument was reinforced by João de Queiroz who noted that PPA work in SUR have been substantially reinforced in recent years and it represents a key priority for IUCN Programme in the region.

On the other hand Pedro Rosabal noted that the situation in PPA is difficult but that the whole PPA team is committed to try to maintain the required support to WCPA work and to other IUCN activities related to PPA issues. He acknowledged the support received from Parks Victoria

through the secondment of Zoe Wilkinson to PPA. He noted that Zoe would be working closely with WCPA in supporting actions on the CBD as well as in advancing preparations for the next WPC in 2014. He finally noted that PPA Review could indeed be a useful instrument to raise the profile of PAs issues in IUCN at all levels and reassure SC members that other members of PPA team will continue to do their best as it have been always the case in the past.

Nik closed this agenda item by appreciating the courage of Jane in explaining this problem and facing the discussion of this issue with SC members. He informed that the SC members will have a closed session to discuss in details the TOR for PPA review as to provide consolidated comments to IUCN Management on the review's TOR and process for implementing it. He emphasized the need for the review to think bigger and with a long-term perspective. Finally he welcomed the SC motion to recognize David's work and its contribution to IUCN and WCPA over 16 years of hard work.

Action Required

- 1 WC Draft TOR for review of PPA to be circulated to WCPA/SC Member (WCPA Chair)**
- 2 WCPA/SC members to provide input to the draft TOR. Views from WCPA to be transmitted to IUCN Management (WCPA Chair)**
- 3 Accelerate implementation of PPA review so as not to jeopardize PPA input to key WCPA priorities, mainly linked to the CBD & UNFCCC processes (Jane Smart, Head BCP).**

AGENDA ITEM 4: ACTION PLAN FOR WCPA

4.1 – CBD/POWPA Renewal – Charting the course of renewing POWPA beyond 2010 and addressing the new target for the CBD

This agenda item was introduced by a presentation from Jason Spensley. He noted that WCPA is well placed to provide input to the revision of POWPA due to its experience in supporting its implementation. The challenge is to use this process to help raising awareness on PAs issues as global focus has shifted to climate change. Another challenge is to transform the commitments from governments into ground actions. He noted the need to use the planned CBD Regional Workshops to promote WCPA advice on the review of POWPA. Nik informed the SC members that funding has been secured from a number of sources (Canada, The Netherlands, Finland, CI and UNEP) to implement a workshop on the revision of POWPA and that the government of Korea agreed to support this action and host this workshop in Jeju Island, 14-17 September. During the discussion following this presentation the following points were noted:

- There is a need to clarify and provide guidance on what the role of Regional Vice-Chairs in supporting implementation of the POWPA should be. It was noted that one possibility is to promote joint work with POWPA National Focal Points and IUCN National Committees which represents an opportunity to apply the "One Programme" approach of IUCN. WCPA Vice-Chairs also needs to get more involved in providing technical guidance from governments which so far has been mainly implemented through TNC with variable involvement from WCPA at the regional level.
- The implementation of POWPA in Europe is not linked to other key initiatives that are receiving political attention such as those associated to Natura 2000. Similarly in Meso-America POWPA is not well known and often not fully understood and actions are mainly driven by regional agreements. It was also noted that often the people representing countries at CBD/POWPA negotiations are not directly dealing with PAs issues therefore there is an urgent need to provide information on this subject to PAs agencies and managers. Sharing information can be done through initiatives such as the WCPA-Pacific Exchange.

- It was emphasized that whilst POWPA is not legally binding some countries like Mexico are using it as a tool to promote actions in PAs; thus the review of POWPA should be used as a mechanism to focus on practical issues to address. Thus the key aim of this review process is not about POWPA itself but also about mobilizing commitments.
- The need for enhancing actions related to promote new PAs gaps analysis and implementing recommendations from existing ones was strongly stressed. This could help in promoting joint work between WCPA and SSC and other IUCN regional and global programmes. This can also provide a good entry point to provide input to the post 2010 Targets that would need better based on scientific information. It was noted the need to include more indicators on protected areas in the revision of the 2010 Targets as to increase attention to PAs issues.
- The challenge to get better engagement on this process from Indigenous Peoples (IPs) organizations was noted. At present IPs are not supporting the implementation of POWPA and have distanced from this process. IPs have also noted serious concerns about negotiations on REDD and ways proposed for its implementation. Thus it would be important to ensure the participation of IPs representatives at the meeting in Korea as to start building enhanced links with WCPA on this process.
- A background document on the review of POWPA will be prepared to facilitate this review process and to be used as a key input to discussions during the meeting in Korea. All SC members should provide input to this process as well as PAs regional focal points in IUCN/RCOs. It was also proposed that the document should be shared with the IPs Forum.

Actions Required

- 1 Proposal for a Workshop to review the CBD/POWPA to be circulated to SC members for information (WCPA Chair)**
- 2 Action Plan on the CBD to be prepared and circulated to SC members. (Jason)**
- 3 Draft technical paper on reviewing and enhancing CBD/POWPA to be prepared and circulated to SC members and IUCN/RCOs for comments and input (Nigel Dudley).**
- 4 Technical input provided from IUCN Biodiversity Policy Officer to support process leading to the review of CBD/POWPA (Jane Smart).**

4.2 – UNFCCC Process – Protected areas role in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

This agenda item was introduced by a presentation from Trevor Sandwith. The presentation noted progress achieved in the implementation of the PACT 2020 project as well as next steps and proposed actions. He emphasized that UNFCCC process is a dysfunctional system and thus difficult to influence. He also noted that WCPA should use its technical strengths as to promote actions that can reduce the risks to PAs from climate change. On the other hand there is a need to make a good case on climate change in the context of POWPA; thus the review process should tackle this as a priority. During the discussion following this presentation the following points were noted:

- There is a need to compile and share more case studies and information on how to take actions on mitigation and adaptation in PAs. There is an increasing demand from PAs managers and agencies for this information. It was also noted the lack of adequate data and information to develop scenarios for assessing risks to PAs which requires greater investments on capacity building and monitoring. On the other hand serious doubts were noted on the feasibility and usefulness of modeling to match climate change scenarios as ecosystem processes and changes in biodiversity are complex and it is not easy to separate impacts from climate change to others that are associated to poor management and the effects of development projects. In this context it was proposed that WCPA should increase

attention on how to deal with PAs in vulnerable ecosystems, such as in mountains and coastal/marine environments and provide guidance on how to increase resilience of those ecosystems. The example of actions taken in Australia to increase resilience of the Great Barrier Reef by addressing impacts from land-based sources of pollution was noted as a way to use concerns on climate change to get commitment to enhance PAs conservation. The example of the Meso-American Biological corridor was also mentioned as the second phase of this project is making the link with climate change issues to use this policy process to influence actions on the ground.

- It was stressed that traditional knowledge should be supporting scientific information on climate change issues. Indigenous Peoples do know the effects occurring in the territories where they live but they don't have space to talk on this or to use their knowledge to influence the strategies developed by governments as nobody seems to be listening to them. There is a role for WCPA and IUCN to be more pro-active in making the link between traditional knowledge, protected areas and climate change including greater attention on climate change impacts to the livelihood of local communities.
- It was noted that in 1992 at the Rio Summit on Sustainable Development issues on climate change and biodiversity conservation were considered jointly but since then the conventions dealing with these issues have gone their own way. IUCN and WCPA should have the responsibility to promote this link. It was also noted that despite the complexity of the UNFCCC process it represents a window of opportunities for protected areas thus WCPA needs to game of this convention. However concern was noted on the perceived reluctance from IUCN to fully consider and promotes the role of protected areas as a tool to deal with climate change adaptation; despite several attempts to emphasize this point still most draft of IUCN Policy Positions prepared for the UNFCCC process are neglecting protected areas. Jane Smart committed to address this problem within IUCN as to ensure that the case on PAs and climate change is better articulated.
- SC members were informed that Nigel Dudley, in the context of the PACT 2020 project, is working on a report on making the case on the role and values of PAs to climate change adaptation. This report should be available for UNFCCC meetings as well as for CBD/COP10. It was stressed the need to get input from SC members including ideas on case studies. In this context it was noted the need to express the values of protected areas in economic and social terms as biodiversity arguments do not resonate in political agendas. It was also noted the need to streamline WCPA messages in this report and the one to be prepared on POWPA because the Global Biodiversity Conservation Agenda is promoting too many messages thus creating confusion particularly to policy makers. There is a need to develop clear messages such as those related to REDD that can be clear, simple and persistent. The need to use terminology in a consistent way was also stressed.
- In relation to the use of this report it was recommended to be widely circulated once available to: (a) IUCN and WCPA members as to make their more aware on this matter and more active in engaging in climate change and PAs issues; (b) PAs agencies; (c) key events such as WILD09 (November 2009) which can include this issue in its declaration; the Climate Change and PAs Summit in Andalucía (November 2009) and the Meso-American PAs Congress (March 2010) for which ORMA have been approached to organize a workshop on climate change and PAs. Finally it was emphasized the need to keep a good balance between policy issues and practical recommendations in this report as there is a high demand from PAs managers for practical guidance on climate change and protected areas.

Actions Required

- 1 Draft report on the values of PAs to Climate Change adaptation prepared and circulated to SC members for input (Nigel Dudley).**

- 2 Final report to be finalized and available for UNFCCC Meeting (Copenhagen, December 2009), WILD09 Conference, and CBD/COP 10. (PACT 2020 linkages)**
- 3 WCPA/SC members and PPA to use this report in promoting the values of PAs with a broader constituency at regional and national levels.**

Evening Session – Presentation on Protected Areas System in Ecuador

Dr. Marcela Aguiñaga, Minister of the Environment of Ecuador, welcomed participants to Ecuador and made a presentation on the Protected Areas System of Ecuador. Key highlights from this presentation include:

- Ecuador is recognized as the first mega-diverse country worldwide; thus biodiversity conservation is a priority for the government. The system started to be developed in 1935 and the first protected areas declared was the Galapagos National Park. There is a national policy to try to incorporate into the system natural areas that have not been greatly affected by development giving priority to the establishment of new MPAs. At present there are 40 protected areas in the system covering 18.5% of the country. These areas are managed in the context of different sub-systems linked to the government's objective of decentralizing activities to empower local authorities.
- In 2006 the Strategic Plan for the Ecuadorian Protected Areas System was developed through a wider participatory process. One of the principles applied in the planning and management of the system is to promote integrated management within individual protected areas and their surroundings leading to the provision of benefits to local communities and indigenous peoples. Increased attention has been placed on the development of transboundary initiatives and a large project is under implementation including PAs in Peru, Colombia and Ecuador.
- Investments for PAs management have increased over the years. At present 36% of the funding for PAs comes from the State, 35% from projects and the rest from private sector contributions. A considerable amount of this funding is related to Debt for Nature Swap. Role of tourism in supporting PAs is increasing and there are a number of projects funded by the Sustainable Tourism Alliance oriented to enhance benefits from tourism to PAs and local communities. The government is also putting in place a system for getting funding from environmental services.
- The government has placed increased emphasis on the development and implementation of management plans and the majority of PAs counts with them plus all PAs enjoying international recognition such as Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites. Activities at the international level include giving priorities to implementing the CBD/POWPA and actions oriented to reduce CO₂ emissions through forest conservation and sustainable forest management. In this context it was noted the achievements of the "Forest Partner Project" (Proyecto Socio Bosque) that is providing incentives to local communities and indigenous peoples for the conservation and sustainable management of native forests. This project is also enhancing biodiversity conservation outside existing PAs.

During the discussion it was highlighted the need to continue capitalizing on the role that the tourism industry can play in supporting PAs and the success achieved on this by countries such as Australia. It was also discussed that there are practical challenges, such as dealing with complex issues on land tenure in protected areas, on which guidance and advice from WCPA experts would be welcomed. João de Queiroz, Director of SUR, closed the session by thanking the Minister for giving time in her busy agenda to participate in the joint WCPA/CEC meeting and for the excellent presentation provided.

Day 2 – 12 May 2009

AGENDA ITEM 5: THEMATIC VICE CHAIR PRIORITIES

Capacity Building:

This topic was introduced by Nigel Dudley which highlighted in his presentation the key aims, target audiences, objectives and expected results from this newly created theme. He also handed out a questionnaire on this to get input from participants. Key issues discussed following the presentation include:

- ✓ A successful programme on capacity building will require serious engagement of WCPA members as well as the development and implementation of a financial strategy to support this programme. This was noted as high priority considering that small projects implemented until now to support capacity building have opened-up high expectations at the start but ending-up in frustrations.
- ✓ It was noted that capacity building is a major priority in almost all regions especially on the application of the category system, management effectiveness and increasingly on how to deal with climate change and PAs issues. It was also noted the need to organize activities by themes including the possibility of developing a platform for capacity building of rangers.
- ✓ Concern was expressed about the idea of developing new web sites as there are too many already out there. In this context it was also questioned the need for more on-line courses whilst having information in several languages was considered of high priority as to broaden the constituency of WCPA work. It was also stressed the need to make available more regionally tailored tools, case studies and practical examples on problems solving. The possibility of promoting and implementing staff exchange programmes was also noted.
- ✓ Concern was expressed on the lack of awareness of policy and decision makers on what WCPA can offer in terms of capacity building; therefore it was proposed the need to prepare and widely circulate a booklet outlining what WCPA can actually offer and deliver on capacity building.

Actions required

- 1. WCPA/SC members and IUCN Regional PA Focal Points to provide input to Nigel Dudley on the design and implementation.**
- 2. Exploring synergy and cooperation with CEC on a WCPA Capacity Building Programme (Nigel Dudley) (see joint Commission outcome).**
- 3. Preparation of a financial strategy, with input from SC members, for implementation of the WCPA Capacity Building Programme (Nigel Dudley).**

Mountains and Connectivity Conservation:

This topic was introduced by Graeme Worboys which outlined key proposed actions within each WCPA Strategic Directions, ways to enhance coordination and the linkages of this work with CBD/POWPA and UNFCCC. He also noted that this plan will be further adjusted based on the results from this meeting. Key points discussed include:

- In practical terms we are loosing “spaces” to develop large connectivity initiatives mainly due to the rapid expansion of biofuels projects; particularly in Asia and Latin America; this should be addressed by increasing the link with IUCN in relation to energy. It was noted the need to link this work with SSC and the Species Programme in relation to Key Biodiversity Areas

(KBAs) as well as to make linkages with Natura 2000 in Europe was also stressed as the development of corridors is considered a priority in this region. It was stressed that this work needs also to fully consider social and livelihoods issues as corridors are essential to maintain traditional land use practices such as pastoralism.

- A number of on-going initiatives were mentioned such as the 2nd Phase of the Meso-American Biological Corridor, a project in Niger to develop a 20M ha corridor, as well as several initiatives in South America. In relation to this it was noted the need to develop clear and simple guidance on how to plan and implement such large scale initiatives outlining what the contribution of WCPA could be in supporting such efforts.
- It was proposed the need to focus the work of this theme to provide input to the revision of the CBD Programme of Work on Mountains that should be discussed at COP10.

Actions required

- 1. Ensure linkages of this work with that of IUCN global and regional programmes dealing with Species Conservation (KBAs), Energy and Ecosystem Management (Graeme Worboys).**
- 2. Provision of technical and policy input to the CBD Programme of Work on Mountains to be discussed at CBD/COP10 (Graeme Worboys and Jason Spensley).**

World Heritage:

Issues on this theme were introduced by Allen Putney who highlighted in his presentation progress achieved, including linkages with other IUCN and UNESCO activities, the relevance of this work with POWPA and UNFCCC processes and major opportunities and challenges. Key points discussed include:

- Need to obtain more information of progress achieved at the regional level and particularly on the implementation of the African Plan for World Heritage (WH) sites.
- The IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Africa has been working with the African WH Fund and it is going to support implementation of activities in a number of WH sites. However this work could be enhanced by WCPA members providing mentoring support to WH site managers.
- It was noted that one overarching priority is the need to enhance the capacity of national governments on how to better implement the WH Convention.

Science and Management of Protected Areas:

Marc Hockings make a presentation on the structure of this theme, progress achieved on coordination and programmatic linkages, the relevance of this work for POWPA and climate change and major opportunities and challenges for this theme. Key points discussed include:

- It is a priority to build strong linkages with then scientific community as this was one of the criticisms received on the Vth World Parks Congress. It was proposed that Regional VCs should actively go out to identify potential new members within the scientific community. Marc noted that there is a growing interest on this as he has already received over 150 expressions of interests from scientist to become WCPA members. However the scientific community is quite broad and their involvement needs to be focused on issues of common priorities such as ecosystems resilience or in developing economic arguments on the values and services from PAs.

- Interest on management effectiveness assessment is growing in many regions. For example IUCN members have requested IUCN Regional Office for West Asia to get their support in developing a report on management effectiveness assessment for PAs in this region.
- It was noted that WCPA work on science should seek ways and means to fully consider the use of traditional knowledge on PAs management which is a key demand from indigenous people's organizations.

Actions required

1. **Significant focus of Science on maintaining ecosystems resilience (Marc Hockings).**
2. **Management Effectiveness to be led by a TF under SMPA (Marc Hockings)**
3. **WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs to actively recruit key scientists to joint WCPA.**
4. **Exploring options for greater involvement of scientific community at the next IUCN World Parks Congress (Marc Hockings with input from SC members and PPA).**

TILCEPA - Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihood Rights in Relation to PAs:

Progress achieved on the work on this theme and priorities for future actions were presented by Nigel Crawhall. He noted that one of the challenges of this work is to address the huge dysfunction of IUCN in dealing with Indigenous Peoples issues. He also emphasized the need for WCPA to provide an entry point for civil society into the CBD and UNFCCC processes. In particular he noted that an emerging issue is how to deal with displacement of people affected by climate change that eventually go and settle in or around existing PAs. Key points discussed include:

- There is a need to maximize the link between TILCEPA and WCPA activities at the regional level; for example there are a number of projects and activities on indigenous peoples and PAs in West Africa and Latin America. Enhancing this work at the regional level could be facilitated by sharing the communications from TILCEPA with WCPA and IUCN/RCOs. Priority should be given to share information on results from case studies or projects on PAs and indigenous people's issues.
- Considering the above it was proposed by a number of participants the need to have internal mechanisms to bring indigenous peoples organizations into WCPA including representation in WCPA Steering Committee.
- It was also proposed to give priority to enhance TILCEPA's support to the CCAs Registry Project aiming to enhance WCPA.

Marine theme:

Nik Lopoukhine introduced this subject on behalf of Dan Laffoley. He noted the excellent work achieved by this theme and the linkages established with the IUCN Global Marine Programme and a number of key IUCN members working on marine conservation initiatives. He stressed that issues on MPAs received great attention by IUCN members during the Barcelona Congress and in particularly the launch of the Global WCPA MPA Plan of Action and of Google Ocean. Nik stressed that Google Ocean represents a unique opportunity to enhance the work of WCPA on marine issues as well as for Regional Vice-Chairs to show case regional work on MPAs. However input received from WCPA on this initiative has been limited thus there is a need to give priority to this initiative.

Actions required

- 1. Populate MPAs on Google Ocean with data and images (All)**
- 2. Get to know the MPA coordinators in your Region (RVCs)**

AGENDA ITEM 6: REGIONAL VICE CHAIRS PRIORITIES

South America:

Julia Miranda explained the work of WCPA in the region and noted the principles governing this work which includes a number of resolutions and recommendations from the Barcelona Congress. She noted the relevance of WCPA work in the region where PAs issues are of high interest for IUCN members and the relevance of this work for POWPA and UNFCCC. She also stressed that PAs are facing many challenges in the region therefore enhancing WCPA work and its programmatic link with IUCN/SUR is essential. Key points noted in the discussion include:

- In relation to data and information management of PAS it was noted the need to establish linkages with IABIN.
- This regional presentation showed great deal of linkages and on-going as well as proposed actions with IUCN members in the region which should be a working principle for all WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs.

Europe:

The presentation from Stig Johansson noted the status of WCPA membership in the region and the multi-institutional complexity of PAs work in the region. He noted progress achieved so far and proposals to enhance WCPA coordination and operations in the region including through enhanced work with IUCN/RofE. Key points discussed include:

- It is desirable to enhance the membership by including more experts from PA agencies.
- Considering the increasing political commitment to the Natura 2000 Network this should be used as an entry point to promote WCPA activities in the region.

West and Central Africa:

Charlotte Karibuhoye noted the challenges of WCPA work in the region, the existing gaps in relation to membership in some countries and the priorities identified for WCPA activities in the region including the need to focus on the implementation of gap analysis and to reinforce the role of PAs in poverty reduction. She also stressed that coordination with the IUCN Regional Office is very good and that have the potential to be enhanced on issues of common priorities.

Mexico, Central America and Hispanic Caribbean:

Eduard Müller noted the challenges in dealing with an enlarged region and progress achieved on coordination, capacity building and communications. It was also noted that despite progress achieved there is still little response from volunteers in the region and that addressing this problem will be a priority.

North America and English Speaking Caribbean:

As for the previous presentation Cyril Kormos noted the challenges for WCPA in dealing with an enlarged region, however he also noted that this represents an opportunity for leveraging capacity of USA and Canada for the Caribbean and globally. He also noted challenges of the work in USA and the emerging opportunities offered by the new administration. Priority activities for each component of this region were also discussed. Pascal Girot informed on a meeting

implementing in early May with IUCN members for the Caribbean and that there is a need to build bridges across WCPA regions dealing with the Caribbean. Pascal also noted that IUCN members have identified issues on Red Listing process and MPAs as priorities for the region.

West Asia & North Africa Region:

Maher Mahjoub provided an overview of the region and the challenge to enhanced membership in the region. He noted that excellent coordination have been already established with IUCN Regional Offices for West Asia and the Mediterranean and with the IUCN Regional Councilors. He also discussed the priorities identified and the key activities proposed including the organization of a regional Conservation Forum in 2010. During the discussion it was noted the importance of promoting cooperation with also with West Africa and Saharan PAs particularly in relation to issues on local communities and mobile indigenous peoples.

Oceania:

Penny Figgis provided an overview of the biodiversity values and conservation challenges of this region as well as on the difficulties associated to one of the vastest regions on Earth. She noted progress achieved in communications, with IUCN Regional Office in Fiji as well as with IUCN Councilors and that work with IUCN National Committees for Australia and New Zealand have been strengthened. These linkages are considered essential in addressing conservation challenges and in promoting the implementation of identified WCPA priorities for the region.

Following all presentations from WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs a motion was discussed to acknowledge the work and achievements of the Regional VCs that served during previous years and which work contributed tremendously to the success of the commission. This motion was endorsed by the SC members (see Annex 2).

AGENDA ITEM 7: WCPA ACTION PLAN

7.1 - WCPA Youth Initiative – How to deal with Intergenerational Challenges

Svetlana Kopylova presented the history behind the creation of this initiative and the objectives that it pursues. She noted key activities implemented and the Action Plan proposed for this initiative as to tap into a number of emerging opportunities including a joint WCPA/CEC Task Force on Youth. During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Nik noted that he is extremely committed on the implementation of this initiative whilst noting that the key challenges to address are how to identify and recruit young members; how to fundraise for this work and the need to identify ways and means to make home for them in the different themes and task forces as well as to provide them with opportunities to participate in key events. He also noted that there is a need to identify members that can mentor new young members as the final outcome of this work is to develop a professional network of young people able to contribute to enhance PAs management. He urges all SC members to give the highest priority to support Svetlana's efforts to develop this initiative.
- It was stressed the need to make sure that the right people are invited: young people that really show promising development. They should be reflected in WCPA Database under a "youth" category ensuring their link with Svetlana's work. It was also proposed that PAs agencies should organize Youth Forums which could be promoted and leveraged by using Mandela's call on this issue at the Durban Congress.
- It is important to help connecting young professionals with communities living in and around PAs to engage them with elders as to better appreciate traditional knowledge and the values of protected areas,

- It was noted the need to clarify what WCPA can actually offer to your professionals when recruiting them as an incentive for getting their interest and commitment.
- It was propose the need to provide to 25-35 young members with tangible tasks to implement in the context of WCPA work as to throw their energy on implementing these tasks.

Actions required

- 1. Prepare and circulate to SC members for comments/input descriptor and criteria for youth membership (Svetlana L. Kopylova with support of Penny Figgis).**
- 2. Explore linkages for joint work between WCPA Youth Initiative with CEC Inter-generational Initiative (Svetlana L. Kopylova) (see outcome of joint CEC/WCPA).**
- 3. WCPA Chair to provide practical information to new VC (Nik Lopoukhine)**

7.2 – WCPA Communications and Publications

This discussion was introduced by Peter Valentine, newly appointed member of the SC for coordinating work on WCPA Publications. He noted that this appointment is most useful as he had a sense of disconnection with WCPA/SC particularly on issues associated to IUCN/WCPA Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs). In relation to the development of new proposed BPGs he noted the following:

- Conservation Planning: there have been some problems with the authors not meeting the deadlines for its finalization.
- Cities and PAs: there is progress on its preparation but the timeframe for its completion remains unclear; it may be possible to finalize it late in 2009.
- PAs Training: not much progress today; it needs support from the Capacity Building TF to assist in its production.
- PAs in Private Lands: there is little progress on its development; thus it was suggested to be abandon.

It has been proposed to develop a BPG on climate change and PAs and the importance of such publication have been stressed several times during the meeting. Marc Hockings volunteered to take actions on this proposal.

In relation to the coordination of BPG production and distribution it was noted that with recent changes in PPA this should be done by Pedro Rosabal. He agrees to take this role but noted that the PPA Budget have been seriously reduced and therefore PPA cannot support neither the production of BPGs nor that of PARKS magazine this year. In addition it was noted by Peter Valentine that the financial support provided his institution for producing the BPGs is no longer likely to be available. In addition after the redundancy of David's position there is no former editor for PARKS nor there is a process to regularly review and update the guidelines for authors.

There was a split in opinions about continue investing in producing hard copy of PARKS or just electronic versions. On one hand some SC members noted that hard copies are more appreciated by members and can be used to reach a wider audience. On the other hand it was questioned whether PARKS is the most cost effective communication tool and whether the funding required for its production and distribution (around CHF 62 – 65,000) should be better used to translate this and other communications products. The option of producing PARKS electronically can be tested as an experiment and then reconfigure its production as required based on results.

On PARKS it was also discussed that a more systematic approach on its content should be in place. Whilst thematic focus should be maintained its content should be more open including a variety of topics rather than a single theme providing opportunities to become a place for debate on PAs management issues. It was also noted the need to have a more academic approach to PARKS whilst avoiding having another "Conservation Biology" type of magazine. It was strongly emphasized that its target audience should be, as it has been the case since its creation, PARKS practitioners for which a proper technical peer-review process is required. There was overall agreement that PARKS needs transformation but retaining WCPA editorial control and peer-review to ensure consistency of its messages.

In relation to other communications products Nik noted that he is impressed with the quality of CEC Newsletter whilst noted that it is produced by a professional editor that is paid for this work. The WCPA News produced monthly by Delwyn is well received and it is appreciated that she produced it on top of everything else that she needs to do on other working priorities and that she depends on contributions received from WCPA members which are increasingly difficult to obtain. It was suggested that WCPA News could be structured into a bigger newsletter to be issued 3-4 times per year.

There were also questions on the future of PALNet whilst noting that this is to be reviewed by the Capacity Building Theme. It was noted the need to assess linkages with other initiatives such as the World Conservation Learning Network and to focus on promoting the use of key WCPA products and tools.

Actions required

- 1. Review of guidelines for authors of PARKS Magazine (Trevor, Marc, Charles and Penny).**
- 2. Undertake a survey of WCPA members to resolve issues of hard copies vs. electronic copies of WCPA publications (Peter Valentine).**
- 3. Prepare a draft WCPA Communication Strategy, with input from SC members, for consideration for next SC Meeting (Peter Valentine) See joint CEC/WCPA meeting outcome.**
- 4. Request Regional VCs to nominate a regional focal point to provide input to WCPA News (Peter Valentine and Regional VCs).**

7.3 – WCPA Task Forces (TFs) Review

This discussion was introduced by Nik who explain that WCPA needs to decide and provide advice on existing TFs and whether some of them need to be continued, changed by reconsidering its scope and objectives or abandoned. Marc Hockings noted that at present there are 20 existing or proposed TFs that needs tom be reviewed in line with agreed criteria. He noted the need to delimit networks of experts versus TFs and that this could be to the application of the concept of Specialist Groups as adopted by SSC. It was proposed that TFs need to meet a minimum set of criteria such as having clear TORs and taking responsibility in providing updates to WCPA website at least every 6 months. The question on whether TFs should be in the SC was discussed but no agreement was reached on this; however it was agreed that the SC should direct the work of TFs. It was also stressed that any documents or other products from TFs proposed to use the WCPA logo need to be peer reviewed by the SC.

Jane Smart pointed out that Specialist Groups (SGs) are a key and important element of SSC work. She noted that SGs needs to have TOR formally agreed by the Chair of SSC and the Chair of the SG but that after reaching this agreement the SGs can publicize their products under SSC logo without SC review. She committed to send copy of relevant documents about SGs to WCPA/SC for consideration in reviewing TFs and SGs.

Overall there was general agreement that TFs should be time bound and focused on producing specific outputs whilst SGs should be seen as alternative forums dealing with a variety of PAs issues. It was also agreed that these structures should be also applied at regional level as required and that it would be up to the Regional VCs to decide on which TFs and SGs to establish based on the criteria agreed by the WCPA/SC.

Actions required

- 1. Explore options for defining and establishing WCPA Specialists Groups (Marc Hockings).**
- 2. Review listing of TF and assign category and provide results to MH (VCs)**
- 3. Relevant documents on SSC Specialist Groups to guide the development of them within WCPA (Jane Smart).**
- 4. Development, with input from SC members, of principles, criteria and TOR for both WCPA Task Forces and Specialist Groups (Marc Hockings).**

AGENDA ITEM 8: IN-CAMERA MEETING OF WCPA/SC

This meeting discussed issues concerning the proposed PPA Review and issues concerning WCPA support and operations.

Actions required

- 1. Review of PPA - Conditional agreement to participate – note to be written by Chair based on input from SC members.**
- 2. Commission support - Needs not being met (e.g. starter pack, regional level support for Commission, funding model, etc) – Note to be written by the Chair.**
- 3. Membership inscription issues - COREG failure is plaguing volunteer efforts and Regional Focal points leading to exasperation! Possibility to apply CEC approach?**
- 4. Process of inscription needs tuning – Nik and Pedro**
- 5. Certificate recognizing past Service of VCs - Penny, Allan, Eduard**

The in-camera session also discussed and agreed a motion to be submitted to the IUCN Secretariat concerning the proposed PPA Review. This is attached as Annex 3.

Day 3 – 13 May 2009

A field trip was implemented to the Cotocachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve. It includes visiting a number of local communities and indigenous people's initiatives and discussion on key conservation, social and management challenges facing this protected area. The field trip was kindly organized by SUR with the support of the Parks Service of Ecuador and local authorities.

Day 4 – 14 May 2009

Joint WCPA/CEC planning session

The minutes of this joint planning session and actions arising from it are included in annex 4.

Day 5 – 15 May 2009

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY – ENABLING EFFECTIVE RESPONSES

This agenda item was introduced by Trevor Sandwith with two presentations; one on the policy and technical challenges and opportunities related to promoting the role of PAs in climate change negotiations and the links with CBD/POWPA and the second one on the IUCN/PACT 2020 project, progress achieved so far and next steps and priorities on its implementation. Key points discussed include:

- The linkages of the PACT 2020 project with the PAs Values Report were noted. However it was stressed the need to get advice from SC members on case studies on climate change and PAs under implementation by governments. It was noted that some of the case studies developed under the EPP project could be considered but that a scoping exercise is needed among different organizations to find out case studies to be used for communications and policy work. The assessments of case studies could potentially lead to the development of a BPG on the role of protected areas in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Marc Hockings will be the focal point in developing this BPG for which he will circulate a request to SC members to identify key people working on this issue. It was also emphasized the importance of the values report and the proposed BPG to address the lack of appreciation and articulation on climate change issues and the core business of IUCN on species and protected areas. Furthermore it was considered that results the PACT 2020 project could lead to a strong theme at the next World Parks Congress.
- The importance of large scale connectivity corridors in relation to climate change was emphasized. In this context it was noted the importance of considering WH sites as “anchors” in connectivity corridors as well as the need to consider in the policy work the policy positions adopted by the WH Convention on Climate Change. Graeme Worboys informed the SC members that he is working with Charles Besancon to identify the most important areas for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The need to think on the future of the PACT 2020 project was noted as well as the possibility to approach some potential donors in Europe through IUCN/RofE to seek funding for its follow-up. Paul Grigoriev will try to explore options for fundraising.

AGENDA ITEM 9: WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS

Charles Besancon introduced this subject outlining in his presentation key points on the development of WDPA and progress achieved on its improvement. He noted that the 2009 version has been released and that work is in progress in using WDPA for climate change assessments which have made possible to estimate that global carbon stored in protected areas is around 15.2% of the carbon stock in terrestrial regions. He also noted the importance of WDPA for policy as well as for the private sector, which is supporting this work through the Proteus Partnership project. He informed the SC members on a pilot project to be shortly implemented in Asia, with the involvement of IUCN Regional Office for this region, in order to improve PAs data and information for this region. Key points discussed include:

- It was noted that WDPA could potentially be used to promote the conservation of biodiversity outside PAs which is increasingly threatened by development projects including biofuels production. However it was stressed that at present there is no agreed global criteria to identify these areas of important biodiversity values outside PAs and that SSC work on KBAs could help to address this problem. Jane Smart noted that IUCN is working in developing global standards for KBAs and that what is needed is to create a layer on KBAs and areas identified as priority for conservation in PAs gaps analysis to avoid losing them. She also noted that space data of the Red List will be also included shortly linked to WDPA. It was noted that the Secretariat of the CBD has an important role to play in providing information on countries that have done gap analysis and the priority areas identified by such assessments.

- On the contrary it was discussed that a simplistic approach for biofuels development based on global assessments and maps overlays will lead to inadequate decision making. Instead what is needed is to have a process driven approach in place at the national level involving all key stakeholders. Concerns were also noted on the conflict of interest that could be perceived by WCPA members and PAs constituency in linking WDPA with biofuels development as well as with respect of private sector engagement with WDPA work. It was noted the need to have a strong disclaimer on this issue including on WDPA and WCPA involvement with the partners of the PROTEUS project.
- Information on PAs in indigenous people's lands and territories was noted as another sensitive issue as this information has the potential to be misused by some private sector companies in promoting development projects. This is a very politically sensitive issue on which guidance needs to be developed and provided on how to use data and information on CCAs and ICCAs.
- The question on how best WCPA Regional VCs can assist in improving data for WDPA was discussed. Whilst this is considered a key priority in most regions concerns were also expressed that national PAs agencies and governments are the ultimate responsible for providing this data which goes beyond the responsibility of Regional VCs. It was noted the need to develop clear guidance on the role of Regional VCs in contributing to WDPA including the expert review of data. Charles noted that there is the possibility to get WCMC's resources to support the expert review of WDPA data particularly on GIS data and information on categories. In relation to the PAs data it was proposed to indicate with simple symbol its accuracy; however it was clarified that this can only be done if the quality of data is known through expert review. It was noted that a number of projects in Africa are compiling GIS data on protected areas and that linkages with those projects should be explored.

Actions required

1. **Prepare and circulate a disclaimer on WDPA – Charles Besancon**
2. **Expert Review of Data – TOR to be circulated to RVCs – Charles Besancon**
3. **Assist in getting better data by identifying contacts for WCMC – RVCs**

AGENDA ITEM 10: PRESENTATIONS FROM IUCN REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR PROTECTED AREAS

The Chair for the commission introduced this item by noting that he decided to make an investment from WCPA/COF to support the participation of IUCN regional focal points for PAs as a step forward greater integration of WCPA and IUCN work at the regional level. Key points noted during the presentations include:

IUCN/SUR

PAs is an issue of high priority for IUC members in the region as such it is a main priority for SUR's programme. One of the main objectives of this programme is to consolidate PAs management in the region. SUR is implementing a number of projects on PAs such as one in Campo Grande, Brazil and is promoting a project on knowledge management and PAs. The key challenges are associated to how implement the "One Programme" approach in practical terms and securing funding to consolidate the Regional PAs Programme. It was noted that enhanced interaction with WCPA Regional VCs have been achieved and should be strengthened.

IUCN West Asia

PAs Programme is a specific component of the Regional Programme as approved by members. This programme follows the global strategy on PAs and its design was done in consultation with

PPA. There are a number of projects under implementation including: (a) Five projects in Jordan to establish four new PAs; (b) project in Syria linking the protection of threatened species with PAs management; (c) project in Lebanon linking PAs management and sustainable livelihoods; (d) follow-up on the Gulf War compensation project in Jordan, and; (e) agreement to support the work of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWD) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The PAs Regional programme is also very active on capacity building including on MPAs management in Syria; capacity building of PAs managers in Palestine; capacity building on WH sites management implemented in partnership with UNESCO and support to a train the trainers programme on Red Listing. A number of new projects on PAs issues are under negotiation. The office is also very active on policy issues and enjoys observer status on Policy Committees at the Regional Level.

Since the appointment of the new WCPA Regional Vice-Chair interactions with him to plan joint activities have been enhanced. The key priorities identified for joint work with WCPA includes: (a) enhancing WCPA membership and improve communications to mobilize their contributions; (b) Translating into Arabic and widely disseminating the BPG No. 1, 10 and 11, and; (c) forging linkages with other IUCN commissions.

Key challenges facing IUCN work in the region includes: (a) limited human (2 staff) and financial capacity in IUCN Regional PAs Programme; (b) increasing demand for guidance on how to enhance PAs management; (c) needs to enhance capacity building activities, and; (d) how to improve communications with WCPA members.

Following the presentation a question was asked about what kind of support the office can provide in addressing issues of illegal wildlife hunting particularly in Kenya that is assumed to be linked to the Jordanian Royal Family. It was noted that this is a political sensitive issue at the regional level that should be better addressed by the national authorities of the countries involved.

Regional Office for Europe

This regional office doesn't have a PA Programme as such but 80% of all projects are dealing with PAs issues. There is no formal focal point for PAs but Paul Grigoriev is assuming that role. All four national offices under RofE are working on PAs projects: Russia is working on a project on local communities, PA and sustainable livelihoods; the Belgrade Office hosts the Green Belt Initiative including work on TBPA's in the Balkans and PAs projects in Southern Caucasus. All people working on these activities are depending 100% on project funding. Additional funding has been secured from Finland and Italy to enhance work on PAs activities and other projects are under negotiation. The office is also supporting work on climate change and biodiversity conservation in the EU's Overseas Territories; a meeting on this is planned to be held in the Canary Islands in June 2010. The office always face complex issues in addressing the right priorities; e.g. in Central Asia the governments want support for organizing thematic meetings whilst IUCN members want to work on PAs Management Effectiveness Assessments and Red Listing. There are a lot of areas that could be used for strengthening interactions with WCPA and discussion on collaboration is already underway with the WCPA Regional VCs. During the discussion Marc Hockings noted that a European Management Effectiveness Review is soon to start and he will promote linkages with RofE for on implementing this task.

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Pedro Regato provided an overview of the different programmes and activities under implementation. This office doesn't have a specific programme on PAs but this work is addressed as a cross cutting issue by other programmes. PAs are a particularly important link in the work that the office is doing on Participatory Landscape Planning and restoration of Forest Landscapes. They are also implanting a number of projects in the region and other new projects are under negotiation.

Regional Office for West and Central Africa

This presentation noted the challenges of IUCN in a complex region that have a great potential for conservation but that for a number of reasons have achieved limited progress on PAs planning and management. IUCN is the only Regional Conservation Organization in West Africa therefore receiving high demands to work on PAs issues. In addressing this challenge the regional office is actively engage in a number of projects on PAs management, including assessing management effectiveness; all these projects have important social and poverty reduction components as these are critical issues in the region. The office is also very active on capacity building and communications including the production of a monthly newsletter. Since the appointment of the new WCPA Regional Vice-Chair there have been positive interactions on priorities for collaboration.

Regional Office for Meso-America (ORMA)

Historically the work on PAs has been one of the strengths of the office as it has always been a priority issue identified by governments and IUCN members in the region. Regional work on PAs is giving support to the implementation of the First Phase in the development of the Meso-American Biological Corridor and now technical advice is provided for the design of the Second Phase of this initiative. Interaction with WCPA Regional VC is positive whilst mobilizing WCPA network is still challenging. Since the implementation of the Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas (Bariloche, Argentina, October 2007) ORMA is increasing programmatic links with SUR in relation to PAs issues. The office is also particularly involved in policy issues by supporting governments to implement POWPA including support on reporting on progress achieved. There are now actively engaged in supporting the organization of the next Meso-American Congress on PAs to be held in Mexico in March 2010 for which the office has been requested to organize a workshop on climate change and PAs which is an issues receiving increasing political attention by the governments in the region. Finally it was noted that ORMA has also played an active role in relation WH monitoring in collaboration with PPA, WCPA-WH theme and UNESCO.

Actions required

- 1. Enhance coordination between IUCN/RCOs and WCPA Regional VCs – All IUCN PAs Regional Focal points and WCPA Regional VCs.**
- 2. Promote better communications between IUCN/RCOs and WCPA Regional VCs – Victor Inchausty to act as focal point.**
- 3. Assess the possibility to have regional focal points to support TILCEPA's work in IUCN/RCOs and WCPA Regions – Nigel Crawhall**

AGENDA ITEM 11: WORLD PARKS CONGRESS

Pedro Rosabal explained that one of the key priorities in the secondment arrangement between IUCN and Parks Victoria is that Zoe Wilkinson will be assisting in staging this key event. He also noted that the new established IUCN Congress Unit should be providing logistical support as for PPA and WCPA to mainly focus on technical and strategies issues. It was discussed that considering the timing for the next IUCN/WCC (scheduled for 2012) the next WPC should be implemented in 2014 and not in 2013 as initially considered. Nik informed that expressions of interest for hosting WPC have been received from Australia, Korea, Singapore and Spain. Key issues discussed include:

- There was divergence of opinions on whether to organize a large congress or a smaller event preceded by a series of regional events. It was noted that a large congress can produce powerful messages from a broad constituency which was the case of the Durban Message to the CBD. In this sense it was stressed the need to define policy targets for WPC as there is

another CBD/COP proposed for the same year; such message may be focusing on fostering the implementation of a renewed POWPA. It was stressed that by 2014 the climate crisis would lead to give priority to assess how to deal with impacts on protected areas and people.

- The definition of WPC policy outcomes would need to set in advance a global agenda for PAs as to align other regional congresses and PAs meeting to be held before WPC as to have it as the end point of a large process. This will also require identifying a number of milestones contributions that should be arising from regional events as well as a group of people assessing the input from regional events to provide feedback to WCPA/SC on implications for WPC agenda.
- Jane Smart stressed that IUCN Senior Management is committed to support this event and that as a first step PPA and WCPA should prepare a planning document to be discussed by the Programme and Planning Committee of Council during the next Council meeting (23-25 November). Nik noted that, as for the implementation of the Durban Congress, IUCN Council need to have a role to oversee WPC implementation. In this context it was stressed the need to clarify the role of WCPA/SC and WCPA Chair as they should be renewed at the next IUCN/WCC in 2012.

Actions required

- 1. Launch “Survey monkey” focused on members expectations (size, themes) - Zoe**
- 2. Choice of Location (decide on process) – WCPA/ExCo**
- 3. Prepare a strategic plan (timelines, costs, etc.) – Nik (with support of Peter Shadie, Pedro Rosabal and Enrique Lahmann)**

AGENDA ITEM 12: MEETING CLOSURE

Nik Lopoukhine closed the meeting on Friday 15 May acknowledging the quality of the discussions and the excellent spirit of cooperation showed between IUCN Secretariat and WCPA/SC that he encourages maintaining. A number of participants noted that this was an excellent meeting that should lead to enhance joint actions. Nik also acknowledge the excellent support provided by SUR and the team directly involved in the organization and implementation of this meeting in an outstanding and beautiful setting. Nik also noted that the next meeting is probably going to be held either in Canada or China which will be further assessed before taking the final decision on location.

**Motion 1 – Acknowledgement of David Sheppard contribution to
IUCN work on Protected Areas**

That the IUCN/WCPA Steering Committee Meeting in Ecuador expresses its warm appreciation of the dedication and commitment of David Sheppard to the global mission of IUCN and in particular to protected areas and world heritage.

The Commission thanks David for his many achievements in protected areas policy and outcomes in his time as head of the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas (PPA).

The Commission particularly acknowledges David's close working relationship with the Commission as a whole and the Steering Committee in particular.

David's work as Head of PPA will have a legacy of enhanced awareness, developed policy and improved capacity that will support global protected areas for many years to come.

Motion 2 – Acknowledgement of Vice-Chairs who served during the 2005-2009

That the IUCN/WCPA Steering Committee Meeting in Ecuador wishes to warmly acknowledge the contributions of the Vice-Chairs who served during 2005-2009.

It is fully acknowledged that most Vice-Chairs spend a good deal of voluntary time and effort to further the global mission of IUCN and WCPA in particular.

We thank them for their expertise, dedication and passion for protected areas and ask them to remain close friends and active members of the Commission.

We ask the Chair to convey our appreciation to them.

Motion 3 – WCPA/SC Message to the IUCN Secretariat

That the IUCN/WCPA Steering Committee Meeting in Ecuador wishes to convey the following key messages to the IUCN Secretariat:

- The SC appreciated the attendance of Jane Smart and her commitment to a constructive forward relationship between IUCN Secretariat and the Commission.
- Strongly applauds the assessment of the IUCN Programme and Policy Committee of Council to identify IUCN Resolution 4.035 “Strengthening IUCN’s work on protected areas” as a major priority.
- Underscores the Commission’s global networks will play a central role in delivering this goal.
- In this context the Commission Steering Committee agrees that a review of the Programme on Protected Areas is timely and supports it as step to deliver Resolution 4.035as prioritized by the Programme and Policy Committee of Council.
- The Steering Committee looks forward to strong collaboration with the Secretariat and will strongly advocate for additional capacity to be generated in the near future.
- The Steering Committee will provide detailed comments on the TOR for the proposed PPA review based on in an on-going review by the Steering Committee.