

WCPA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

17 to 20 September 2007
Yellowstone National Park, USA



Cover Photo: WCPA Steering Committee Participants
Yellowstone, USA, September 2007

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FINAL MINUTES

(12 December, 2007)

***IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
Steering Committee Meeting: 17 to 20 September 2007
Yellowstone National Park, USA***

PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee members

Jim BARBORAK, Charles BESANCON, Grazia BORRINI-FEYERABEND, Jessica BROWN, Roger CROFTS, Natalia DANILINA, Penny FIGGIS, Dave HARMON, Marc HOCKINGS, Floyd HOMER, Ali KAKA, Cyril KORMOS, Ashish KOTHARI, Dan LAFFOLEY, Nik LOPOUKHINE, Steve McCOOL, Carmen MIRANDA, Eduard MULLER, Cristi NOZAWA, Allen PUTNEY, Sonia RIGUEIRA, Trevor SANDWITH, Jason SPENSLEY, Uday SHARMA, Brice SINSIN, Ted TRZYNA, Graeme WORBOYS, Xie YAN

Apologies

Nigel DUDLEY, Hector MAGOME, Mohammad SULAYEM, Tapa SUAESI

Others (IUCN Secretariat and Observers)

Tim BADMAN, Steve EDWARDS, Kari LAHTI, Stephen MORRIS, Silvio OLIVIERI, Peter SHADIE, David SHEPPARD,

AGENDA ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION

Opening and objectives of meeting

Nik Lopoukhine opened the meeting on Monday 17 September and thanked the US authorities and Dave Harmon in particular for hosting the WCPA Steering Committee in such a magnificent natural setting. The following objectives for the meeting were outlined and agreed by participants:

- ✓ *to **convene** the WCPA Steering Committee for 2007;*
- ✓ *To **advise** on key targets that should be included in the 2009-2013 Programme for PPA/WCPA;*
- ✓ *To **determine** a strategy for WCPA at the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress;*
- ✓ *To **review** key issues relating to protected areas and agree appropriate responses; and*
- ✓ *To **share experience** in relation to protected areas and in relation to WCPA.*

Overview of activities since last WCPA Steering Committee Meeting

Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard reviewed progress since the last meeting of the WCPA Steering Committee (SC) and noted that PPA and WCPA had undertaken a number of activities in the 2006/7 period, with particular highlights including: (a) re-invigoration of the WCPA Marine Programme, working in close partnership with the IUCN Protected Areas and Marine Programs – thus providing an excellent example of the “IUCN One Programme” approach; (b) developing stronger regional activities in a number of WCPA regions, including Australia/New Zealand; (c) implementation of major standard setting meetings, such as the “Categories Summit” held in Almeria, Spain in May 2007; (d) convening major protected area forums, including the 2006 World Protected Areas Leadership Forum; and (e) providing input to International Conventions, including the 2007 World Heritage Committee and the CBD Program of World on Protected Areas.

Both the Chair and Deputy Chair have been actively involved in representing WCPA at a number of meetings, including those of the IUCN Council and relevant IUCN planning meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 2: HIGHLIGHTS OF WCPA SC MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Reports from WCPA Steering Committee members were included in the background papers for the SC meeting. Additional comments were provided to the SC meeting and a summary of these comments is included in Annex A to these draft Minutes.

General comments noted by SC members included:

- ✓ Threats to protected areas are significant and are growing. In many countries the priority given to protected areas is reducing and connections between major issues such as climate change and protected areas are not being made;
- ✓ The need for greater attention to the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), and the potential of the recently initiated UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme to support country action on the PoWPA;
- ✓ The importance of increasing effective linkages between the regional and thematic activities of WCPA;
- ✓ The limited follow up on some items from the 2006 WCPA Steering Committee, including in relation to communications; and
- ✓ General concerns regarding the lack of funding to implement activities outlined in the WCPA Strategic Plan.

A number of SC members also noted they will be planning to step down at the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress, including Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (Co-chairs of the Governance Equity and Livelihoods Strategic Direction), Roger Crofts (Europe regional Vice Chair) and Jim Barborak (Head of the Training Task Force). It was agreed that all SC members who may be stepping down at the next SC should formalize a process of transition to new chairs/heads, which should include: (a) a search process; (b) adequate time; (c) involvement of members, the WCPA Chair and the Head of PPA; and (d) establishing realistic expectations for those who may replace them.

AGENDA ITEM 3: THE DRAFT IUCN PROGRAMME 2009 TO 2013 AND IMPLICATIONS FOR WCPA AND ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

Nik Lopoukhine gave a power point presentation (refer PowerPoint in CD Rom attached to these minutes) on the "State of the Union", which outlined strengths and weaknesses of WCPA. He emphasized the need for WCPA to be more proactive and better focused on the role of protected areas in addressing major issues such as Climate Change, and suggested a new theme for WCPA: "*Protected Areas – for Life's Sake*"

David Sheppard noted that the draft 2009 – 2013 IUCN Programme has been circulated for comment and that input is requested from WCPA members. David also noted that protected areas were facing many threats and were losing ground in many countries. He noted the Programme on Protected Areas and WCPA were required to submit their "component programs" by the end of September, 2007 and that this provides a vehicle to ensure that WCPA is more effectively addressing major issues affecting the future viability of protected areas.

Trevor Sandwith facilitated SC discussion on both the 2009 – 2013 IUCN Programme and on WCPA inputs to the component program. The following four issues were examined by the SC and by Working Groups: (a) Comments on the IUCN Programme; (b) the new vision and positioning of WCPA; (c) targets that should be included in the 2009-2013 PPA/WCPA Programme; and (d) implementation, including business planning. Key points in relation to each of these four issues are outlined below (refer CD Rom for the full presentation):

Comments on the IUCN Programme

SC members noted a number of concerns regarding the IUCN Programme, specifically that protected areas were a glaring omission from the document (only once mentioned in the text of the document) and that their key role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods was not recognized. Another concern was raised that the areas of climate change and energy should be considered together. It was agreed that comments would be sent by to Bill Jackson by Nik on behalf of the SC

The new vision and positioning of WCPA (in the context of the 2009-2013 Programme)

It was noted that the existing WCPA Strategic Plan provides a good framework for input to the new program but there is a need to reshape and refine the vision and positioning of WCPA.

Key elements of the new vision should include:

- ✓ Ensuring protected areas are relevant to current major issues, such as health, poverty, water and Climate Change;
- ✓ Addressing the many threats that face protected areas and the fact that many protected areas face serious challenges;
- ✓ Using new ways of telling the story about protected areas, including through the development of new and striking messages regarding protected areas. A powerful communications strategy is essential;
- ✓ Working more effectively with other agencies to create one shared message. This should recognize that many agencies are involved in protected areas and the role of WCPA is to enable and facilitate; and
- ✓ Taking a wider view: everyone can contribute to the protected areas goals.

Key elements of the positioning WCPA include:

- ✓ trend setting, including in relation to responding to and identifying new challenges and responses;
- ✓ emphasizing our role in convening and mobilizing, including in bringing together organizations in a neutral space and mediating where there are conflicts;
- ✓ strengthening WCPA's role in setting global conservation standards, in such areas as categories, governance types, certification systems, and management effectiveness. It should also be noted that these are marketable products for IUCN and WCPA;

- ✓ developing and promoting credible and relevant policy statements, on issues such as business and biodiversity, and extractive industries; and
- ✓ strengthening knowledge and building know-how, through approaches such as strengthening ongoing learning networks, training programs and the development and dissemination of tools.

Targets that should be included in the 2009-2013 PPA/WCPA Programme

It was noted that the existing WCPA strategy needs to be refined and aligned with the 4 thematic areas of the new IUCN Programme. Additional component results were identified in relation to: (a) the CBD Programme of Work; (b) climate change, (using World Heritage sites as case studies for climate change adaptation); (c) human well being (in relation to CCAs); (d) and responses to natural hazards. Prioritizing WCPA actions can be guided by some key questions: (a) what are the critical tasks that need to be completed to respond to the urgent issues facing people on Earth? (Eg climate change, energy impacts); (b) what are the critical tasks needed by IUCN ?; and (c) is WCPA equipped to deal with the critical tasks ?

The issue of practicality was noted by the SC, in that WCPA is largely a volunteer network and that any targets identified in the new Plan must be capable of implementation within this framework. The general sustainability of a volunteer network was also questioned by some WCPA members.

Implementation, including business planning

It was noted that a better business plan is needed to provide an effective funding model for WCPA/PPA, based around servicing needs and demands for the distinctive roles that WCPA perform. This should focus on a convening and standard setting role rather than a project based model. The business plan should also be based on a cooperative approach between the Secretariat and WCPA members, rather than competition. It is also important to examine the existing PPA/WCPA business plan and the 6 associated project proposals and assess why funds have not been generated to date to support their implementation.

Discussion

Other key points relating to business planning were noted as:

- ✓ the need to identify IUCN members and partners who demand or need the products of WCPA and seek core funding and support from them to enable implementation;
- ✓ the need to review successful examples where funds have been raised, such as in relation to the Enhancing our Heritage project and replicate this experience (in this specific case there was a product – standard setting, convening – which WCPA could provide where no one else could);
- ✓ the CBD PoWPA provides a focus for the business plan, although it should not be a straightjacket for diverse activity and access to diverse sources of funding;
- ✓ services that are in demand and that others cannot meet provide a useful product line for WCPA – but it is important to ensure consistent high quality delivery of products;
- ✓ events (mini Durban) that address convening need and also raise funds, can be a useful mechanism (the IUCN 2003 World Parks Congress was run at a profit);
- ✓ development of flagship products, such as PALNet and the WDPA (jointly with UNEP-WCMC) can provide a useful basis for fundraising;
- ✓ there is potential for a 'big idea' project that mirrors the success of Landscape & Livelihoods Initiative; and
- ✓ funding should allow flexibility to support regional and thematic initiatives.

Action Required

- 1 Comments to be sent to Bill Jackson relaying the WCPA SC concerns in relation to the draft IUCN 2009-2013 Programme – Action: Nik

- 2 Draft PPA/WCPA 2009 – 2013 Programme to be prepared and submitted to IUCN as requested – Action: David, Nik, Trevor and Penny (and draft to be circulated by David to SC members for comment)
- 3 Review and refresh the Vision and Positioning of WCPA, and recommend new partnerships around this vision – Action: WCPA Executive, plus Strategic Direction leaders, Penny Figgis and others to be defined
- 4 Develop WCPA Business Plan – Action: Geoff Vincent and Dan Laffoley
- 5 Circulate Graeme Kelleher's paper regarding membership to WCPA Steering Committee – Action: PPA and develop recommendations to ensure WCPA membership matters are more effectively addressed

AGENDA ITEM 5: WCPA INPUT TO THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Steve Edwards made a presentation on the IUCN World Conservation Congress which will be held in Barcelona, Spain in October, 2008. (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes) under the theme of: "a diverse and sustainable world". He noted the Congress will be a milestone event and is expected to attract up to 10,000 persons. It provides an excellent opportunity for Commissions, and WCPA in particular, to position itself in relation to protected areas and in relation to the IUCN Programme. Steve noted the Congress will include the World Conservation Congress, a Members Assembly and a wide range of other events, including meetings of Commissions.

It was noted that the World Conservation Forum is a key event for Members and will involve around 500 sponsored events in 3 days, organized under three workshop streams: (1) a new climate change for change; (2) healthy environments – healthy people; and (3) safeguarding the diversity of life. Events will include alliance workshops (217 workshop slots in total will be available over the 3 days of the Forum); knowledge cafes and roundtables – all of 90 minute duration - and there will also be the opportunity for poster presentations

Member contributions to the Forum have been invited and there has been a tremendous response. As at the beginning of September, 544 proposals for workshops had been received, of which 89 relate to protected areas – there have also been a large number of proposals submitted in relation to fisheries and marine; most proposals related to the workshop stream: "diversity of life". A further round of proposals have been invited (the second round) and this will close on the 31 October. There are some gaps in the workshop proposals currently submitted. For example, there are very few workshop proposals submitted from Africa and Asia and there are very few francophone proposals. Workshops that are submitted in the second round which address these gaps will be given a relatively higher priority.

It was noted that there were 6 workshop slots to each Commission and 5 allocated to component programs: thus 11 workshop slots in total available for WCPA and PPA and advice is requested on what topics we would like to include within this allocation. In addition, there will be a number of protected area workshops allocated for members to run.

The IUCN members Assembly will cover a range of matters of relevance to Members, including discussion and adoption of the IUCN Programme and the adoption of resolutions and recommendations. In relation to the latter Steve noted that IUCN Members will be invited to submit motions by at the latest, 120 days before the Congress and that each motion will have to have 3 formal sponsors.

Discussion

In relation to WCPA input to the Congress in general and to the Forum in particular, it was further agreed:

- ✓ That there should be a major high profile workshop (a big "splash" event, at which inspirational speakers should be invited to speak) linked with and supported by other workshops relating to protected areas. It was noted that there will be one workshop venue which can hold 3,000 persons and we should aim for this for the "splash" event. The impact of the junior ranger at the World Parks Congress was noted as a useful example for this event;
- ✓ The Forum workshops allocated to WCPA (6) and to PPA (5) should be considered together, rather than separately, as opportunities to promote protected areas and their relevance;
- ✓ The Steering Committee noted that workshops at the Forum should be considered within a broader context of the vision WCPA is trying to achieve in relation to protected areas. To this end what is required at the WCC is a clear and cohesive "protected area journey" which sets out what we would like to achieve in relation to protected areas in general at the Congress. It was noted that protected areas should be prominent in all aspects of the Congress, including the Forum, the Members Assembly (including resolutions relating to protected areas), the WCPA Members Meeting¹, launches of key initiatives, such as the Category Publication, as well as other forums;
- ✓ The "protected areas journey" should concentrate on clear and simple messages which relate protected areas to broader themes such as human health, sustainable development and poverty. It should stress the urgency of the challenges facing humankind, such as the current species extinction crisis and messages should be backed up by events and by effective advocacy addressed to key persons, such as Ministers. The elements within the protected areas journey should have a clear

¹ each Commission has a one day meeting allocated prior to the Conservation Forum at the WCC

and cohesive linkage. As a general principle we should aim to do a few things well rather than trying to cover too much. In general there will be a very crowded agenda at Barcelona and we will need something that makes protected areas and WCPA stand out;

- ✓ PPA/WCPA will need to raise funds to stage events at the WCC and a fundraising strategy is required; and
- ✓ The Congress should also be used as an opportunity to mobilize and energise the WCPA membership and also to showcase key products, such as the Categories Guidelines;

Action Required

1. A cohesive strategy and programme (a “protected areas journey”) should be developed to guide WCPA/PPA input to the Congress, covering input on protected areas to all relevant aspects of the Congress – Action: WCPA/PPA Congress Planning Team, comprising: Nik, David, Trevor, Marc, Penny, Pedro, Kari
2. Workshop proposals from WCPA and PPA to the Conservation Forum to be identified, including the “splash” event (which should include local content) - Action: Nik, David, Trevor, Marc, Penny
3. Ideas for content of the Commission sessions to be submitted to Trevor, Nik, David – Action: All WCPA SC Members
4. Workshop proposals submitted by members to be reviewed by a WCPA/PPA team, after the closing of the second round of submissions – Action: Jim, Charles, Cyril, Jessica, and Kari

AGENDA ITEM 6: DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES

6.1 Marine Protected Areas

Dan Laffoley outlined progress with the WCPA Marine Programme and highlighted the very successful Marine Summit² and the strengthening of capacity of WCPA Marine over the last year (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes). Key elements of strengthening capacity have included: (a) the recent appointment of a new marine coordination position, based in Washington; (b) recruitment of new members for WCPA Marine; (c) developing strong and effective links between WCPA Marine and the IUCN Marine Program, the IUCN Protected Areas Program and the IUCN Species Program (Global Marine Assessment) – thus providing an excellent example of IUCN’s “One Programme” at work. There has been particular emphasis on developing the regional WCPA Marine network, with most regional coordinator positions now filled, and a large number of new members invited. Communication has been a major area of emphasis and the WCPA web page has been a particularly useful tool.

The Marine Summit brought together 50 of the world’s leaders relating to MPAs and played a major role in guiding the development of the WCPA Marine network. The summit highlighted the slow progress in meeting the globally identified targets relating to the establishment of marine protected areas and developed a Plan of Action to accelerate progress to address this slow progress. There have also been a number of new recent initiatives including the Wet List and discussions with Google. The Wet List is the major vehicle for updating the previous 4 volume set on “A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas”. Discussions with Google are proving positive and are aiming to provide a vehicle for providing interactive real time accessible MPA data. Future work of WCPA Marine will focus on: (a) implementing the WCPA Marine Plan of Action; (b) development of the Wet List; (c) further development and refinement of the web portal; and (d) developing a WCPA Marine Advisory Service, to provide advice, at cost, in relation to marine protected areas issues. Finally it was noted that WCPA Marine has secured a grant from the Packard Foundation to support a capacity building and business planning exercise for WCPA marine. It was noted that this exercise may have the potential for broader application within WCPA.

Discussion

The Steering Committee applauded the excellent progress made by Dan and noted the following issues:

- ✓ The support provided from Natural England (which allows Dan to work for 50% of his time on WCPA Marine matters) has been integral to the successful implementation of this program. It was noted that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the CEO of Natural England, reinforcing the appreciation by IUCN/WCPA to Natural England and noting the tremendous achievements of Dan Laffoley;
- ✓ It is important that the activities of WCPA Marine translate into practical conservation action on the ground/seabed, for example in relation to addressing the impacts of trawling and sea dredging equipment;
- ✓ The suggestion was made that the Wet list should be re-named the Blue List, to avoid confusion in relation to wetlands and specifically wetlands managed under the Ramsar Convention;
- ✓ The importance of involving Marine PA managers in the WCPA marine network so that recommendations and actions can be “ground truthed”; and
- ✓ The need to ensure that MPA issues are given a high profile at the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress. This will require close cooperation between the WCPA Marine, PPA and the IUCN Marine Program.

Action required

1. Letter to be sent to the CEO of Natural England reinforcing the appreciation of IUCN/WCPA to natural England and for the work of Dan Laffoley – Action: Nik
2. Issues relating to trawling and the impacts of sea dredging equipment to be raised with the IUCN marine program – Action: Dan
3. WCPA Strategic Direction (SD) Vice Chairs to work with Dan to assure there is a cross linkage between SDs with Marine – Action: SD Vice Chairs and Dan

² Held in Washington, DC in April, 2007

4. Ensure that MPAs are given a high profile at the IUCN WCC, including opportunities for MPA workshops and other activities during the World Conservation Forum – Action: Dan and Nik, working with the WCPA/PPA Congress Planning Team (noted above in Agenda Item 5, Action Item 1).

6.2 Connectivity

Graeme Worboys outlined a number of global initiatives relating to connectivity conservation, including those highlighted at the IUCN/WCPA Mountains Conference in Pappalacta, Ecuador in November, 2007 (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes). These corridor initiatives generally cover large areas and include a range of land uses and protected areas, including a variety of governance types. These corridor initiatives represent an investment against species loss and climate change.

Graeme highlighted a number of lessons from corridor initiatives around the world, including: (1) the need to maintain large and structurally intact parts of nature within the corridor; (2) conservation connectivity is based on the establishment of protected areas and these should be maintained as the core areas of corridors; (3) other approaches, including the encouragement of more biodiversity friendly land use, should complement the conservation objectives of protected areas. A range of approaches will need to be undertaken in parallel; (4) vegetation should ideally be continuous, enabling ecological connectivity at multiple scales; (5) climate change implies that biomes will move and thus landscape connectivity is essential for maintaining biomes and species, and for addressing issues such as species extinction; (6) new research available on this topic needs to be progressively included in the planning and management of new conservation corridor initiatives.

IUCN needs to be strategic about the future approach to this area which should be based on key principles such as: (a) selection and effective management of the most critically important core protected areas; (b) active management of corridor areas; (c) ensuring the concept involves people and appropriate landscape level planning and is underscored by science. Corridor Initiative provide an opportunity to work cross sectorally and also with a range of partners within the IUCN family, including the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM). It is important that IUCN/WCPA focus on innovative corridor initiatives and draw best practice lessons from this experience.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted the relevance of the topic and thanked Graeme for leading on this area on behalf of WCPA. The SC noted the following issues:

- ✓ conservation corridor initiatives are directly relevant to the vision promoted at the 2003 World Parks Congress and the new vision promoted by Nik and other SC members at this Steering Committee meeting. Corridor initiatives can thus be transformative for WCPA in terms of 21st century conservation and the role of protected areas in addressing broader issues relating to development and human livelihoods;
- ✓ corridor initiatives were equally important in lowland areas as well as mountains and also at a variety of geographical scales from local to continental;
- ✓ while having the potential to be transformative, they also build on the work of previous chairs, and in particular Kenton Miller in promoting working at a broader scale, such as was highlighted at the 1997 Caracas+5 review meeting which had the theme of: "Protected Areas: from Islands to Networks";
- ✓ conservation corridors should also be considered in relation to the marine environment; for example Tom Moritz noted the corridor established in North America, under the auspices of CEC, to protect migration routes of eastern grey whales;
- ✓ implementation of corridor initiatives should be in partnership with others, and in particular with CEM and leading individuals such as Graeme Bennett;
- ✓ there is a clear role for WCPA in higher level assessment of corridor initiatives, which could cover assessment of initiatives in different regions/countries as well as the development of conceptual frameworks. PPA and WCPA should consider the development of a multi-country, multi-scale project on this topic, along the lines of IUCN programs, such as the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) and the Livelihoods and Landscapes Program (LLS); and
- ✓ People have to be carefully considered within the context of corridor initiatives and the application of models such as Community Conserved areas needs to be carefully considered. The special needs of mobile people also need to be considered carefully with conservation corridor initiatives.

Action required

1. Regional Vice Chairs to review opportunities for developing conservation corridors initiatives within their region, and to advise and work with Graeme Worboys regarding these opportunities. This review should consider the role of conservation corridors in addressing the impacts of climate change, and the role of corridors in supporting the implementation of the CBD PoW PAs – Action: All Regional Vice Chairs, working with Graeme Worboys.
2. WCPA SC Members to provide responses to Graeme Worboys on the Papallacta Declaration by end of November, 2007 – Action: All WCPA SC Members
3. PowerPoint presentation on Conservation Corridors to be circulated to all WCPA SC Members – Action: Graeme Worboys.
4. Project proposal to be developed on Conservation Corridors – Action: Graeme Worboys working with David Sheppard and Peter Shadie.

6.3 Update on Categories Summit

David Sheppard updated WCPA SC Members on work on the revision of the IUCN PA Category system (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes). He paid tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Nigel Dudley and the Categories Task Force in progressing this work. David updated SC members on the Categories Summit held at Almeria, Spain in May 2007 and emphasized that the extensive consultation and preparation that occurred prior to the Summit; which involved a web based discussion forum as well as the preparation of a wide range of background papers (all available on the WCPA web site). The Summit involved more than 100 people from around the world addressing a series of key issues relating to categories – the Summit was characterised by a high level of agreement and cooperation. Some of the key conclusions from the Summit included: (a) emphasis on the primary role of protected areas in nature conservation; (b) the importance of having a range of categories and that all categories are important and contribute to nature conservation; (c) a slight reworking of the definition of a protected area and the development of associated principles – to be circulated for comment from WCPA Members and others; (d) support for maintaining the six categories within the IUCN PA Category system but agreement that some tightening of descriptions and advice on application is required; (e) recognition that while all categories have a role to play in conservation, not all are equal in every situation; (f) much detailed advice from workshops that has been or is being incorporated into the new guidelines.

Following the Summit a proposed revised definition of a protected area has been circulated for comment and a number of comments have been received. Revised draft Guidelines for the IUCN PA Categories has been prepared, and copy given to all SC members in Yellowstone. Next steps will include wide circulation and distribution of the Categories Guidelines, field testing of the Guidelines, and final publication. The objective will be to have a published version available in the 3 IUCN languages for distribution at the 2008 IUCN WCC.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted the importance of this topic as the category system is one of the flagship products for IUCN. The SC noted the following:

- ✓ That field testing is an important aspect of the development of the Guidelines and they should be tested in a range of countries and biomes. The aim of this testing is to assess the adequacy of the draft guidelines and, in particular, where clarity is lacking;
- ✓ Questions were raised about the accuracy of the definition and the accompanying principles which were circulated in relation to the discussions and agreements at Almeria. It was agreed that the minutes from the category summit need to be circulated as soon as possible;
- ✓ A range of views were put forward in relation to the draft definition that had been circulated to WCPA members. These included: (a) the options of simply using the CBD definition of a protected area, rather than the IUCN definition, was suggested, but there were conflicting points of view on this issue; (b) the perception that the currently revised draft definition has excluded the marine environment and that the existing definition is preferable – it was noted that the marine constituency has strong concerns regarding this matter; (c) some SC members noted concerns regarding leaving out the term biodiversity in the revised definition; and
- ✓ One of the suggestions from the Categories Summit was that: “if management objectives do

not match the category, the category should be changed". This was contested by a number of participants.

Action required

1. The appreciation of the WCPA Steering Committee be expressed to Nigel Dudley for his hard and excellent work on this subject – Action: Nik to send letter on behalf of the SC.
2. The minutes from the IUCN Categories Summit to be circulated as quickly as possible – Action: David Sheppard.
3. WCPA SC members to submit comments on the Definition paper to Nigel by October 19: 2007 and also provide any suggestions on options for field testing of the guidelines – Action: WCPA SC Members
4. The Durban +5 meeting will consider the draft Categories Guidelines for penultimate approval – Action: Durban+5 Planning Committee to allow for this within the agenda

6.4 World Heritage

Tim Badman, the recently appointed IUCN Special Advisor on World Heritage, outlined the new role of his position in relation to strengthening the role of IUCN in World Heritage (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes). He noted that natural World Heritage sites have an iconic value and have high name recognition, and this provides opportunities, both for World Heritage sites and for protected areas in general, particularly in relation to improving management effectiveness. Tim noted that particular challenges in relation to World Heritage included: (a) completing the system; (b) linking the WH system with broader PA networks; (c) improving management; (d) linking WH more explicitly with other WCPA programs; and (e) mobilizing additional resources to support WH sites.

Tim outlined an "action planning process" for World Heritage that he will be working on the first six months of his appointment to address these and other issues.

Allen Putney outlined developments with the proposed Natural Heritage Foundation (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes). He noted Target of this Foundation is to support the 100 most globally significant PAs (Magnificent 100), in areas such as capacity building; management effectiveness; and sustainable finance. The 100 sites would comprise natural World Heritage plus other globally significant PAs. Allen noted that the Foundation is still being discussed with potential donors and that there is a current need to flesh out operational concepts relating to the Foundation, including issues relating to governance of the Foundation and aspects such as eligibility and grant making. It is proposed that IUCN would be a collaborating institution but that grants would be made on a competitive basis and in a transparent manner. Allen noted that the objective would be to generate \$25 million per year within 5 years and also to set aside US\$10 million to establish a trust fund for operations. Finally Allen requested advice from the SC on issues including: (a) how to select the "Magnificent 100"?; (b) how to carry out evaluations of management effectiveness to identify baselines for monitoring and evaluation?; (c) which partners should we should work with in each region; should there be a formal WCPA Advisory Committee.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted the following:

- ✓ establishing Foundations is complex and governance arrangements for the Foundation need to be clearly specified, including those relating to legal and taxation issues;
- ✓ the importance of using WH sites as exemplars, particularly in relation to dealing with issues such as climate change and shifting biomes associated with this change. Flowing from this was the need to link world heritage sites to broader initiatives under discussion within WCPA regarding connectivity conservation;
- ✓ The proposal for operation of the Foundation should be formally endorsed by the WCPA so that it becomes a fully vetted proposal that carries the weight of the WCPA, and not just a few individuals. The proposal should concentrate on governance, eligibility, and the difference between this fund and other existing funds such as the GEF;
- ✓ the Foundation should link with, and where possible support existing WCPA programs in areas such as management effectiveness; and marine protected areas;

- ✓ The concept of the "Magnificent 100" was seen as a competing concept to WH, and thus it was recommended to go with "Globally Significant Protected Areas" and not limit it necessarily to 100. The central concept should be the "best platform sites" that can be used to demonstrate best practice, develop centers of excellence, provide examples of natural and cultural connectivity, develop regional capacities, and serve as "training parks";
- ✓ There was the opposition to the idea of only targeting globally significant PAs in developing countries. Rather it was suggested to have all countries eligible, but require greater counterpart funding for developed countries;
- ✓ Several funding sources should be sought from the very beginning. Diversity leads to stability;
- ✓ There was the opposition to the idea of only targeting globally significant PAs in developing countries. Rather it was suggested to have all countries eligible, but require greater counterpart funding for developed countries;
- ✓ The importance of having a competitive process, both for institutional partners and grantees, was underlined;
- ✓ As soon as possible, develop a strategy for the first 5 years of operation;
- ✓ WCPA regions, themes, and task forces should be drawn upon as much as possible as a technical support mechanism for the fund;
- ✓ other areas of emphasis for the Foundation were suggested as: sustainable financing; and enhancing the capacity of sites and managers, particularly at regional levels; and
- ✓ advice from the WCPA SC and in particular from regional WCPA Vice Chairs and from IUCN regional Offices should be sought in relation to the detailed planning and implementation of the Foundation, particularly in relation to priority setting.

Action required

1. A Support Group comprising some members of the WCPA Steering Committee be developed to support the work of Tim and Allen in relation to future work on World Heritage and in relation to the Foundation – Action: Allen Putney and Tim Badman to work with the WCPA SC Support Group (Tom Moritz, Penny Figgis, Jessica Brown, Jim Barborak, Dan Laffoley, Graeme Worboys, Jason Spensley, Ali Kaka, Carmen Miranda, Steve McCool, Eduard Muller and Cristi Nozawa) to progress this matter
2. An updated background paper on the Natural Heritage Foundation be prepared and circulated for the information of WCPA SC Members – Action: Allen Putney
3. Tim to follow up contact making with natural World Heritage Site managers via the regional vice-chairs. Action: Tim Badman

6.5 Community Conserved Areas

Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend outlined current initiatives and activities in relation to Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) (refer PowerPoint in CD Rom attached to these minutes). A number of regional reviews (5) have been carried out and these reviews, although of variable quality, provide a guide to the situation in relation to the application of CCAs at the field level. It was noted that CCAs are gaining increasing recognition and that they have the potential to double the world's PAs estate.

Other recent initiatives include: (a) the GEF Small Grants Program has mentioned CCAs as a priority area; (b) the CBD Secretariat has asked WCPA to provide technical support in relation to CCAs, including in relation to an assessment of legal issues and the flexibility to look outside of specific government and NGO protected areas systems. A small ELC Working Group is looking at the legal status of CCAs.

Communication efforts have continued with the publication of a PARKS issue on CCAs amongst other material. There has been increasing cooperation with members of the WCPA SC, in particular with: (a)

WCPA Regional Vice Chairs (in particular from Australia/New Zealand and from Southeast Asia); (b) WCPA Strategic Direction Vice Chairs; and (c) with UNEP-WCMC, in relation to inclusion of CCAs into the UN List of Protected Areas (a challenge as PA information is currently provided by Governments) and also into the WDPA. It was noted that a recent proposal for funding CCA work had recently been submitted to the IUCN Secretariat for funding under the SIDA Framework Support Agreement but this had not been successful.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted the importance of CCAs and made a number of comments, including:

- ✓ The need for a process for further refining the definition and scope of CCAs. The crucial aspect is that the community is in control but further work on classification schemes is required; for example, should classification be by governance structure, should it relate to the approval process, how should it relate to the conservation objectives and scale of the CCA. It was noted that further work is required on this matter;
- ✓ Linked to this is the need for a system of accreditation of CCAs, so that they can be formally recognized as part of the protected area estate, and, in particular, recognized as part of the WDPA. However, it was noted that this should not require more rigor than system applied to existing government protected areas;
- ✓ It is important that CCAs are managed in line with a clear set of rules and/or a clear management plan which is translated and understood in local languages;
- ✓ It was agreed by the SC that CCAs should be considered and promoted by IUCN in general and WCPA in particular, as a significant part of the global protected area estate. This should be reflected in funding support from the core IUCN budget and particular components of the budget, such as the SIDA Framework Agreement; and
- ✓ Despite the positive progress with CCAs, many challenges remain. These include: (a) many governments do not recognize or use CCAs as an element of their conservation and PA strategies; (b) the value of CCAs for biodiversity conservation is neither clearly acknowledged nor recognized in some quarters. In relation to the latter point it was agreed by the SC that the conservation value of CCAs needs to be better documented and communicated, both to Governments and to NGOs;; (c) many CCAs face threats and challenges and some are being destroyed.

Action required

1. A short paper addressing issues relating to the definition and delineation of CCAs (covering matters raised above) be prepared and circulated for comment – Action: Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend.
2. Letter to be sent to the IUCN DG from WCPA Chair, on behalf of the SC, emphasizing that CCA initiatives are very important and should be included in current and future funding initiatives of IUCN – Action: Nik Lopoukhine.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WCPA NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES

7.1 WCPA Task Force on Equity and Livelihoods

Progress with this Task Force was outlined by Ali Kaka, on behalf of Phil Franks. It was noted that this Task Force stemmed from a meeting at the CBD COP 8 at Curitiba, Brazil in 2006 and that it responds directly to the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in relation to ensuring considerations relating to equity are more effectively integrated into protected area management. A series of regional meetings are currently being implemented. The WCPA Steering Committee noted and strongly endorsed work under way by this Task Force.

7.2 WCPA Task Force on CBD

Jason Spensley outlined progress with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the potential for establishing a WCPA Task Force on the CBD. He raised a number of issues (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes) which included:

- ✓ A number of international NGOs (BINGOs) have raised considerable funding for the CBDPA PoW and some have restructured to deliver on the commitments made. However, overall efforts have been fragmented and a more coordinated approach is needed. WCPA could play an important role in this regard;
- ✓ The UNDP GEF Early Awareness Grants are making a welcome contribution towards supporting country efforts and it is also noted that many countries have strongly embraced the CBD PA PoW (such as Mexico which is close to completing all of the commitments). Other positive initiatives include: the strong enthusiasm in the CBD Secretariat, public donor interest, and the establishment of PA learning partnerships;
- ✓ Ten regional workshops have been held over the last year or so, which have reached 600 persons – these have focused on the UNDP/GEF Early Action Grants, and on issues such as: gap analysis, management effectiveness, and sustainable financing; and
- ✓ A range of potential roles for WCPA were outlined, including: (a) co-hosting future CBD workshops and ensure appropriate national level participation in them; (b) supporting the development of tools and guidelines; (c) supporting training and capacity building efforts; (d) developing electronic platforms (such as PALNet) to enable better communication on protected areas issues.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted the importance of CBD PoW for WCPA and the need for clearer and more effective involvement from the Commission. The SC noted:

- ✓ strong appreciation for the support from TNC in allowing Jason Spensley to contribute to the work of WCPA on the CBD PoWPs and that a letter should be sent to TNC along these lines;
- ✓ this provides an excellent opportunity for WCPA to better contribute to the CBD. There was some discussion as to whether this work should be led by a Task Force or whether work on the CBD should be “elevated” to the level of a Strategic Direction within WCPA. Given the relevance of the CBD PoWPs to the work of WCPA and the direct linkage with the area of capacity development the Steering Committee agreed that there should be a new Strategic Direction on “CBD and Capacity Development” which would replace the existing Strategic Direction on “Capacity Development”. This would aim to integrate work on the CBD PoWPs across WCPA; and
- ✓ WCPA Regional Vice Chairs should be more involved in future regional workshops planned by the CBD Secretariat.

Action required

1. Send a letter of appreciation to TNC in relation to the support provided to Jason Spensley to support WCPA work on the CBD PoWPs – Action: Nik Lopoukhine
2. Establish a new Strategic Direction on “CBD and Capacity Development” which would **replace the**

- existing Strategic Direction on “Capacity Development”. This would aim to integrate work on the CBD PoWPA across WCPA – Action: Nik Lopoukhine
3. Appoint a new leader of the Strategic Direction on “CBD and Capacity Development”
 4. Develop an approach and funding to move forward in a measured way to assure that WCPA can deliver in relation to the CBD PoWPA and that the value of WCPA is maximized - Action: Jason Spensley
 5. Identify the need for a dedicated staff member within the IUCN Secretariat to lead IUCN implementation of the PoWPA – Action: Nik Lopoukhine to send letter to DG
 6. Compile report for CBD with WCMC – Action: Regional Vice Chairs, Charles Besancon and Jason Spensley
 7. WCPA Regional Vice Chairs should to increase awareness of the CBD PA Programme of Work within their regions and where possible be involved in future regional CBD workshops on the CBD PoWPA - Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs

7.3 WCPA Task Force on Freshwater and PAs

Discussion was led by Marc Hockings, based on a proposal by Jamie Pittock, (included in the SC Background Papers, page 164). This proposal included a TOR with 6 objectives, focused on better focusing WCPA work on freshwater PAs and linking this work with overall IUCN and WCPA initiatives. Harry Biggs from South Africa was proposed as the leader of this Task Force and an initial list of members was suggested.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted that the list of members would need to be broadened to include more members from developing countries and also that the work of this Task Force should be linked with initiatives such as the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) and relevant Conventions such as Ramsar. With these amendments the Steering Committee approved the establishment of this Task Force.

Action required

1. Advise the Head of the WCPA Task Force on Freshwater and PAs (Dr Briggs) that the Task Force has been approved and request him to modify the TOR in the light of the above comments from the SC – Action: Nik Lopoukhine
2. Advice on possible regional members of this Task Force to be provided to Dr Briggs – Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs

7.4 Invasive Species and Protected Areas

Discussion was led by Marc Hockings, based on a paper prepared by Maj de Poorter (included in the SC Background Papers, page 167). SC members noted that invasive species constitute a major threat to biodiversity within and adjacent to protected areas. However this threat is often not given a high priority by those involved in protected areas. For example, only 2% of respondents to the participant survey by Gary Macklis at the 2003 World Parks Congress identified invasive species as a major threat to protected areas. Maj de Poorter also undertook a survey of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs in relation to this issue and the overall response and interest was very limited.

Discussion

The WCPA Steering Committee agreed to defer action on this until there was a clearer picture as to the level of interest, and willingness to be involved, within the WCPA Membership.

Action required

1. Send a note on the WCPA List Server and Web Site to solicit interest and membership in an WCPA Network on Invasive Species and Protected Areas – Action: Nik Lopoukhine
2. All SC members to identify members with an interest on the topic of Invasive Species and advise Marc Hockings and Maj de Poorter - Action: WCPA SC Members

3. Nik Lopoukhine to discuss this with holly Dublin in relation to possible joint collaboration with SSC
– Action: Nik Lopoukhine

AGENDA ITEM 8: WORLD DATA BASE ON PROTECTED AREAS (WDPA)

Charles Besancon updated WCPA SC members on current developments with the WDPA (refer PowerPoint in CDROM attached to these minutes). He noted the important synergy and cooperation with PPA/WCPA in relation to the WDPA and highlighted future opportunities for the involvement of WCPA SC Members. Over the last year, a number of partnerships have been developed to improve the WDPA, including with the private sector and with the US Geological Service. A key area of current emphasis is to decentralize the WDPA so that countries can update data themselves. Also to increase the level of involvement from WCPA Regional Vice Chairs in validation of WDPA at regional levels.

Discussion

The Steering Committee applauded the work of Charles in the development and reinvigoration of the WDPA and noted a number of points, including:

- ✓ WCPA SC members, particularly Regional Vice Chairs need to be more engaged in the development of the WDPA at regional levels and need to play a key role in quality control and review of data within their region. This will require financial support for Regional Vice Chairs and this should be built into WDPA funding proposals. A key role of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs is to assist in validating the data, including in relation to the allocation of protected area to a Category;
- ✓ The WCPA SC noted and endorsed the WDPA Governance paper which was attached as a background paper for the SC meeting;
- ✓ Within WCPA the Information Management Task Force needs to play a major role in aspects related to planning and implementation of the WDPA. The SC noted advice from Tom Moritz that his employer, The Getty Foundation has offered to allow him time within his employment to dedicate to WCPA work;
- ✓ The importance of clarifying copyright issues regarding the WDPA. It was noted that IUCN and UNEP have recognized that joint copyright of the WDPA is held by IUCN and UNEP-WCMC;
- ✓ The need to continue to add fields to the WDPA, as resources and availability of source data allow, such as in relation to CCAs, tourism data, and management effectiveness. However the main priority is to ensure that the core WDPA dataset is continually updated and improved;
- ✓ The importance of having feedback to national authorities on data they provide. The SC endorsed the principle of decentralizing the WDPA so that countries can update data themselves;
- ✓ The need for increased core support from IUCN for the WDPA; and
- ✓ Accurate information on MPAs within the WDPA is essential, as it is for PAs in general. The work of WCPA Marine with WCMC was noted as a positive way to address this.

Action required

1. Regional input to the WDPA to be increased, particularly in relation to quality control and review of PA data - Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs
2. Information on additional data fields in the WDPA, and for rules of inclusion, to be further discussed with UNEP-WCMC for the WDPA – Action: (a) Grazia, Ashish, Charles for Community Conserved Areas; and (b) Brett Mitchell and Charles for Private Protected Areas
3. WCPA Information Management Task Force to seek funding to help IUCN WCPA to meet its commitments regarding WDPA – Action: Tom Moritz and Silvio Oliveri
4. Enhance WCPA Information Management Task Force membership – Action: WCPA Steering Committee to provide suggestions as to new Members to Tom Moritz and Silvio Oliveri
5. Funding proposals for WDPA to, where possible, include funding to support WCPA Regional Vice Chair input – Action: UNEP- WCMC
6. WCMC to engage national governments by providing feedback to national authorities on data they provide – Action: UNEP- WCMC

AGENDA ITEM 9: PALNet (Protected Areas Learning Network) AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Presentations on PALNet and Knowledge Management were made by Peter Shadie, Silvio Oliveri Eduard Muller and Trevor Sandwith (refer PowerPoint's in CDRom attached to these minutes).

Peter Shadie provided background to the EPP (Ecosystems, Parks, and People) Project and PALNet and noted the need for IUCN/WCPA to move to a new level on knowledge management and to seek sustainable solutions. He noted that the EPP project will finish at the end of 2007 and that PALNet will be the main "legacy" of this project. A workshop on PALNet was held in Bangkok in June, 2007 and this focused on how to ensure PALNet has a life beyond the end of the project and is financially sustainable. This workshop agreed to fund a final upgrade of PALNet, and also to use Latin America as a pilot case, with leadership from Eduard Muller. The aim of this phase is to have a new version of PALNet launched at the Latin American Parks Congress and populated with relevant documents and information.

Silvio Oliveri provided an overview of the new PALNet which will be launched at Bariloche and outlined key features it will include. The importance of SC members making use of and "adopting" PALNet was emphasized. The new url for PALNet was noted as: www.parksnet.org

Eduard Muller outlined the application of PALNet at regional levels, particularly in Central America which has been developed as a pilot study. In this case PALNet has been populated through contacts with WCPA Members and others. He emphasized that people need to use PALNet on a day to day basis, and should encourage others to use it. There is a particular need to address access for those with poor internet access

Trevor Sandwith noted the importance of putting PALNet in the wider context. WCPA is itself a learning network and PALNet should be the tool by which the effectiveness of this learning is increased. Tools and information made available through PALNet also have to be put in the wider context of the CBD PA PoW and used to assist delivery of this Programme. WCPA should structure and position itself to better deliver on the CBD PA PoW, including in relation to assisting with the planning and implementation of regional workshops. WCPA should also develop a new approach to capacity development, which is explicitly linked to the CBD, along the lines of the discussion on this topic under agenda item 7.2.

Discussion

The Steering Committee noted a number of points in relation to PALNet, including:

- ✓ Sustainability of PALNet is a particularly important issue and there is a need to decentralize/regionalize responsibility for PALNet, with, in particular, SC Members taking responsibility for particular sections of PALNet. The need for an income stream was also recognized, to cover costs including: (a) a network learning manager position, which could be located anywhere; (b) support for PPA, particularly the role carried out by Delwyn Dupuis; (c) support for on going software development; and (d) support for the WCPA network. An overall cost of 100- 200,000 Sfr per annum was noted. Noting that traditional fundraising hasn't worked, other options should be explored, such as: (a) the development of a PALNet consortium; (b) an annual contribution fee; (c) linking PALNet to PA portfolios of donors (e.g. taking a levy on the GEF PA portfolio – 620 million US\$, linked to posting lessons or other specific tasks; and (d) Private sector funding, such as Amazon.com? These and other options need to be further explored by the PALNet team. If these initiatives were not successful then serious consideration would have to be given to whether PALNet should continue;
- ✓ The need to ensure PALNet is successful. In particular, it was noted that PALNet will only attract funding support if it is useful to end users. WCPA SC and Members must get behind PALNet and ensure it is used to showcase practical applications and innovations in relation to protected areas;
- ✓ The issue of quality control of material on PALNet poses particular challenges, in view of the open source nature of contributions. The model of Wikipedia may provide an answer to address this (decentralized control of content to owners of particular pages/contributions);
- ✓ The importance of considering PALNet within overall WCPA Capacity Building efforts and its role in supporting delivery of the CBD PA PoW as well as other relevant initiatives and programs;
- ✓ The importance of linking efforts on PALNet with other "learning" initiatives within IUCN, such as the World Conservation Learning Network (WCLN) by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication; and

- ✓ The importance of ensuring that PALNet is very user friendly and capable of being implemented in a variety of situations and contexts, including within protected areas in remote locations.

Action required

1. Ensure effective launch of PALNet at the Bariloche Congress and ensure that PALNet web address is communicated to WCPA SC members and its use is encouraged - Action: Eduard Muller (Bariloche Congress) and David Sheppard (communication to SC)
2. Information to populate PALNet to be provided by WCPA SC Members. Action: WCPA SC Members.
3. Review options for PALNet sustainability, including revenue generation – Action: Peter Shadie, Eduard Muller and Silvio Oliveri
4. Immediately implement a number of approaches, including (a) in relation to a levy, draft letter to IUCN DG from Chair re PALNet suggesting a levy applied to assure PALNet viability. (Action: Peter Shadie); and (b) explore selling ads through the PALNet portal (Action: Eduard Muller)
5. Prepare and translate PALNet Manual into IUCN languages – Action: Eduard Muller to review options

AGENDA ITEM 10: DURBAN +5 REVIEW MEETING

Roger Crofts outlined options and proposals for the Durban +5 review meeting (refer PowerPoint in CDRom attached to these minutes)

Discussion

The Steering Committee agreed:

- ✓ The meeting should be small, with no more than 70 participants;
- ✓ The meeting should: (a) broadly review progress with implementing the Durban Action Plan and Recommendations agreed by the Congress, as well as other relevant developments since the Parks Congress; and (b) discuss and agree future plans for the 2013 World Parks Congress. It should be future oriented and should review and assess future trends and identify what are the next big issues for protected areas;
- ✓ The meeting should be for 3 days and be held in the first half of 2008, most likely May. The Durban +5 review meeting should be held immediately after the 2007 WCPA Steering Committee meeting (2 days) and involve SC Members plus an additional 30-40 invited participants, who are recognized as global leaders in different fields relating to protected areas;
- ✓ Cape Town was provisionally agreed as the location for the meeting (with the possibility of the National Botanical Institute hosting this in Kirstenbosch) and Trevor Sandwith with further discuss this with authorities in South Africa and further advise WCPA SC Members. It was noted that Costa Rica could be considered as a fall back option, should it not be possible to host the Review meeting in Cape Town;
- ✓ The meeting should be linked with other major events in 2008 (see list, below), in particular the CBD and the IUCN WCC;
- ✓ Support will be required for undertaking the review, possibly through short term secondment of an experienced member of a protected area agency;
- ✓ The scope of the review should be extended to include progress on the Congress Recommendations; and
- ✓ The Durban +5 review meeting should be as relevant as possible to the CBD – there should be a dialogue with the CBD Secretariat and a side event at the CBD COP) on the Durban+5 review meeting.

Action required

1. Confirm venue, date and support needed as soon as possible – Action: Trevor to discuss and advise SC Members, and Eduard and Jim to investigate alternative option of holding meeting in Costa Rica if South Africa is not possible
2. Potential resources and secondees in support of D+5 to be pursued by all and advise Roger and David of options – Action: all WCPA SC Members – to pursue and advise Roger and David
3. Steering Committee to immediately commence planning for Durban +5 - Action: Roger Crofts and David Sheppard, with WCPA Executive Committee and WCPA Strategic Direction Vice Chairs.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER FUTURE MAJOR MEETINGS OF RELEVANCE TO WCPA: 2007-2008

(1) Latin American Parks Congress – Bariloche, Argentina, October 3 – 7 October, 2007

Plans for this conference were outlined. This will be jointly planned and implemented by the IUCN Secretariat (IUCN South American Office) and WCPA Vice Chairs in Latin America. Key partners are FAO and UNEP. It was noted that the Congress will cover all of Latin America, including the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America and thus all relevant WCPA Vice Chairs, as well as all relevant WCPA Task Forces will be involved.

(2) World Congress on Biosphere Reserves – Madrid, Spain, February 4 – 9, 2008

Eduard Muller outlined plans for this 10 yearly conference and noted that IUCN/WCPA was heavily involved in the last such conference held in Sevilla, Spain in 1995. It was agreed that SC members would be contacted to see who will be attending and an IUCN/WCPA approach would be developed.

Action required

WCPA SC Members to be contacted to see who will be attending and then a strategy for this Congress to be developed – Action: Eduard Muller and David Sheppard

(3) Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas (WGPA-2) – Rome, Italy, February 11 – 15 2008

It was agreed that this is a very important meeting for WCPA and that we should be represented in force.

Action required

WCPA SC Members to be contacted to see who will be attending and then a strategy for this Meeting to be developed – Action: Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard

(4) Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-9) – Bonn, Germany, May 19 to 30, 2008

It was agreed that this is a very important meeting for WCPA and that we should be effectively represented.

Action required

WCPA SC Members to be contacted to see who will be attending and then a strategy for this Meeting to be developed – Action: Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard

(5) World Heritage Committee meeting – Quebec City, 2-10 July, 2008

IUCN/WCPA will be represented by a team at this Committee Meeting, headed up by Julia Marton Leferve, IUCN Director General.

(6) IUCN World Conservation Congress – Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October, 2008

Refer discussion above, Agenda Item 5

AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Role of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs

Discussion on the role of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs noted the need for greater clarity, particularly in relation to the mismatch between the tasks increasingly demanded of Regional Vice Chairs and the lack of resources to do the job effectively.

Action required

1. Paper to be prepared and circulated on the role of Regional Vice Chairs – Action: Penny Figgis
2. This topic to be discussed at the 2008 WCPA SC Meeting – Action: Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard to ensure this is placed on the agenda and Penny Figgis to prepare Background Paper based on feedback to her paper.

12.2 Role of Antarctica within WCPA

The importance of having a clearly identified WCPA Vice chair for Antarctica was noted, particularly in view of the impacts of climate change on this continent, was noted by a number of WCPA Members. Nik Lopoukhine noted that the intent originally was to have a shared responsibility for Antarctica between regions with Antarctic roles, but that this approach had not proved effective.

Action required

1. Preparation of a paper setting out the possible role of a WCPA Vice Chair for Antarctica – Action: Dan Laffoley, working with Dr. Maj de Poorter.

12.3 Communications/Guidelines

A number of issues were raised in relation to the IUCN/WCPA Best Practice Series, particularly in relation to: (a) the preparation of the latest Best Practice Series Guidelines on gap Identification; and (b) the need for a clear policy and process for WCPA publications. It was noted that the latter (policy/procedure) was particularly needed as the Head of the Best Practice series is no longer the Chair of WCPA, nor directly associated with the WCPA SC, as was the case with Adrian Phillips.

Action required

1. Circulate latest Best Practice Series Document (on Gap Identification) to WCPA SC Members and seek comments – Action: David Sheppard
2. Prepare draft paper on WCPA Publications and Circulate for Comments – Action: Marc Hockings

AGENDA ITEM 13: MEETING CLOSURE

Nik Lopoukhine closed the meeting on Thursday 20 September and, once again, thanked the US authorities for their very generous and warm hosting of the WCPA Steering Committee in such a magnificent natural setting as the Yellowstone National Park. He also thanked members of the WCPA Steering Committee for their active participation and also all support staff involved in the planning and implementation of such a successful meeting: in particular Delwyn Dupuis and Kari Lahti.

ANNEX

HIGHLIGHTS OF WCPA SC MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Comments provided by SC members to the SC meeting were as follows³:

Jim BARBORAK (Training Task Force)

emphasis has been placed on training activities at the Bariloche Congress, as well as attending a number of meetings, including the Brazil Congress on PAs and the Categories Summit. Work on training has continued with Colorado State University and CATIE – with the latter developing an endowed Kenton Miller Chair. This Task Force has been actively involved in responding to frequent requests for advice and information in relation to PA training. Regional initiatives have included development of a European training program and setting up regional focal points for training. PALNet should be used as a major vehicle for providing information on training opportunities and initiatives. Jim will be stepping down as the Task Force Head at the next WCC.

Charles BESANCON (UNEP-WCMC)

UNEP-WCMC has been present and active at various IUCN/WCPA meetings (including the Brazil PA Congress, the WCPA Regional Southeast Asia Meeting, and Categories Summit). There has been close and efficient cooperation with a number of parts of WCPA in relation to the incorporation of relevant information in the WDPA on matters such as management effectiveness, information on CCAs, and on tourism. There will be future emphasis on working closely with the CBD Task Force.

Jessica BROWN (Protected Landscapes)

A publication on protected landscapes will shortly be released. Considerable work was undertaken in preparation for the 2007 Category Summit. Emphasis has been placed on Cultural Landscapes within the context of the World Heritage Convention.

Roger CROFTS (Europe)

A WCPA Europe Regional Programme has been published and circulated to all IUCN Members in Europe. A large number of activities have been undertaken. Good progress has been made on filling gaps for plant conservation, working in particular with Plant Life International (Important Plant Areas). Other key activities have included: (a) mainstreaming protected areas: WCPA Europe has been involved with the German Federal Agency on supporting the implementation of the CBD PoW on PAs; (b) working with key partners, including the European Commission to make Natura 2000 a reality; (c) implementing a number of protected area assessments, based on requests from protected areas agencies, including from Germany, Austria and Iceland – these raise the profile of independent assessment and of IUCN/WCPA; (d) lobbying against inappropriate developments in protected areas, including in Bulgaria; (e) increasing support for protected areas at the national level: WCPA national groups have been established in France and Italy; and (f) establishing partnerships with key agencies, including with PANParks in relation to economic activities in and around wilderness. Particular challenges in the region include: (a) the need for more support for Commissions in IUCN Regional and Country offices; (b) the need to improve linkages with WCPA Regional and Strategic Directions in Europe; and (c) the need to establish a process to replace Roger as the Regional Vice Chair after he steps down at the Barcelona WCC.

Natalia DANLINA (North Eurasia)

support for PAs in some parts of this region, including Kazakstan, has increased. PAs are seen as desirable real estate for the new wealthy persons in Russia and this poses a challenges in some cases. There are two current priorities: (a) increase awareness on PAs, including education of children in conservation; (b) increase the skills of PA managers, including through the development of a training centre for PA managers (Marc Hockings is involved). A number of WCPA publications have been translated into Russian and made available through the web. WCPA Members are working on strategies for PAs in a number of countries, including Ukraine. Natalia has communicated with Russian Governors in relation to the importance of protected areas and has met with different representatives of PA administrations. She has also worked closely with some public health ministries and there have been some positive results, including the establishment of new national parks. Finally, it was noted that the Chair of the Oil Company which was proposing the Oil pipeline in Baikal is now involved in Sochi Olympic preparations, close to the Western Caucuses World Heritage property.

Penny FIGGIS (Australia/New Zealand)

recent activities have included: (a) trying to grow and activate the membership, which now stands at 260; 160 new members have been added in the last 2 years. This increase and the depth of new members

³ In alphabetic order

has provided impetus and strength to WCPA activities and also has allowed high level access to key persons; (b) major submissions have been prepared on key issues such as the Senate Inquiry into Protected Areas and these have provided a useful tool for mobilizing the WCPA membership; (c) support for major national level initiatives, including the National Reserve System and work on connectivity, which has included a major new initiative – the Alps to Atherton Initiative; (d) preparation of major statements and reports, including on connectivity in Australia, which was sent to all political parties and on “protected areas: buffering nature against climate change”. Particular challenges and opportunities in the region include: the opening of a new IUCN Office in Oceania, which provides an opportunity for Aust/NZ WCPA members to assist PA activities in Oceania and also the need to address Antarctic conservation issues.

Dave HARMON (North America)

Coordination between the 3 countries in this region has posed some problems. There are over 200 members and it has been difficult to reach out to all members, especially those in Mexico and Canada. A system of sub regional Vice Chairs has been established to support the work of the Regional Vice Chair. Work has commenced on harmonizing the IUCN PA Categories System with the US PA data system; in particular trying to use the IUCN system to “bring some order” to the existing system. The US is revising its World Heritage Tentative Lists which is widely regarded as a positive step and generally reflects increased engagement of the US on the World Heritage Convention.

Marc HOCKINGS (Science, Knowledge and Management)

recent activities have included: (a) training especially to meet the targets associated with the “roll out” of Management Effectiveness (ME) in protected areas in Africa; (b) conclusion of the Enhancing our Heritage project, which is set to conclude in late 2007; (c) conclusion of the first phase of the Global Study on ME evaluations, which has noted that the effectiveness of over 6,000 PAs has been assessed, using a wide range of evaluation formats; (d) development of systems, with WCMC, for including Management Effectiveness information in the WDPA and also joint work with WCMC on the 2010 Biodiversity Partnership, where 1 of the 3 indicators agreed by the UN is management effectiveness; (e) working with IABIN on ME studies in the Caribbean; (f) assessment of the PA system in Korea; (g) implementation of the Categories Summit and the preparation of draft Guidelines for comment. Particular challenges in this Strategic Direction include: (a) the need to ensure that Task Forces work more cohesively as part of the overall Strategic Direction; (b) some important areas are not being addressed, such as invasive species engagement needs to be strengthened.

Floyd HOMER (Caribbean)

the current focus in this region is to ensure an active membership list with members willing to contribute to the activities of WCPA. An Action Plan was developed but it proved challenging to get input from WCPA members. Encouraging WCPA Members to participate remains a major challenge.

Ali KAKA (Eastern Africa)

The current priority is to enhance the WCPA membership in East Africa. IUCN/WCPA has been recognized as an Observer to the East African Community and this has provided an opportunity to work with and influence the activities of protected areas agencies in Eastern Africa. WCPA has been represented in a number of fora, some under the umbrella of IUCN Offices, other under the umbrella of PA agencies and NGOs. Members have shown an interest in representing IUCN/WCPA. Establishment of a Task Force on Equity and Livelihoods has been positive – this has brought together representatives from all over Africa to address this increasingly important topic. Ali Kaka has participated in a number of global meetings. It is important that an African voice can be better inputted into the global debates. Threats to protected areas are real and increasing. WCPA can and must play a much bigger role in addressing these threats.

Cyril KORMOS (Wilderness Task Force)

proceedings of the World Wilderness are now available. Next meeting will be in late 2009, possible in Merida, Mexico. The Wilderness Task Force web site has been redesigned and used to coordinate the wilderness community in relation to the development of new publications and tools. Web site is also being used to encourage interaction and debate amongst wilderness professionals. A Handbook on international law and policy is currently being finalized. A number of Wilderness proposals have been put forward for consideration at World Conservation Forum at the next WCC.

Ashish KOTHARI and Grazia BORINI-FEYERABEND (TILCEPA)

recent activities have included: (a) the IUCN PAs governance matrix was presented and endorsed at the Almeria Summit. There is the potential for countries to use this matrix to develop their own systems; (b) a number of Community Conserved Areas initiatives have been developed, including one project with 9 field based initiatives dealing with CCAs, heading to a major workshop in Turkey in November, 2007. Recommendations will come from this for the CBD Program of Work on PAs. Regional Reviews

of CCAs are underway, assessing the status and challenges of CCAs in a number of regions. It was noted that there is a high level of interest in this area and it is hard to respond to the requests for involvement given the available resources; (c) a Tool kit for Social Assessment is being developed, to address issues, along the lines of the Management Effectiveness work; (d) a review of the CBD PoW is underway in relation to element 2, regarding local people involvement and governance in relation to PAs; (e) the Task Force on Equity and PAs is developing a number of initiatives at regional levels. Particular challenges in this Strategic Direction include integrating governance into different regions/themes; (b) responding to the many requests for involvement with and advice on CCAs; and (c) the need to find a replacement for Grazia and Ashish when they step down at the next WCC.

Bill HENWOOD (Grasslands Task Force)

Financial support was received for the Grassland Task Force from the Kaplan Foundation. This will focus on the protection of grasslands in Eastern Europe and Asia, towards the target of effective protection of 10% of the grassland biome.

Dan LAFFOLEY (Marine Biome Program)

Activities have included: (a) development of a Marine Plan of Action; (b) implementation of a very successful Marine Summit in Washington DC; (c) securing support for WCPA Marine, in particular a grant from the Packard Foundation for a Business Plan and a MPA Coordinator position jointly funded by TNC, IUCN; and other BINGOs; (d) development of a number of strategic alliances and partnerships, including with National geographic and Google, where an agreement regarding marine protected areas is currently being developed.

Steve McCOOL (Tourism Task Force)

the Task Force has started work on incorporating visitor use data into the WDPA. May 2007 issue of PARKS dealt with visitor experiences. Work has also started with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on tourism and world heritage properties. The tourism book arising from the World Parks Congress has been published. The Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism has now been translated into 5 languages.

Carmen MIRANDA (South America) the main focus will be the Latin American Parks Congress to be held in Bariloche, Argentina in 2007. It is anticipated this will provide an opportunity for revitalizing the membership in the South American region. Other activities include support for the development of the Grand Inca Trail and ensuring better involvement of WCPA members in the activities of WCPA Strategic Directions and Task Forces. The evaluation of management effectiveness is a particular priority.

Eduard MULLER (Central America)

Activities have included: (a) mobilizing the membership, particularly in relation to corridor initiatives; (b) preparing a regional node of PALNet which will be launched at the Latin American parks Congress: the current emphasis is on putting as many documents as possible up on the web, the second phase will be to make PALNet more interactive and dynamic; (c) preparing for the Latin American Parks Congress, and ensuring there is a strong political message from the Congress for PAs in Central America. Particular challenges in the region include: (a) protected areas in the region are losing – they are not part of a political process and are slipping of the agenda; (b) the CBD PoWPA has a low profile and, for example, most Central American PA Directors (CCAD) were unaware of the CBD Targets; (c) climate change is not registering as an issue in relation to protected areas; and (d) access to PA information remains a weak point: most people are not aware of what information is available.

Christi NOZAWA (Southeast Asia)

a major regional meeting was implemented in Sabah, Malaysia and this proved very effective for highlighting regional PA issues and for mobilizing WCPA members in the region. This regional meeting also fed into the ASEAN Working Group on Protected Areas. Translation of a number of WCPA documents into Indonesian and Thai has been undertaken. Communications is a challenge and PA managers have to improve their communications with local communities. The WCPA web site for South-east Asia has been re-worked and this is a useful forum for communicating. A protected areas gap analysis is currently being prepared for South East Asia.

Silvio OLIVERI and Tom MORITZ (Information Management Task Force)

IUCN is currently undertaking a Management Information Transformation, which is a 4 year system to upgrade and improve IUCN's information management. Current systems are not working and the upgrade is essential. This system should the Commission link with and support Commissions. For WCPA this should support work on WDPA and PALNet. Tom Moritz noted that the Getty Foundation (his employer) has acknowledged that WCPA is relevant to the Getty mission and thus Tom will be able to allocate more time to work on the Information management Task Force. Considerable work has been undertaken on the Conservation Commons, including in relation to standards for open source information, including protected areas.

Allen PUTNEY (Sacred Values of Protected Areas Task Force)

Rob Wild is the new leader of this Task force. There have been a number of achievements, including preparation of guidelines on the management of sacred natural sites. Communications are very important. A number of activities and workshops have been implemented to promote the sacred and non material values of protected areas. Work on key flagship projects such as the Inca Trail continues, where possible with IUCN Regional Offices.

Allen PUTNEY (World Heritage)

work continues on the implementation of an independent Global Fund for Natural Heritage, some donors have expressed an interest.

Sonia RIGUERA (Brazil)

The Brazil Protected Areas Congress was successfully implemented and was excellent as a vehicle for getting members together. A Members meeting was held in Brazilia in March, 2007 and this provided a further opportunity for members to get more involved. Particular challenges in the region include the lack of awareness and understanding of WCPA and the need to clarify criteria for membership. WCPA Brazil is currently preparing for the coming Latin America Protected Areas Congress in Bariloche (1,100 abstracts prepared and 16 symposiums will be held). This should provide a platform for PA activities in the region.

Trevor SANDWICH (Transboundary PAs)

have maintained a network, but there has been limited support with fundraising efforts to date. The Parks and Peace conference in Waterton (September, 2007) was very successful and the intent is that a landmark conference such as this be held every 5 years. There is current collaboration with the Mountains program on the meeting in Kathmandu next year.

Uday SHARMA (South Asia Region)

Activities have included: (a) distribution of a periodic regional newsletter; (b) promotion of WCPA in various meetings in the region; and (c) review of CBD implementation in different countries although it was noted that WCPA members were not well set up to address this issue. Particular challenges in the region include: (a) the issue of donors reducing funding to countries with armed conflict; (b) increasing threats to protected areas, such as rhino poaching in the Chitwan National Park; (c) general challenges relating to the motivation and involvement of WCPA members in the region; (d) the need for strengthened relationships between WCPA and IUCN regional and national offices; and (e) the need to coordinate more effectively between protected area agencies in the region.

Brice SINSIN (West and Central Africa Region)

WCPA activities have increased in the region over the last year and more effective linkages are being developed with the IUCN West Africa Regional Office, in particular with the IUCN Regional Protected Areas Officer, Geoffroy Mauvais. The 2007 Protected Areas Day in Benin was a useful tool for mobilizing public interest and awareness in protected areas. The variable effectiveness of email and internet connection in the region poses a challenge for WCPA activities.

Ted TRZYNA (Cities Task Force)

this Task Force focuses on the whole range of connections - and missing connections - between protected areas and urban places and urban people. Details, including two publications, are on its Web site. The central urban issue for the protected areas community is this: On one hand biologists tell us we must concentrate on protecting large-scale, relatively undisturbed areas, and that it is a waste of time to protect smaller patches and disturbed areas. On the other hand, (1) urban places need nature services; (2) urban people need experience of nature for their well-being; and (3) our political and financial support has traditionally come from urban people: if they are cut off from nature, they will lose interest in conservation. The task force's message is that, in a rapidly urbanizing world, we need to pay a lot more attention to urban places and urban people.

Graeme WORBOYS (Mountains)

The Mountain Program has developed a forward workshop program, including one workshop per year. A major workshop on Mountains Connectivity was implemented in Pappalacta, Ecuador in November 2006 and a book is currently being prepared. Planning is currently underway for another major workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2008 on the topic of Mountain Tourism. A Mountains Steering Committee has been established and is guiding the work of the Mountains Program. Partnerships have also been established with other WCPA Programs, including WCPA Marine in relation to Seamounts, and with other IUCN Commissions, including the CEM in relation to connectivity issues.

Xie YAN (East Asia)

countries are all progressing on the establishment of PAs, but face problems relating to effectiveness of management and capacity building. The IUCN Category System has been poorly applied in the region and

a number of countries, including China and Mongolia haven't really incorporate CBD and other factors into their management. Korea has led the way in applying the IUCN category System and CBD and a PA system review has recently been undertaken. Transboundary PAs are recognized as an important issue but progress in establishment has been slow. A Regional Action Plan has been prepared and implementation remains the main challenge. The availability of resources has been a constraint to implementing WCPA activities in the region. In the future there is a clear need to develop closer links with the IUCN Asia Regional Office. It was also noted that Korea may be willing to support a small secretariat to support the Regional Action Plan.