

# FINAL MINUTES

## ***IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)*** ***Steering Committee Meeting: 18 to 22 September 2006*** ***Hohe Tauern National Park, Austria***

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Jim BARBORAK, Charles BESANCON, Grazia BORRINI-FEYERABEND, Jessica BROWN, Roger CROFTS, Natalia DANILINA, Nigel DUDLEY, Kristy FACCER, Penny FIGGIS, Sarah GINDRE, Dave HARMON, Viktoria HASLER, Fritz HESSELINK, Pippa HEYLINGS, Marc HOCKINGS, Robert HOFSTEDE, Floyd HOMER, Peter HOWARD, Ali KAKA, Graeme KELLEHER, Ashish KOTHARI, Dan LAFFOLEY, Nik LOPOUKHINE, Hector MAGOME, Carmen MIRANDA, Eduard MULLER, Cristi NOZAWA, Laurent NTAHUGA, Silvio OLIVIERI, Sonia RIGUEIRA, Trevor SANDWITH, Serge SCHMENANN, Peter SHADIE, David SHEPPARD, Brice SINSIN, Tapa SUAESI, Mohammad SULAYEM, Graeme WORBOYS,

### **Apologies**

Received from Xie YAN, Uday SHARMA and John HOUGH

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### **Opening and objectives of meeting**

Nik Lopoukhine opened the meeting on Monday 18 September and thanked the Austrian authorities most sincerely for hosting the WCPA Steering Committee in such a magnificent natural setting. He noted that the WCPA SC meeting coincided with a celebration of 25 years of national parks in Austria and congratulated the host country on this achievement. Nik also noted that a major certification exercise had recently been undertaken by IUCN of the Hohe Tauern National Park and that this had resulted in the certification by IUCN of the national park as an IUCN Category II National Park. The following objectives for the meeting were outlined and agreed by participants:

- ✓ To convene the WCPA Steering Committee for 2006;
- ✓ To review implementation of the Strategic Plan for PPA/WCPA and develop recommendations for more effective future implementation;
- ✓ To review issues relating to communication and to agree an Action Plan for WCPA Communications;
- ✓ 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.

#### **Presentation by Host Country**

Viktoria Hasler from the Austrian Federal Government highlighted key issues relating to national parks and protected areas in Austria. In Austria, the Federal Government pays 50% of all costs for the 6 national parks, subject to the parks being certified as meeting IUCN Category II National

Park status. Start up funding is also provided for new national parks to support the development of park infrastructure. Each national park has different logos and branding, but all promotional material is prepared within an overall framework set out by the Federal Government. National parks are developed closely with local communities in Austria and are closely integrated with regional and local tourism strategies. Studies in Austria have indicated that investment in national parks has a multiplier effect on the regional economy, with every euro invested moving another euro in the region. The private sector is becoming increasingly involved in national parks and for 4 national parks in Austria non-profit companies with limited liability have been established. The company contracts have been concluded between the Republic of Austria and the respective Federal Province (Provinces). The Federal Government and the Federal Province (Provinces) each hold 50 % of the shares of these companies and the park superintendent is open to public recruitment. It was noted that the certification process undertaken in the Hohe Tauern National Park, as well as in other national parks in Austria has been a useful process and an important tool for lifting management standards and for capacity building of local staff.

#### 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 and a number of the following action points were noted:

#### **Action Required**

- 1. Appreciation of the WCPA SC to be communicated to Delwyn Dupuis for her outstanding efforts with membership; in particular, for sending the monthly spreadsheets of members to SC members. Action: David Sheppard**
- 2. Comments on membership spreadsheets to be sent to Delwyn advising additions and deletions required. Action: Regional and Thematic Vice Chairs**
- 3. WCPA “partnerships” (MOUs etc) with other organizations to be summarized and circulated for the information of WCPA SC Members. Action: David Sheppard**
- 4. Chair to send note inviting a limited number of Senior Advisors to formally join the Steering Committee. Action: David Sheppard and Nik Lopoukhine**
- 5. A new award to be inaugurated as the “Kenton Miller Award” for persons who have demonstrated innovation and creativeness in relation to protected areas. Action Nik Lopoukhine**

#### **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.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: UPDATE ON THE CBD PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS (PoW)**

David Sheppard and Nik Lopoukhine highlighted current activities relevant to the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and noted:

- ✓ The major input by PPA and WCPA to the CBD COP 8 (Curitiba, Brazil, March 2006) in relation to protected areas. This included: involvement in the CBD PA expert meeting; implementation of numerous side meetings and events (such as the very successful islands events organized by Pippa Heylings); and various interventions to the COP in relation to protected areas issues (such as in relation to High Seas issues);

- ✓ A continuing and close dialogue between IUCN/WCPA and the CBD Secretariat. The Secretariat has provided a “letter of support” for potential use with other donors and partners who may wish to support WCPA’s work in support of the CBD PA Programme;
- ✓ That WCPA has developed a project proposal to support its work on the CBD but to date has not been able to attract funding for this proposal. On the other hand a number of big International NGOs (BINGOs) have been able to obtain support for their efforts on the PoW and some, such as TNC, have accorded the CBD PoW as a major internal priority;
- ✓ Numerous challenges exist, including: (a) the low profile and awareness of the CBD Programme of Work on PAs in many countries; (b) the high expectations of WCPA involvement in the PoW which are not matched by available resources; and (c) the limited focus of the CBD PA Expert meetings and the very narrow participation at these meetings.

#### **Action Required**

- 1 WCPA Regional Vice Chairs to increase awareness of the CBD PA Programme of Work and encourage greater regional involvement, including through implementing regional WCPA meetings which include the CBD as a priority topic (such as the meeting to be held in October in Korea for WCPA East Asia). Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs**
- 2 Fundraising efforts to support the involvement of IUCN/WCPA in relation to the Programme of Work to be accelerated. Action: Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard, with SC Members**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WCPA STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Steering Committee discussed how to best implement the Strategic Plan. Particular focus was placed on how to implement the agreed targets at regional levels, particularly through the preparation of regional action plans. A series of working groups examined how to better integrate the work of WCPA Regional Vice Chairs and WCPA Strategic Direction Vice Chairs in implementing the targets in the Strategic Plan.

Overall, the SC found this to be a useful exercise that enhanced communication within the Steering Committee and also identified key areas for enhanced thematic and regional cooperation. It is clear that effective implementation of the Strategic Plan will require better interaction between regional and thematic Vice Chairs and also with task Force Leaders.

The exercise also exposed some weaknesses in the strategy, including in relation to inconsistent and incomplete targets. It also showed that there is variable capacity among regional VCs to implement the strategy in their regions.

The SC noted a number of points in relation to the four existing Strategic Directions (SD):

- ✓ In relation to the “Conservation and Sustainable Use” SD: (a) there is a great deal of activity but there needs to be more joint work between the different Task Forces involved in this SD, in particular between existing biome based programs; (b) the WCPA regions are less relevant for the marine biome and further review is required;
- ✓ In relation to the “Capacity Development and Awareness Raising” SD: (a) Targets need to be more specific, and some needed to be cut; (b) some questions were raised about the delivery of PALNet; and (c) it was noted that capacity building was a cross cutting theme which needs to underpin other Strategic Directions
- ✓ In relation to the “Knowledge, Science and Management” SD: (a) more regional input is required for the categories work, especially in preparation for the Categories Summit in

2007; (b) regional contributions to WDPA are not yet robust and must be improved; (c) this SD is relatively weaker in terms of knowledge and science components

- ✓ In relation to the “Governance, Equity and Livelihoods” SD: (a) there is still a need to build more internal awareness and capacity within WCPA for this area of work; (b) more work is needed on laws and policies in countries relating to CCAs – collaboration with CEL is required; (c) targets are missing in relation to some areas such as private PAs; (c) there is a need for a closer link with the IUCN Special Advisor on Social Policy; (d) the concept of governance needs to give greater emphasis to improving the governance arrangements within existing government run PA agencies; and (e) WCPA should play a more significant role in the CBD PA PoW on governance issues.

The SC also noted a number of general points in relation to the Strategic Plan:

- ✓ There needs to be stronger linkages and integration at all levels. Within WCPA this refers to linkages between the different Strategic Directions and between regions and Strategic Directions. There also needs to be stronger linkages between WCPA and IUCN Regional and Country Offices, as well as between WCPA and external partners.
- ✓ It is important to ensure that the WCPA membership is strategically and effectively developed to facilitate implementation of the WCPA Strategic Plan.
- ✓ WCPA Task forces play a key role in implementation of the Strategic Plan and they need to be more closely linked with the work of the Strategic Directions.
- ✓ The Strategic Plan is equally applicable to the marine environment as to the terrestrial environment and this needs to be clearly communicated.

#### **Action Required**

- 1 The WCPA Strategic Plan should be widely circulated to IUCN Regional and Country Offices, IUCN Council Members and other Commissions. Action: Programme on Protected Areas**
- 2 WCPA Regional Vice Chairs should complete their Regional Action Plans focusing on implementation of the Strategic Plan targets in their region. Regional VCs should seek direct assistance from Strategic Direction Vice Chairs and Task Force Leaders in implementing targets in their regions. They should also work closely with IUCN Regional Offices as well as identifying, where possible, influential persons or “champions” who will promote the delivery of results in their regions. Action: Regional Vice Chairs**
- 3 WCPA Strategic Direction Vice Chairs should complete Action Plans focusing on implementation of the Strategic Plan targets they are responsible for. Task Forces need to be closely and effectively involved in the work of each Strategic Direction. Action Strategic Direction Vice Chairs**
- 4 WCPA membership should be reviewed by SC Members, with the aim of involving persons who can most effectively contribute to Regional and Strategic Direction Targets. WCPA Members need to be given clear opportunities to be involved in regional and strategic direction programs. Action SC Members**
- 5 The Strategic Plan should be reviewed in the light of comments at this SC meeting and additional goals and targets added as required. Action: WCPA Deputy Chair**
- 6 Tracking of progress with implementation of the Strategic Plan needs to be undertaken by the WCPA ExCo and PPA. Software for tracking progress on management plans (mentioned by Marc Hockings) should be considered as a tool**

**to help track progress with implementation of the Strategic Plan. Action: WCPA ExCo and PPA, working with WCPA SC Members, with Trevor Sandwith taking the leading role.**

- 7 The exercise applied by this SC in relation to the Strategic Plan should be also applied at the next WCPA SC Meeting in 2007. Regions and themes should report at the next meeting on progress against targets. Action: WCPA Deputy Chair**

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS**

An all day working session was undertaken on the topic of communications and awareness, led by Serge Schmemmann Editor of the Editorial Page of the International Herald Tribune (on the topic of Protected Areas and the media) and by Fritz Hesslink, Communications Consultant (on the topic of Protected Areas and Strategic Communication). The working session was carried out through a mix of plenary and workshop sessions.

#### Presentations

Key points made in the presentation by Serge Schmemmann included:

- ✓ Journalists (in general) do not have a detailed knowledge about the environment. They know what a story is, and what it takes to make interesting news. Protected area managers need to know how to work with journalists and be able to present information to them in a form which is clear, digestible and interesting. Serge notes his test is: "If you can interest your mother you can interest a general audience". Building up trust with journalists is important. Reporters are anxious to meet experts and are always looking for new contacts.
- ✓ Protected areas are one of the "best stories" but they must be presented in a way that is relevant and relates to contemporary issues, such as climate change
- ✓ There is a real problem with information overload. Competition for attention is fierce – from the web, from the media, from all sides, we are besieged by information. There is an anarchy of information: everyone can say what they want, which mitigates against the traditional role of the media in filtering and presenting news. The implication for protected areas is that we need to ensure we have clear messages and we need to build relationships
- ✓ There are some suggested things that should be done "DOs" and some things that should not be done "DONTs" when dealing with the print media.
- ✓ The "DOs" include: (1) avoid "UN speak", keep it simple, and try to sustain the interest of the audience; (2) ensure articles are well written, good writing is very important; (3) write to convince the reader to keep reading. An AAP principle is that by the 4<sup>th</sup> para. of the article, the reader should know why the topic is important. Get to the point, early and succinctly; (4) ensure clear organization of articles - 800 words is what people generally read. Have a clear beginning, middle and end; (5) be original - describe something that people don't know; (6) make it personal; (7) don't overload the article with technical words and concepts, bring it down to a language everyone will understand. Use anecdotes rather than statistics; (8) Put the article in an historical context; (9) ensure the article is newsworthy and timely; (10) create a mix of stories; (11) establish a good relationship with media representatives and at the right level e.g. where possible "get up the food chain" and get to know the editor and other key media people.
- ✓ The DONTs include: (1) Avoid "think tank" speak; (2) avoid meaningless conclusions or "buzz words" e.g. "this must be a wake up call"; (3) avoid evasiveness / people know the

issues don't try to fool them; (4) avoid invective; (5) avoid unnecessary hyping or over exaggeration; (6) be relevant, timely and avoid excessive speculation

Key points made in the presentation by Fritz Hesselink included:

- ✓ There are (at least) 8 good reasons why we should bother communicating protected areas and these are: (1) public expectations are rising and PAs need to catch up fast – in most cases PA agencies do not allocate sufficient resources to communication; (2) good communication is not spin, residents want practical information on what the PA delivers “to their door”; (3) preferred communication channels should target the desired audience and outcome; (4) communication is a management tool and is not an end of pipe activity – it needs to be built into planning and at an early stage; (5) Need to build and enhance reputations – need to ensure that PA agencies and staff have a reputation based on action: “what you do says more than what you say”; (6) PA staff need to “live and feel” your messages; (7) directly answer those who are antagonistic or cynical; (8) good communication is essential but it is not a magic pill. It is not the end in itself but it should support the objectives of the PA by improving knowledge, attitudes and behavior of key audiences.
- ✓ There are a range of communication modalities: participatory approaches; two way communication; incentives and one way communication; and legal enforcement and information. These should be applied to suit the context, for example participatory processes are more effective when there are situations of high complexity of information. In most cases a mix of these approaches should be used

#### Discussion following presentations

The Steering Committee had an extensive discussion on communication following the two presentations. Key points included:

- ✓ (general) Building greater awareness is one the major challenge facing protected areas and PA agencies. Awareness builds support and understanding. This needs to be addressed through focused communication efforts and through increasing community appreciation of nature through quality and direct experiences of nature.
- ✓ (resources and tools) WCPA needs to develop a clear communications strategy which is focused and capable of being implemented within available resources. Action and effectiveness at present is limited by the limited direct resources we have available for communication and we need effective tools (including publications) to support our work and to help WCPA members and other to influence senior politicians/decision makers of the benefits of the case for protected areas. Better marketing and packaging is required and we need new tools to move beyond where we are now. Where possible a range of media tools should be used;
- ✓ (target audiences) We need to broaden our target audiences and not just “talk to ourselves”. Fundamental to this is obtaining a better understanding of our users through relevant and focused research. Information needs to be packaged for different audiences, including for those who are not supporters of protected areas
- ✓ (values) Communication must be linked with a better understanding of the benefits and values (both economic and non economic) of protected areas. This in turn should be linked to current efforts by WCPA to clarify the benefits of protected areas, including the Task Force on Economic Valuation of Protected Areas, and research by WWF/Equilibrium in the “Arguments for Protection” Series.
- ✓ (linkage) Where possible, we need to link our arguments for PAs with major global issues such as climate change and broader issues like health and economics. The Parks

Victoria “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” provides an example of this approach. We should keep our messages clear and simple but we shouldn’t underestimate the intelligence of the public. Some issues are complex, such as tiger conservation in India, and we should ensure that this complexity is also communicated.

- ✓ (play to our strengths) Where possible we should play to our strengths – the protected areas themselves and let them do the talking on our behalf. It is important to get the media representatives out into the field where we can. Credible “Lists” also can have value in terms of communication and the WDPA (and an annual release of this, jointly with UNEP/WCMC) could be a valuable potential communications tool, in a similar way in which the Red List is used to promote species conservation efforts.

### Working Groups

Four Working Groups looked at different aspects relating to communication in WCPA. The key findings from these groups are as follows:

- ✓ Working Group 1: The Message of WCPA. This Working group suggested that there should be one clear main message and then additional tailored messages, which would be targeted to different groups. The Over-arching Message should be that: *“WCPA is the world’s leading network of experts promoting innovative approaches to protected area planning, establishment and management. We believe that protected areas contribute to the well being of society and are essential for life on earth”*. Tailor made messages to different audiences could include: To the General Public ‘PAs are essential for quality of life, health, tourism, inspiration, recreation, cultural heritage. To Donors ‘...contributing to PAs is one of the most effective way of investing in your planets future, as they provide building blocks for sustainable development, contribute to poverty alleviation”. Messages should be grafted according to the donors’ interests. To Local Residents ‘PAs are... sources of benefits to the local communities well-being and security, local communities must be involved in PA establishment and management”. To Governments ‘the aim should be to help governments plan, develop and implement PA networks and integrate them with other broad values, and help them achieve their international obligations to the CBD and other relevant MEAs”. To the Business Community ‘PAs provide a significant contribution to the economy, they contribute to social responsibilities, they can be responsible partners in PA development, and have an equally important role to play in social development. Supporting PAs are a way of enhancing the positive environmental image of the private sector”.
- ✓ Working Group 2: Strengthening Regional Communication within WCPA. This working group focused on how to make regional level communication more effective but it also covered a range of matters of general relevance for WCPA communication efforts. Some of the key points raised included: **(a)** Links should be developed with IUCN regional Offices to develop joint communication initiatives and activities. E.g. IUCN Asia Regional Office Communication; **(b)** where possible, the main focus of WCPA should be on facilitating action by others – e.g. supporting key partners and key IUCN member organizations to communicate more effectively. With this emphasis the role of WCPA is more of a facilitator rather than implementing major communication activities; **(c)** In relation to content, WCPA should develop a limited number of practical tools on communicating PAs that can be more widely developed and communicated. We should not reinvent the wheel. For example, the existing « WCPA in Action » should be rewritten to focus more on the values and challenges of protected areas and should be broadly applicable and attractive. Attractive poster material should also be developed, such as the posters used for the World Parks Congress; **(d)** Communication should be integrated into regional WCPA meetings and such meetings should be used as a communication vehicle for protected areas (e.g. use of the 2007Latin American Parks congress for the purpose of communicating protected areas in Latin America); **(e)** Partnerships should be developed with others (including communication experts). Work with IUCN’s Commission

- on Education and Communication should be expanded: they should be a natural partner on communication matters. WCPA should also work with and through key people like Serge Schmemmann and Fritz Hesslink; **(f)** WCPA Regional Vice Chairs should have their own communication plan and should be held to account for progress on these communication targets. In addition, communications should be included as an integral element of WCPA regional work plans. SC members should aim to get documents translated into different languages, as has been done by Natalia Danilina (Russian) and Xie Yan (Chinese); **(g)** The WCPA Communications Group of Steering Committee should finalize the WCPA communications strategy as well as taking oversight for the preparation of « WCPA in Action »; **(h)** PPA should assist the WCPA Communications Strategy by actions including: assisting with preparation of « WCPA in Action »; assisting with Fundraising. The PPA Focal Point is the Communications Intern, Sarah Gindre; **(i)** Offers from Steering Committee to assist with communications activities should be gratefully accepted. These include: Nigel Dudley – offer to develop the earth conservation toolbox as a pilot test of how PALNet can work; Jim Barborak – offer to gather and distribute to key PA training institutions best practices/modules on PA communication skills; Eduard Muller – offer to strengthen the Spanish PALNet and will draft a communications module for training courses.
- ✓ Working Group 3: Internal Communication: On the positive side, the WCPA electronic newsletter is welcome – it is clear, concise and useful for Members. Features such as upcoming events are particularly useful. Some regions (such as Australia/New Zealand and North America) have developed regional list servers and this has proved to be an excellent way of communicating with the Membership. The WCPA Web site is also very positive and its clear link with regional and thematic programs is useful, as is the downloadable format of documents and information, such as the PA Best Practice Series. The latter is an essential element of WCPA becoming a true “Knowledge Network”. On the negative side, the WCPA List Serve generates too much unwanted email traffic and there should be a move to a moderated system as resources permit. The need to educate WCPA members about “List Etiquette” was also noted, as was the need to encourage regional Vice chairs to develop regional List Serves where possible and practical. The need to ensure that PPA/WCPA publications come out in languages other than English was also emphasized.
  - ✓ Working Group 4: WCPA Membership: the importance of accurate up to date information on members was noted. The recent move by PPA (Delwyn) to send out monthly updates on the membership within each region was noted as very positive and this should continue. It was emphasized that the ultimate responsibility for membership rests with regional and thematic Vice Chairs and they need to advise in relation to the accuracy of the membership list within their region/theme. The importance of aiming for “quality rather than quantity” in terms of membership was agreed by the Steering Committee as was the key role of SC members in animating the network and generating and encouraging membership activity. The importance of undertaking a survey of members in relation to communication, as well as other matters, was emphasized as a high priority. This could also include an element in relation to views on the WCPA List Serve. Finally, the need to update the existing WCPA Members Guide was agreed by the SC. This should include the membership regulations, nomination protocols (including obligatory review of new members by regional and thematic Vice Chairs), membership rights and responsibilities. The importance of including more younger members of WCPA within the membership was also emphasized.

#### **Action required**

- 1. Finalize WCPA Communications Strategy by April 2007, using material presented at this Steering Committee as an essential input. Action: WCPA Communications Group (Penny Figgis, Dave Harmon and Sarah Gindre)**

2. **Finalize « WCPA in Action » and WCPA Members Guide by May 2007. Action: WCPA Communications Group (Penny Figgis, Dave Harmon and Sarah Gindre) and PPA**
3. **Develop Regional Communications Strategies and ensure they are implemented. Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs**
4. **Ensure progress on these Communication Strategies is regularly assessed included at each WCPA Steering Committee meetings. Action: Nik Lopoukhine.**
5. **Implement a survey of the WCPA membership, which would include a component on communications, by May 2007. Action PPA**
6. **Move to a moderated system for the WCPA List Serve, as resources permit and Regional Vice Chairs to develop Regional List Serves for their members where this is feasible. Action PPA and WCPA Regional Vice Chairs.**
7. **Send thank you letter on behalf of the WCPA SC to National Geographic for sending the copies of the National Geographic issue on “places we must save”. Action: Nik Lopoukhine**
8. **Accept offers from Steering Committee to assist with communications activities, as noted as above. Action: Nigel Dudley, Jim Barborak and Eduard Muller.**
9. **Include communications as a regular agenda item at future SC meetings. Action: PPA and Nik Lopoukhine.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES**

##### (6.1) Key Issue 1: De-gazettment of National Parks and other Protected Areas

Discussion was led by David Sheppard. This issue stems from the proposals in 2005 to de-gazette the Amboseli National Park in Kenya. The WCPA SC noted the following key issues:

- ✓ pressures exist in many countries to lower the level of protection currently afforded to protected areas, either through formal de-gazettment or through other means; these often respond to development pressures for the exploitation of resources within protected areas;
- ✓ this issue should be considered separately from the issue of community management of protected areas. In the case of Amboseli National Park, the de-gazettment was illegal, and the park was not going to be handed back to the local communities;
- ✓ there are different levels for consideration of this issue. These include: (a) de gazettment arising from pressures to exploit resources within national parks and protected areas; (b) hand over of protected areas to local communities; (c) de gazettment as a result of boundary rationalization; (d) changing categories of existing protected areas. Any WCPA position should differentiate between these different levels
- ✓ the WCPA SC strongly opposes any major infrastructure developments within existing protected areas which threaten the core values of these areas;
- ✓ this issue is also linked to the need to ensure strong and effective governance for protected areas; and
- ✓ a WCPA Position Statement on this issue along the lines of the WCPA Position Statement on Mining and PAs, would be useful and should be prepared. It should incorporate the above points.

### **Action required**

- 1. Draft WCPA Position Paper on De-gazettment of Protected Areas to be prepared and circulated for review by the WCPA SC by May, 2007. Action: Ali Kaka and Ashish Kothari.**

### (6.2) Key Issue 2: Certification of Protected Areas

Discussion was led by Roger Crofts. There have been many requests for WCPA to be involved in the certification of protected areas. Examples include the assessment by WCPA Europe of the Hohe Tauern for certification as an IUCN Protected Area Category II National Park. The work of IUCN in evaluating World Heritage sites also provides an example of high level certification of protected areas. The WCPA SC noted the following key issues:

- ✓ This is a clear and logical niche for WCPA in relation to certification. This flows from the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and demands from many protected areas agencies, particularly in Europe, for assistance with this area. As noted by Viktoria Hasler in her opening remarks to the SC: "if WCPA doesn't do this someone else will, very quickly";
- ✓ The approach by WCPA to date has been reactive (in response to requests) rather than proactive. A major constraint has been available funding and this issue must be addressed if WCPA is going to have any role in this area in future. Work on Certification can and should also be linked with work on management effectiveness and assignment of IUCN PA Categories. The aim of this work should be to improve overall standards of PA management;
- ✓ Certification can be undertaken by WCPA Members but WCPA can also play a role in relation to developing the capacity of PA agencies to undertake this work themselves. For example, guidelines could be developed for PA agencies in this area;
- ✓ There is a future role for WCPA in PA certification and it should build on the work undertaken to date in Europe and elsewhere, such as is also proposed in Korea. It should be developed initially on a pilot basis and expanded in line with available resources as well as interest of WCPA Members. It should also be field tested in different situations and IUCN PA categories This work should be led by those WCPA Members and others who have shown a particular interest in this area, such as Roger Crofts, Geoff Vincent and Peter Shadie

### **Action required**

- 1. Pilot Certification projects to be implemented and, on the basis of this work a paper be prepared for the 2007 WCPA SC Meeting in relation to future options for WCPA work on this area. Action: Roger Crofts, Geoff Vincent and Peter Shadie**

### (6.3) Key Issue 3: Update on Categories Summit

Discussion was led by Nigel Dudley. Plans to implement a Category Summit in Seville, Spain in 2007 were outlined. A concept paper was discussed by the SC and the following key issues were noted:

- ✓ The focus of the Categories Summit should be on producing practical and useful guidance in relation to the effective implementation of the IUCN Category System, as requested by the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress and the 2004 IUCN World Conservation Congress;

- ✓ The IUCN PA Categories apply to both the marine and the terrestrial environment. The potential for having a range of categories within larger protected areas in the marine environment was also noted, in line with previous decisions of the WCPA SC;
- ✓ Draft Guidelines should be prepared as soon as possible after the Summit and circulated for review and sign off by the WCPA Steering Committee, in line with the process used in the preparation of the "1994 Guidelines for PA Management Categories", which were signed off by the 1993 meeting of the WCPA Steering Committee. They should then be submitted to the 2008 IUCN World conservation Congress for final review/approval;
- ✓ Assignment of a protected area to an IUCN PA Category should not be equated to a judgment as to how effectively that protected areas is managed;
- ✓ The Category Summit should be planned and implemented in an open and transparent manner. In view of the limited spaces available at the Summit itself it is important that there are opportunities for WCPA Members and others to provide comments through electronic and other means in advance of the Summit;
- ✓ Discussion on the relative importance of biodiversity conservation within the IUCN definition of a protected area illustrated that there were a range of opinions on this matter within the SC and it was agreed that a discussion paper should be circulated.

#### **Action required**

1. **Discussion paper on the definition of a protected area, particularly in relation to the relative importance of biodiversity within this definition, should be prepared and circulated for comments from SC members by the end of January, 2007.**  
**Action Nigel Dudley**

#### (6.3) Key Issue 4: Community Conserved Areas

Discussion was led by Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend. Discussion focused on how to promote and encourage greater application of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) and the following key issues were noted:

- ✓ CCAs make major contributions to biodiversity conservation and should be considered and promoted by WCPA as a significant part of the global protected area estate. More study to document the specific value of CCAs for biodiversity conservation are still needed, however and there is a role for WCPA to play in this area;
- ✓ 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;
- ✓ Although there is a clear IUCN definition of a CCA within the IUCN PA Guideline on this subject this is not widely or clearly understood by all WCPA SC members. CCAs are also applied differently in different countries, for example in South Africa all land is either private or state owned, they have moved away from the distinction of community owned land. Further communication is required;
- ✓ Additional work is required within WCPA on the issue of Private Protected Areas. A new Task Force on this subject should be formed and linked to the work on preparation of the forthcoming PA Guideline on this subject;
- ✓ Information on CCAs should be progressively included in the World Data Base on Protected Areas

#### **Action required**

- 1. Discussion paper on CCAs to be prepared and circulated to WCPA SC Members. This would include information on what is a CCA and also what is required/expected from WCPA Vice Chairs in relation to CCAs. Action: Ashish Kothari**
- 2. Letter to be sent to IUCN DG and IUCN President outlining the importance of CCAs and the rationale for IUCN support (morally and financially) for CCAs. Action: Nik Lopoukhine**
- 3. CCAs to be progressively included in the next WCPA. Action: Ashish Kothari and Charles Besancon**
- 4. WCPA Task Force on Private Protected Areas to be established linked to the work on the future PA Best Practice Guideline being prepared on this subject. Action: WCPA Executive**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: WCPA NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

##### (7.1) Initiative 1: Youth and Protected Areas

Discussion was led by Cassie Wright (Head WCPA Youth Initiative). This outlined current and proposed initiatives in relation to youth and WCPA and the WCPA SC noted the following key issues:

- ✓ The TOR for the Task Force on Young Professionals (as tabled in the Sept. 06 WCPA SC Background Documents, page 122) was approved by the WCPA SC
- ✓ This TOR includes a target of having 10% of the membership of WCPA as young professionals (under the age of 35) by the 2008 WCC. The aim of this target is to ensure WCPA has active and engaged young members rather than just seeking to achieve a numerical target. This is an essential element of mentoring the new PA leaders and new WCPA SC Members
- ✓ The person in the position of WCPA Youth Advisor is a member of the WCPA Steering Committee and he/she should be responsible for developing and implementing the work plan for the WCPA Young Professionals Network and ensuring young WCPA Members are actively involved in the activities of WCPA. It was agreed that Cassie Wright and Kristy Facer should be joint Youth Advisors, for the period up to the next IUCN WCC in 2008. The WCPA Youth Advisor should work with WCPA Regional Vice Chairs to identify suitable young persons to be invited as WCPA Members

#### **Action required**

- 1. WCPA Youth Advisor to identify criteria for membership of young professionals and to work with Regional Vice Chairs to identify suitable new members. Action: Cassie Wright and Kristy Facer, working with Penny Figgis and Carmen Miranda**
- 2. Focal Points for regional WCPA youth activities to be identified. Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs**
- 3. Approved TOR for Young Professionals Network to be circulated to WCPA SC Members. Action: David Sheppard**

##### (7.2) Initiative 2: TOR for WCPA Regional Vice Chairs

Discussion was led by Floyd Homer and Roger Crofts and focused on the draft TOR for WCPA Regional Vice Chairs which were included in the Sept. 06 WCPA SC Background Documents, page 124. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ The following items should be added to the TOR: (a) add “input to WDPA” as an additional key task; (b) clarify what is meant by item 4c: “Establish means for WCPA Members to provide advice to IUCN Members in the Region”; (c) add “intra and inter commission work” to item 3b; (d) add a communication target (reflecting the discussion on Communication at this WCPA SC Meeting); (e) add a new item to section 3 to urge all Vice Chairs to work with Council members; (f) add transparency and integrity as key principles; and
- ✓ With these changes the TOR were approved by the WCPA SC.

#### **Action required**

- 1. Finalize TOR by incorporating the above comments and circulate to WCPA SC Members. Action: David Sheppard**
- 2. Develop draft TOR for WCPA Strategic Direction Vice Chairs and circulate for comment. Action: Nik Lopoukhine**

#### (7.3) Initiative 3: Marine Protected Areas

Discussion was led by Dan Laffoley (new Head WCPA Marine) and focused on the development of a new WCPA Marine Plan of Action. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ There were a number of comments on the draft Marine Plan of Action, including: (a) the WCPA SC agreed the draft Plan is an excellent document but it is currently too ambitious. Priorities within the current document need to be clearly identified, and actions at regional and international levels need to be separated; (b) actions in the draft Plan need to be more clearly linked with the WCPA Strategic Directions, such as management effectiveness; (c) the issue of governance of High Seas MPAs need to be given more emphasis within the draft Plan, working through the High Seas Task Force; and
- ✓ With these comments the SC endorsed the direction within the draft Marine Plan of Action and suggested that concrete actions should commence as soon as possible

#### **Action required**

- 1. WCPA Draft Marine Plan of Action to be finalized as soon as possible, taking into account the above comments, and circulated to the WCPA SC. Action: Dan Laffoley.**
- 2. Regional Focal Points for WCPA marine to be identified. Action: Dan Laffoley with WCPA Regional Vice Chairs.**

#### (7.4) Initiative 4: World Heritage

Discussion was led by Allen Putney (new Head WCPA World Heritage) and focused on how to better mobilize the WCPA network in relation to World Heritage and also on the development of a Natural Heritage Fund. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ World Heritage is one of the flagship programs of IUCN and WCPA – we need to consolidate and expand our role in WH, while always emphasizing it as the “best of the best” in terms of natural sites. The many threats that natural WH sites face, particularly in Africa, is of particular concern. The alarm needs to be raised and WCPA members more engaged;

- ✓ The Global Heritage Fund is aimed at increasing support for key natural World Heritage Sites as well as other important natural areas. There is a particular focus on funding those sites under threat. The concept was endorsed by the SC and the approach of the World Monuments Fund (a fund to support threatened cultural sites) was agreed as a good model. The possibility of a launch of the Fund in China was outlined by Jim Laver (deputy WCPA Vice Chair for World Heritage). The need to adhere to the IUCN Policy on private sector involvement was noted in relation to which companies could be involved in such a launch;
- ✓ The need to strengthen the IUCN WH network was agreed, to ensure that the technical advice IUCN provides to the Committee is of the highest possible level. Technical input is required from both the WCPA network and also the networks of other IUCN Commissions, including SSC. Links with other parts of WCPA, particularly management effectiveness and Marine, should be expanded;
- ✓ The importance of working with key partners, particularly the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, in relation to cultural landscapes, was emphasized.

#### **Action required**

- 1. Proposal for the Global Heritage Fund and the launch of this Fund to be revised in the light of advice from the WCPA SC and circulated for further comment from the SC. Funding options to be actively pursued. Action: Allen Putney**

#### (7.5) Initiative 5: Training

Discussion was led by Jim Barborak (new Head WCPA Training Task Force) and focused on how WCPA can better support PA training initiatives. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ There is a high demand from WCPA Members on PA training courses around the world and, in particular, on sources of support for attendance at these training courses;
- ✓ The new WCPA publication on "Managing Protected Areas" (one of the main outputs from the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress represents an opportunity to support training and capacity building and key PA training institutions should get copy of the book
- ✓ PALNet should be developed as a key delivery mechanism for training and capacity building, particularly in relation to interactive tools and internet based learning. Links with the Commission on Education and Communication in relation to the World Conservation Learning Network should also be explored.

#### **Action required**

- 1. Prepare TOR for Training Task Force with a focus on working with CEC on the WCLN and on PA curricula. Action: Jim Barborak**

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

Discussion was led by Charles Besancon (UNEP-WCMC) and focused on current plans to re-develop the WDPA. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ The WDPA is a critical tool for the world's protected areas and WCPA has been closely involved in the WDPA and, before that, the UN List of Protected Areas, since its inception. Efforts to improve the WDPA, as outlined by Charles, were welcomed by the WCPA SC. These should be approached on a joint basis between IUCN/WCPA and UNEP/WCMC;

- ✓ The further development of the WDPA should consider a number of specific issues, including: (a) the need to allow for zonation for large scale MPAs, as agreed by previous WCPA SC Meetings; (b) ownership and copyright issues; (c) the need to ensure effective linkages between different data sets; (d) the need to progressively include data on management effectiveness, CCAs, and tourism data, in line with available resources;
- ✓ 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. Within WCPA the Information Management Task Force needs to play a major role in aspects related to planning and implementation of the WDPA.

The Steering Committee agreed to:

- (i) fully endorse the redevelopment of the WDPA as a full partnership between IUCN-PPA-WCPA and UNEP-WCMC, recognizing that joint copyright of the WDPA is held by IUCN and UNEP-WCMC;
- (ii) participate in steering the redevelopment program of WDPA based on an explicit strategic plan linked to the WCPA Strategic Plan;
- (iii) request Regional Vice Chairs to identify a process by which they may populate, validate and update information in the WDPA while UNEP-WCMC along with IUCN should seek to secure funding support to the Regional Vice Chairs for their services;
- (iv) enhance the WDPA information on IUCN PA Categories as per the outcomes of the revisions to the guidelines of their application. and support the incorporation of PA governance information and link attribute information e.g. management effectiveness through involvement of the WCPA membership and other partners as appropriate; and
- (v) Involve the WCPA Information Management Task Force in the technical elements of the redevelopment of the WDPA.

#### **Action required**

1. **Prepare paper on WDPA Governance, incorporating the above points, and aimed at enhancing IUCN/WCPA participation. Action: Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard, working with WCPA Information Management Task Force (Silvio Oliveri) and UNEP-WCMC (Charles Besancon)**
2. **Regional input to the WDPA to be increased, particularly in relation to quality control and review of PA data. Action: WCPA Regional Vice Chairs**
3. **Overall WCPA input to the WDPA to incorporate the above considerations and be lead by WCPA Information Management Task Force. Action: Silvio Oliveri**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: PALNET – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

Discussion was led by Peter Shadie and Silvio Oliveri and updated SC members on current plans with the Protected Areas Learning Network (PALNet). The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ Any launch of PALNet (currently under consideration for early 2007) should be backed up by a working system and also backed up by the provision of relevant promotional and other material on PALNet to WCPA SC Members. It is important to take advantage of key events such as the 2007 Latin American Congress to promote PALNet. Local “champions” of PALNet would also be useful.

- ✓ WCPA SC members have to become key content providers for PALNet, if it is to operate successfully. They should use PALNet as a key tool for communicating in relation to their area of interest/involvement;
- ✓ PALNet and the WDPA need to be developed in a closely coordinated way, requiring close cooperation between UNEP-WCMC and IUCN-WCPA.

**Action required**

1. **Work to continue on PALNet towards a launch in early 2007. Action: Peter Shadie and Silvio Oliveri**
2. **Promotional Strategy to be developed (Action: Peter Shadie) and material (initially the PALNET power point presented by Peter to this SC meeting) to be sent to WCPA SC Members for their use and application. Action: David Sheppard/Delwyn Dupuis**
3. **Close cooperation required between UNEP-WCMC and IUCN-WCPA in the further development of PALNet. Action: Charles Besancon and Peter Shadie**
4. **Information to populate PALNet to be provided by WCPA SC Members. Action: WCPA SC Members**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: WCPA FUNDRAISING**

Discussion was led by Nik Lopoukhine and Peter Shadie and aimed to update SC members on WCPA Fundraising activities. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ Fundraising takes considerable time and it must become a responsibility of all members of the WCPA SC. Backup support is very important and the SC agreed that the position previously occupied by Peter Shadie in Gland within the Programme on Protected Areas should be filled as a matter of urgency
- ✓ There is a certain level of “donor fatigue” in relation to support for PA activities, as well as a shifting of emphasis towards funding projects which have a focus on poverty alleviation and livelihoods of poor people. The window for global projects is decreasing, with increasing emphasis being placed on country level projects
- ✓ WCPA needs to emphasize and communicate the product – the world’s key natural areas and to aim to “get the heart first”, i.e. avoid talk regarding process and “go for the substance”. We also need to use the expertise within the network as a selling point in our approaches to donors and other partners. It is a key strength; we need to play to this strength. Expertise in marketing and fundraising needs to be involved in support of WCPA fundraising;
- ✓ The CBD PoW is an opportunity, but funding is necessary if WCPA is to have an effective input to the PA Programme;
- ✓ Fundraising needs to be jointly approached between the Secretariat and the Commission and links need to be developed at the global and at regional levels. Where possible a shared focus such as the Latin American Parks Congress should be used to stimulate and encourage such joint efforts. Internal competition within IUCN for funds is unproductive and acts as a disincentive; it is important to change this internal competition situation and encourage more collaborative work – with other Commissions and with other programs.

**Action required:**

1. **Send letter to IUCN DG in relation to the importance of filling the PPA position previously occupied by Peter Shadie, and also in relation to the need for better internal coordination in relation to approaches to donors. Action: Nik Lopoukhine**
2. **Regional Vice Chairs to cooperate and work with IUCN Regional Offices to jointly develop fundraising proposals, which include funding support for regional WCPA networks. Action: Regional Vice Chairs and IUCN RCOs**
3. **Discussion with other IUCN Commission Chairs in relation to options for setting up a Fund for Commissions to provide for project funding. Action: Nik Lopoukhine**
4. **Approach key partners and potential supporters, such as PA agency CEOs (WPALF) and National Geographic to seek support for WCPA activities. Action Nik Lopoukhine, David Sheppard and WCPA Executive Committee.**

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: FUTURE MAJOR WCPA MEETINGS**

#### Mountain Conservation Connectivity – November, 2006

Graeme Worboys outlined plans for this workshop to be held in Papallacta, Ecuador. This will bring together leading experts in mountain conservation and will provide major input to a publication on this topic.

#### Latin American Parks Congress – October, 2007

Carmen Miranda outlined plans for this workshop to be held in Bariloche, Argentina from 30 September to 5 October, 2007. 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 need to be involved.

#### Durban +5 – 2008

David Sheppard noted that the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress requested that a review meeting be held 5 years after the event to review progress with the Durban Action Plan and also start planning for the next World Parks Congress to be held in 2013. The following key issues were noted:

- ✓ This event should be a separate, stand alone event, held about 6 months prior to the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress
- ✓ It should be small with no more than 100 participants. However, there should be a major effort to involve relevant constituencies in Durban +5, possibly through electronic means prior to the event
- ✓ Invitations for countries to submit expressions of interest in hosting this event should be circulated in early 2007. Tentative expressions of interest were submitted to the SC from Trevor Sandwith (in relation to Kirstenboch in Cape Town) and from Eduard Muller (in relation to Costa Rica). An open and transparent process should be implemented for the selection of the venue, as was the case in the selection of the venue for the 2003 World Parks Congress.

#### **Action required**

- ✓ **Steering Committee to be formed to commence planning for Durban +5, including setting up the process for selecting the venue for the event. Action: Roger Crofts and David Sheppard**

### **AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS**

The following items of "Other Business" were noted and agreed:

- ✓ Comments on the WCPA Task Force on Economic Valuation draft TOR to be forwarded to Nicholas Connor [Nicholas.connor@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.connor@environment.nsw.gov.au) by February 2007;
- ✓ WCPA SC members to send their skype addresses to Delwyn Dupuis so she can circulate one list of addresses to facilitate future communication between SC members;
- ✓ Message to the incoming DG to be prepared and sent by Nik Lopoukhine and David Sheppard.
- ✓ From October, 2006, the WCPA Executive Committee will comprise: Nik Lopoukhine, Trevor Sandwith, Marc Hockings, and Cristi Nozawa (WCPA) and David Sheppard (PPA)

### **AGENDA ITEM 13: MEETING CLOSURE**

Nik Lopoukhine closed the meeting on Friday 22 September and, once again, thanked the Austrian authorities for their very generous and warm hosting of the WCPA Steering Committee in such a magnificent natural setting as the Hohe Tauern 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 Ingrid Adepoller, Delwyn Dupuis and Sarah Gindre.

## **ANNEX A: HIGHLIGHTS OF WCPA SC MEMBER ACTIVITIES**

Additional comments provided by SC members to the SC meeting were as follows:

Brice Sinsin (West and Central Africa) – 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. The PA 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.

Sonia Riguera (Brazil) – the CBD Meeting in Curitiba provided an opportunity for WCPA Members to meet and discuss key issues. A key challenge is how best to strengthen the WCPA membership in the region.

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 region. Other activities include support for the development of the Grand Inca Trail and ensuring better involvement of WCPA members in Global Themes and Task Forces. The evaluation of management effectiveness is a particular priority.

Mohammad Sulayem (North Africa and Middle East) The establishment of an IUCN Regional Office in Jordan, which includes a PA specialist, is an opportunity for strengthening the WCPA membership in the region. Funding is a constraint at present and need to be addressed if the WCPA network is to be effective in future. Past support from Saudi Arabia (through NCWCD, the government conservation agency) cannot be guaranteed in future.

Roger Crofts (Europe) A WCPA Europe Regional Programme has been published and circulated to all IUCN Members in Europe – this is a “first” for a Commission Programme in Europe. The Natura 2000 Programme in Europe provides a number of opportunities for the Europe WCPA Programme. Other opportunities in the Europe region include the development of a WCPA Advisory Service, focused on PA certification and work on connectivity and conservation corridors.

Tepa Suaesi (Pacific) The Pacific Conservation Conference will be held in Papua New Guinea next year and this will provide an opportunity for WCPA member involvement. Establishment of an IUCN Oceania Office, based in Fiji also provides an opportunity. A key challenge in the region is a basic lack of capacity with many Environment Agencies being small and under-resourced. Community management of natural resources and protected areas is a reality in the Pacific – there are opportunities here to link to broader WCPA efforts in relation to Community Conserved Areas.

Dave Harmon (North America) Coordination between the 3 countries in this region has posed some problems. However there have been some positive developments, such as the development of a moderated internal list serve. There have been positive recent developments within the US in relation to the World Heritage Convention, including efforts to develop a tentative World Heritage List.

Eduard Muller (Central America) Mobilizing the membership has been challenging. To address this a number of discrete WCPA Regional Working Groups have been established, including on: transboundary PAs; marine protected areas; and young professionals. Many current members are retiring and are less active than in the past. Future opportunities in the region include development of an effective regional node for PALNet and work with IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management and the UNESCO MAB Programme on ecosystem planning approaches.

Ali Kaka (Eastern Africa) This is a new region and the biggest challenge is how to mobilize members. A key element is to develop close and effective working links with the IUCN Regional

Office in Nairobi and to better engage the IUCN Councillor in the region. Protected areas in East Africa face many challenges and the scale of these challenges is not fully or widely appreciated. An important first step for WCPA is to convene a regional meeting on protected areas.

Christi Nozawa (Southeast Asia) Key challenges in this region include sustainable financing and increasing the profile of PAs within government decision making. These areas are currently not a major economic priority and this is reflected in low levels of government funding and support. There is an overall challenge for WCPA of mobilizing the membership. The recent appointment of Peter Shadie to work in the regional office is an opportunity to develop a cohesive secretariat and commission programme. There are currently limited WCPA activities in the mega diversity countries in the region, such as Indonesia and this should be rectified.

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. A small steering committee has been established to support the efforts of the Vice Chair. The next priority is to develop a realistic Action Plan which can address key regional PA issues and also attract funding.

Hector Magome (Southern Africa) This is a new region and a priority has been to develop a realistic program. Links have been established with the IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist group (led by Brian Child), which has had a traditional focus on protected areas. There is much innovative and interesting work underway in PAs in this region and the challenge is to identify what is the “value added” of WCPA on top of all the existing efforts by PA agencies and others. A specific challenge is to invite young, creative and energetic people into the WCPA network. Better links with the IUCN Regional and Country Offices are being explored at present.

Natalia Dalinina (North Eurasia) There is a strong emphasis on communication in this region, including education of children in conservation. A number of WCPA publications have been translated into Russian and made available through the web. Recent positive moves for protected areas in the region include the decision by President Putin to relocate the route of the oil pipeline away from the Lake Baikal World Heritage site. Natalia also outlined the Russia UNEP/GEF project “Strengthening the network of Training Centres for PAs”, which involves a range of activities, including: (a) training courses; (b) field exchange visits; (c) translation of WCPA and other PA documents into Russian; and (d) preparing guidelines on issues such as payment for ecosystem services. This program is increasing awareness of PA issues in Russia as well as strengthening capacity of PA managers.

Penny Figgis (Australia/New Zealand) There has been considerable emphasis on revising and revitalizing the WCPA membership and ensuring it is focused on specific tasks. Considerable effort has gone into preparing input to the Senate Inquiry into the National Reserve System in Australia. Partnerships have been developed with the Parks Forum (an Australian based group focused on urban park issues) and with youth representatives. The establishment of a new IUCN Office in Fiji for the Oceania Region provides an excellent opportunity to mobilize WCPA members in support of activities within the broader Oceania region.

Graeme Worboys (Mountains) The Mountain Program has developed a forward workshop program, including one workshop per year. There will be a workshop on Mountains Connectivity which will be implemented in Quito in November 2006. Considerable time has been invested in preparing an Earthscan publication on Managing Protected Areas, which will shortly be published as one of the key products from the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress. 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.

Marc Hockings (Management Effectiveness) This Task Force is now incorporated into a new Strategic Direction on “Science and Management”. The focus is on overseeing the application of the Management Effectiveness approach, based on a number of key projects such as the

Enhancing Our Heritage project being implemented in a number of countries. Emerging issues are PA certification and increasing the capacity of the WCPA network to respond to the many requests for input and advice in relation to management effectiveness. There is also considerable emphasis on the planning and implementation of the Categories Summit, to be held in Spain in March, 2007.

Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerband (TILCEPA) The promotion and encouragement of Community Conserved Areas around the world remains a high priority and work on this is actively underway in a number of countries, including Madagascar and Tanzania. An ambitious publication program is continuing including publications in the IUCN/WCPA Best Practice Series and in the PARKS series. Proposals have been developed for a Task Force on PAs and Equity, in cooperation with CARE. There is a need to strengthen the ability of the network to respond to the many requests for advice on CCAs and other matters relevant to community conservation. This requires systematic and effective responses which in turn needs adequate resources.

Allen Putney (Sacred Values of Protected Areas) 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.

Graeme Kelleher (High Seas) This High Seas is one of the last great frontiers for biodiversity in general and for marine conservation in particular. Jurisdictional issues remain a challenge to the development of effective conservation regimes on the High Seas. Close cooperation with the fisheries sector and organizations such as FAO is essential to move forward in this area.

Pippa Heylings (Islands) Emphasis has been placed on providing a coordinated Island input to the CBD and, in particular, the CBD COP 8 meeting in Curitiba in March, 2006. The challenge is now how to implement programs relating to island conservation.

Jim Barborak (Training) Emphasis has been placed on providing information on training opportunities and looking at opportunities for cross-country and cross-regional training initiatives.

Jessica Brown (Protected Landscapes) A workshop on Category V will be held in preparation for the 2007 Category Summit. Emphasis has been placed on Cultural Landscapes (within the context of the World Heritage Convention).

Charles Besancon (Transboundary PAs) There are many requests for information and advice on this issue but the network cannot adequately respond to these requests as it is structured at present. The link between TBPAs and security issues continues to be an important issue in many countries.