



IUCN - The World Conservation Union

8th World Protected Areas Leadership Forum

7 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain



The 8th World Protected Areas Leadership Forum (WPALF) was held in Barcelona, Spain,

A full list of participants is attached as Annex.

The text of this report covers the key issues raised in presentations and in subsequent discussions.

Cover Photograph: Forest in the Garajonay National Park, Spain IUCN Jim Thorsell

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2008 WORLD PROTECTED AREAS LEADERSHIP FORUM

Barcelona, Spain, 7 October, 2008

FINAL REPORT OF MEETING

A short and informal meeting of the 2008 World Protected Area Leadership Forum was held in Barcelona on the 7 October, at the time of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC). The aims of the Forum meeting were to:

- ✓ brief WPALF members on the WCC and to highlight key issues relevant to protected areas;
- ✓ obtain WPALF members views on priorities for the protected areas programme of IUCN/WCPA; and
- ✓ obtain WPALF Member views on future directions for the WPALF.

BRIEFING ON IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

David Sheppard provided a briefing on the Congress in relation to protected areas. He highlighted that the IUCN Congress has gathered 8,000 of the world's conservation leaders gathered in Barcelona. Protected Areas was one of the major thematic areas covered at the Congress and the major elements included:

(1) Workshops held in the World Conservation Forum

240 workshops were being held in the Forum and these included 80 workshops focussed on protected areas. Thus around 33% of all workshops at the Congress related to protected areas. While IUCN Members organised the majority of protected areas workshops, PPA and WCPA were directly involved in organizing a number of major workshops, including:

- “Splash Event” for Protected Areas – showcasing the many values of protected areas to society, including through the world premiere of the film prepared by Parcs Canada on protected area values;
- Healthy Parks Healthy People –highlighting the benefits of the natural environment in general, and protected areas in particular, in providing human physical and mental health benefits;
- World Heritage (WH) –reviewing the significant opportunities to strengthen the potential and leverage of the World Heritage convention;
- Connectivity Conservation and Protected Areas - featured the world premiere of the film: “Australia’s Great Eastern Ranges: Our Vision To Protect Them Forever” and highlighting examples of connectivity conservation from North and Central America;
- Evaluating PA Management Effectiveness – presenting key findings from assessments on over 7000 protected areas around the world;
- Protected Areas and Climate Change Turnaround (PACT 2020) – reviewing the challenges and the opportunities associated with climate change and protected areas;
- Youth and Protected Areas – highlighting the various initiatives undertaken within IUCN/WCPA to better involve young people in protected areas as well as future challenges in this area; and
- Conservation Planning - Designs for Nature - outlining new Guidelines being developed on: “*Designs for nature: regional conservation planning, implementation and management*”, covering ideas and techniques on conservation planning.

(2) Launches of key protected areas products

A number of key protected areas products were to be launched at the WCC, including:

(i) the IUCN Protected Areas Categories Guidelines: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/index.cfm?uNewsID=1794>

(ii) the World Data Base on Protected Areas (WDPA) : <http://www.wdpa.org/>

(iii) Sacred Natural Sites Guidelines for Protected Area Managers http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_focus/index.cfm?uNewsID=1978

(3) Motions on protected areas

144 Motions were being considered by IUCN members during the Members' Assembly (10 and 14 October). The majority of the motions relate to traditional “heartland issues” of species and protected areas. Once adopted the motions reflect IUCN's position on the subject matter of the motion. Of the motions there were 38 (26%) which were directly relevant to protected areas and an additional 34 motions (23%) were indirectly relevant to protected areas. Thus in total around 50% of all motions under considered by the Congress related to protected areas. Key issues that were addressed in motions related to protected areas included: (i) Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas; (ii) Extractive Industries and Protected Areas; (iii) Marine Protected Areas; (iv) World Heritage; (v) Connectivity Conservation and Climate Change

(4) Awards for protected areas

The following protected areas awards were scheduled to be made at the Congress

- (i) IUCN Honorary Membership - one of the highest and most prestigious awards in IUCN and to be presented at the Congress to Larry Hamilton;
- (ii) Kenton Miller Award – to be awarded to Dr. Marc Hockings for his globally significant work on the methodology of measuring protected area management effectiveness;
- (iii) Young Conservationist Award – to be awarded to Edwin Sabuhoro, 32, from Rwanda; and
- (iv) Fred Packard Award – awarded at the WCPA Members meeting to Ernesto Enkerlin, from Mexico, Moses Mapesa from Uganda, Maria Tereza Jorde Padua from Brazil; George Wallace from the USA; Henri Blaffart from France/New Caledonia; Rober Cartagena from Bolivia; and Muslih Al-Juaid from Saudi Arabia.

(5) WCPA Full Members Meeting

More than 200 WCPA Members participated in a full day WCPA Members Meeting on 4 October.

The meeting:

- (i) reviewed WCPA activities and achievements over the 2004 – 2008 period;
- (ii) identified key issues and activities relevant to WCPA Members at the IUCN Congress; and
- (iii) obtained WCPA members views on priorities for the 2008 – 2012 period.

BRIEFING ON PROPOSED 2008 – 2012 WCPA PROGRAMME

Nik Lopoukhine briefed WPALF participants on the 2008 to 2012 WCPA Programme and his comments included

- Climate change represents the major challenge to the future viability of systems of protected areas. WCPA future efforts need to develop practical response strategies to climate change, including through the strengthening of protected area networks (through increased application of management effectiveness methodology and the IUCN PA category system) and also accelerating efforts to work at broader scales (including through connectivity conservation initiatives). WCPA also needs to engage with the UNFCCC and with a range of other partners, including on initiatives for carbon related financing, such as the REDD scheme;
- The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) has been a key vehicle for increasing the profile and relevance of protected areas. The level of engagement of WCPA with the CBD has been effective but can and should be increased over the 2009-2012 period; The future structure of WCPA must enable WCPA to best deliver key products for conservation and protected area. There was a strong message from the WCPA Members meeting regarding the need to increase the level of national level, where possible linked to the establishment of national Focal points for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas;
- WCPA's future programme needs to reinforce and build on the key strengths of WCPA, such as in setting standards (such as for the PA Category System); convening (such as for the World PA Leadership Forum) and in knowledge generation and sharing (such as for the Best Practice Series); Partnerships with other organizations are essential for more effective establishment and management of protected areas. Joint work and cooperation with the World PA Leadership Forum is very important.

REVIEW OF THE WPALF SINCE 2000 AND FUTURE OPTIONS, INCLUDING IN RELATION TO THE 2014 IUCN WORLD PARKS CONGRESS

David Sheppard reviewed the WPALF since its first meeting in 2000. The concept originated from a meeting between IUCN and the USNPS Director (Bob Stanton) in 1999 and was originally based on the principle of linking and harnessing efforts of leading PA agencies to support PA efforts worldwide.

The first WPALF Meeting was held in Virginia, USA in 2000 and focused on providing input to the planning of the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress. Since then the WPALF has been convened jointly by IUCN and a rotating host country, and has met in:

- 2001 – in the Teide National Park, Spain
- 2002 – in the Sydney Harbour National Park, Australia
- 2003 – in Durban, South Africa (with the WPC)
- 2004 – in the Savonlinna National Park, Finland
- 2005 – in the Banff National Park, Canada
- 2006 – in the Gulf of California National Park, Mexico
- 2007 – in Inverness, Scotland

The original focus of the WPALF was on providing input to the WPC, but the Forum has evolved to provide a number of functions, including: (i) benchmarking – for reviewing standards and approaches taken by different PA agencies to different issues; (ii) as a forum for discussing issues, with a particular focus on those which are “keeping Parks CEO’s awake at night”; and (iii) as platform for further cooperation and strengthening efforts for protected areas between countries.

A number of issues have been discussed in depth by the WPALF, including tourism, climate change and Marine protected areas. The issues for discussion have been identified by CEOs (with telephone calls being made to other CEOs by the host CEO)

Participation has generally involved a core of about 10 PA CEOs and then an additional 10 PA CEOs from the region where the meeting is being held.

Key future issues have been identified at a number of key events including the Durban+5 review meeting, held in Cape Town in April, 2008 and also the full WCPA Members meeting at the IUCN WCC in Barcelona. These forums underline the overarching importance of climate change for protected areas and the need for the development and implementation of practical response strategies. Another key theme has been the need to better assess and to strengthen management effectiveness of protected areas, including through building enhanced capacity of protected areas agencies and staff.

Two major events for PAs on the horizon: (a) CBD COP-10 in Japan in 2010; and (b) next WPC. CBD COP-10 will review progress with the PoWPA targets and identify what comes next. The next WPC was discussed at Durban+5: WPC is important and should continue; Agreed that more emphasis should be placed on Regional PA Congresses (Latin America, Brazil, Australia) and try for a smaller Congress (certainly than this WCC); Timing – around 10 years, but mid way between IUCN Congresses, thus 2014; Location potentially: Europe or Australia/New Zealand

In closing the following questions were posed:

- (i) Should the WPALF continue ?;
- (ii) what should its future role be ?;
- (iii) should the WPALF take an active leadership role in the next WPC (as occurred for the WPC in Durban) ?;
- (iv) should its current approach and structure stay the same or be changed ? How ?

OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM AND ANY OTHER ISSUES.

This session was chaired by Alan Latourelle and the following comments were made:

Alan Latourelle (Canada)

The Forum has been very useful as a forum for sharing perspectives and experiences. We should identify future candidates for future membership of the Forum and for future meeting venues. Previous Forum Meetings have demonstrated the importance of having a well structured and clear agenda. Parcs Canada is willing to support future meetings of the Forum

Alan Feely (Queensland, Australia)

It is important to maintain the integrity of protected areas and ensure that fundamental principles relating to conservation are not diluted

Julius Kipng'etich (Kenya)

The Leaders involved in the forum owe it to the next generation to work to establish links and improve conservation efforts around the world. The Forum has been an invaluable means to learn from the practical experience of other leaders and many of the lessons learnt have been applied in the home country

Julia Miranda (Colombia)

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences, particularly on key "cutting edge" issues: in a number of cases Forum suggestions and ideas led to improvements in the way in which protected areas issues are handled in her country. The Forum has led to a number of "spin off" activities, including joint activities with protected area agencies in other parts of the world. IUCN has played a crucial leadership role and this should be continued.

Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich (Mexico)

The Forum has provided an invaluable learning experience and it has been useful also in fostering a "sense of belonging" amongst PA CEOs at a global level

Peter Cochrane (Australia)

The Forum has provided an invaluable opportunity to share experiences, including the chance to talk openly about failures. Provocative and interesting "challenge speakers" have been very useful. Some potential areas for the future could include: (a) experiences with Indigenous Protected Areas and Community Conserved Areas; (b) climate change, including an assessment of the different voluntary mechanisms; (c) how to better promote the values of protected areas with key decision makers

Mark Stone (Victoria, Australia)

It is important to focus the agenda on a limited number of important issues which are looked at in more detail. It would be useful for the Forum to identify and analyse Key Factors of Success for these issues. Managing and better presenting the business case for protected areas (including to politicians) is an area that could be discussed at a future Forum Meeting

Alan Latourelle (Canada)

A key issue is: "are protected areas still going to be relevant in 10 years ?" Parcs Canada sees the forum as a very important means for addressing this issue and is willing to assign someone to support future meetings of the Leadership Forum

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