



# World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)



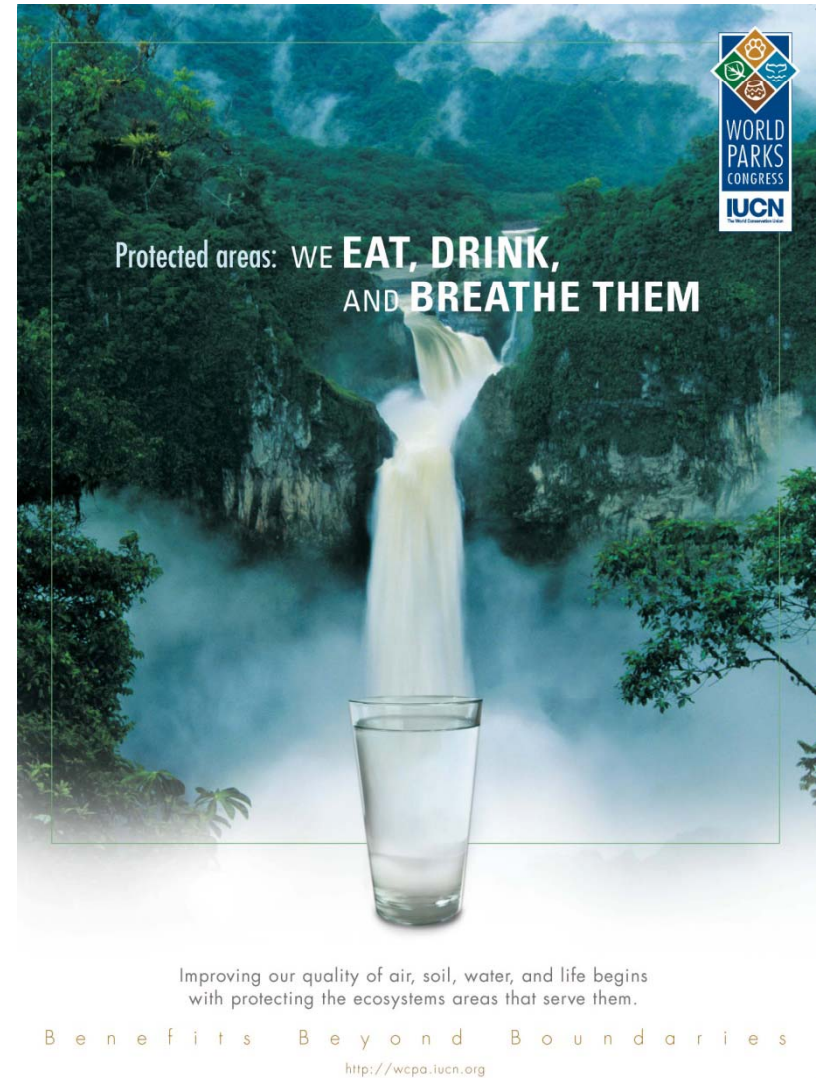
## What is WCPA?

**WCPA is the world's largest network of protected area specialists, with 1,400 members in 130 countries, it was created more than 50 years ago**





- ◆ **The IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP) acts as Secretariat to WCPA. It has staff in Headquarters and in the Regions**
- ◆ **Both IUCN and WCPA work together to convene IUCN's World Parks Congresses. The next IUCN-WPC will be in 2014**





# Structure



**WCPA has a strategic and regional structure**

- **9 regions corresponding to the IUCN Statutory Regions**
- **4 strategic directions, capacity, governance, connectivity and science and management**



## In addition WCPA works on



**2 biomes, marine and mountain working with partners and other IUCN Programmes; and**

**Policy issues such as CBD, World Heritage, Climate Change and Communications**

**WCPA also has a group of young professionals mentored by WCPA members**



# WCPA is known for being



**Unchallenged as the global network of experts on protected areas;**

**Increasing inter-commissional links  
(eg Equity and People:  
WCPA:CEESP, WCPA SSC**

**Accumulating knowledge and  
distilling this into policy guidance  
and global standards such as the  
IUCN Category System for PAs;**



# WCPA's Strengths



**Convening power: IUCN-WPC,  
Regional Congresses, etc;  
Influence on global policy and as  
a standard setter, CBD  
POWPA, Climate Change; PA  
Management Effectiveness,  
policy guidance**

**Communication Output and  
Outreach is considerable:  
PARKS, Best Practice  
Guidelines etc;**



# WCPA's Governance

Regional, Strategic and Biome Vice Chairs constitute the WCPA Steering Committee, which meets once a year

WCPA ExCo is the key decision making body between Steering Committee meetings, the Exco is composed of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Vice Chair at Large, a Strategic Direction Chair and a Regional Chair