

World Parks Congress Evaluation

Individual Workshop Stream Evaluation Reports

Workshop VII: Building Comprehensive Protected Areas Systems

Prepared by IUCN and
Universalia Management Group

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A c r o n y m s

AP	Areas Protegidas / Aires Protégées (PA in English)
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
PA	Protected Area
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WPC	World Parks Congress

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1. Introduction

Seven major Workshop Streams and their associated sub-sessions provided a major part of the substantive technical discussions at the World Parks Congress in Durban in September 2003. For three full days close to 2,800 participants attended seven major workshop streams and the many associated sub-sessions and short courses. The streams were:

- Workshop Stream I: Linkages in the Landscape & Seascape
- Workshop Stream II: Building Broader Support for Protected Areas
- Workshop Stream III: Governance of Protected Areas
- Workshop Stream IV: Developing the Capacity to Manage Protected Areas
- Workshop Stream V: Evaluating Management Effectiveness
- Workshop Stream VI: Building a Secure Financial Future
- Workshop Stream VII: Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems

Issues related to three cross cutting themes - Marine Protected Areas, World Heritage and Communities and Equity - were integrated into each workshop stream.

General feedback on the effectiveness of the workshops streams was obtained through the overall Congress evaluation questionnaire and from interviews with participants. Detailed feedback on the profile of workshop participants and on their perceptions of how well the workshops addressed their objectives was obtained from evaluation questionnaires administered in each workshop stream as well as most of their associated short courses.

A summary of the evaluation results for each workshop stream appears in the overall Evaluation report. This report contains both the summary of overall workshop evaluation results (Section One) as well as the complete evaluation results for Workshop Stream VII: Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems (Section Two) and the results of the Short Course evaluation associated with that workshop stream (Section Three).

This detailed report is provided mainly for use by the respective Workshop Stream Leaders and associated managers and organizers who may find the complete data analysis useful in reflecting on how well they met their objectives and what improvements they might wish to make for future Congress workshops.

Section One: Overall Workshop Results

Section Two: Specific Workshop Evaluation Results for Workshop Stream VII: Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems

Section Three: Short Course Evaluation: Conservation Planning with Software and Expert Judgment

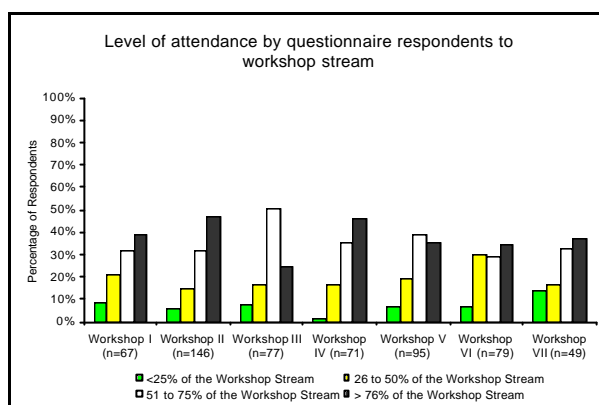
2. Overall Workshop Evaluation Results

This section reports on the overall effectiveness of the workshop streams. In all, there were seven workshop streams with multiple breakout sessions¹.

Workshop Stream I: Linkages in the Landscape & Seascape
 Workshop Stream II: Building Broader Support for Protected Areas
 Workshop Stream III: Governance of Protected Areas
 Workshop Stream IV: Developing the Capacity to Manage Protected Areas
 Workshop Stream V: Evaluating Management Effectiveness
 Workshop Stream VI: Building a Secure Financial Future
 Workshop Stream VII: Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems

Two thirds of questionnaire respondents indicated that they had attended 50% or more of the workshop stream for which they completed a questionnaire. Overall attendance to the workshop streams above the 50% threshold varied between 63% (Workshop Stream VI Building a Secure Financial Future) and 82% (Workshop Stream IV Developing the Capacity to Manage Protected Areas) (see Exhibit 2.1). Consequently, the findings presented herein are deemed representative of the general perspectives expressed by the most active participants.

Exhibit 2.1 Attendance to Workshop Stream



2.1 Overview of Workshop Streams

Finding 1: While workshop streams were strongly perceived as being well organized, respondents indicated that major improvements could have been made in terms of the venue location as well as in the coordination and focus of the breakout sessions.

Notwithstanding marginal differences between the workshops, all streams were strongly perceived as being well organized by attending participants (see Exhibit 2.2). Workshops V (Management Effectiveness) and VI (Building a Secure Financial Future) attained the highest rating (95% and 92% respectively) while Workshop I (Linkages in the Landscape and Seascape) obtained a rating of 82%, which suggests relatively minor differences between the workshops.

Organization of the Workshops

“Comprehensive coverage with absolutely first rate management and preparation.”

“Bonne infrastructure et bonne organisation d’ensemble.” (Good infrastructure and good organization on the whole.)

“Reflexionar sobre gestion.” (Thinking about management)

“Well organized and professionally prepared.”

“Wide coverage issues, good preparation and management.”

“Very well structured.”

While close to three-quarters of all respondents indicated that the use of simultaneous breakout sessions to address major issues was effective (see Exhibit 2.3), comments noted in areas for improvement suggest that there is a need for better coordination and focus between the breakout sessions in order to reduce overlap and improve the achievement of results. The majority of respondents felt that a more focused Agenda with fewer breakout sessions and/or presentations would provide more time for in-depth discussion and debate as well as promote greater participation.

¹ The extent to which, individual workshop objectives were met and how well cross-cutting themes were addressed is explored in section six of this report.

Moreover, survey respondents showed mixed responses regarding the availability of pre-workshop materials. In some cases (Streams III Governance, IV Developing Capacity & V Management Effectiveness), 68% to 71% of respondents felt there were adequate materials to prepare for the workshops, but in other cases (Workshops VI Secure Financial Future and VII Building Comprehensive PA Systems), as few as 31% to 40% of respondents reached the same conclusion.

Exhibit 2.2 Organization of the Workshop Streams

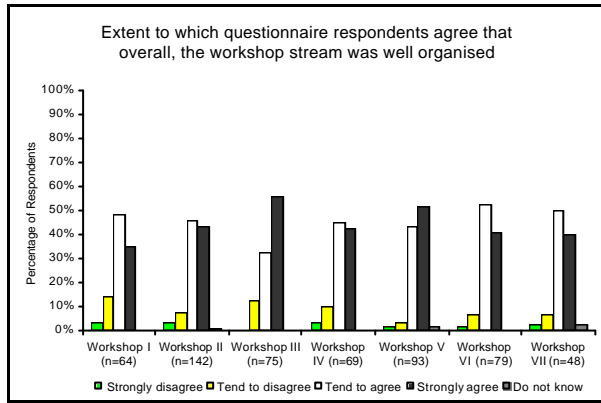
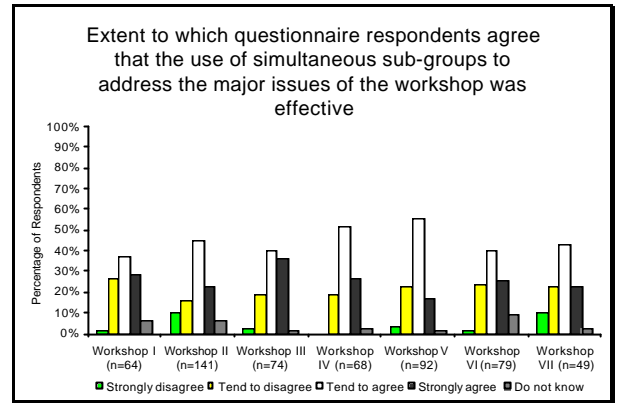


Exhibit 2.3 Simultaneous Breakout Sessions



The One Major Improvement I Would Make to the Workshop I Attended Is

- “Fewer presentations – more interactive debate and discussions.”
- “Do not step down to so many small subgroups. While all were interesting, there were too many small subgroups to be cost-effective and work effective for presenters.”
- “Limit the number of parallel categories and put more time for open discussions on specific points.”
- “Too many parallel sessions with similar topics.”
- “Make sub-group presentations more consistent with one another.”
- “Too many workshops, which overlap same issues.”
- “Need better facilities to conduct sessions. These facilities were barely passable. It was difficult to hear and there were frequent disturbances from adjacent sessions.”

On average, more than half of respondents tended to agree that facilities were suitable for workshop activities. However, survey comments reveal that the most significant weakness of the workshop streams attended was the poor quality of the workshop rooms (too noisy, some too small, fixed chairs inappropriate, some too big) and lack of translation facilities. Similarly, improvement to the quality of the venue used to host the workshops was one of the three most important improvements suggested by participants.

The workshop streams were perceived by workshop participants as having clear objectives and thorough contents in terms of issues and topics to be covered. However, concerns were raised regarding the depth at which issues were explored and how well these issues were debated and discussed during the workshops.

Three-quarters to 90% of questionnaire respondents indicated that the workshop stream they attended provided clear objectives to guide their activities and moreover, the same proportion of respondents felt that the contents were likewise thorough and complete (see Exhibit 2.4 and Exhibit 2.5). Similarly, more than three-quarters of survey respondents indicated that the workshop materials made available in each individual stream were useful to participants.

More than three-quarters of workshop questionnaire respondents indicated that key issues and lessons learned were well articulated in their respective workshop stream (see Exhibit 2.6). Similarly, over 80% observed that the workshop stream(s) they attended adequately identified key challenges and issues (see Exhibit 2.7), 30% indicated that the level of debate was adequate (see Exhibit 2.8), and another 40% tended to agree. Concern was raised by others that issues and lessons were not sufficiently addressed (see Exhibit 2.9).

Exhibit 2.4 Workshop Objectives

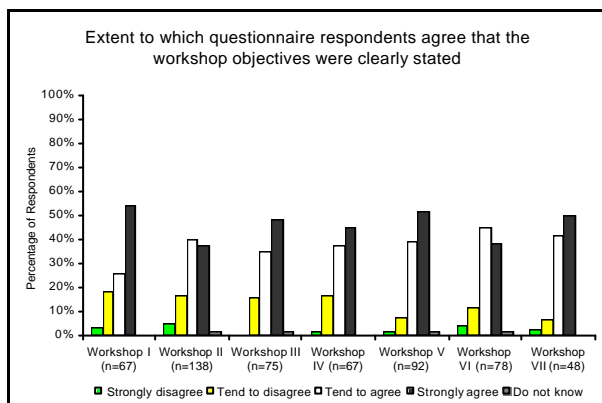
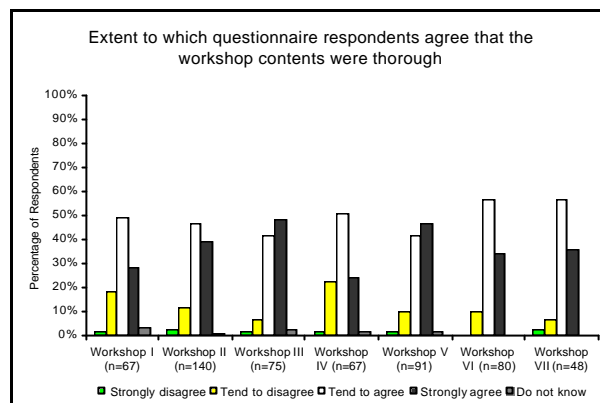


Exhibit 2.5 Workshop Contents



Among the most significant strengths of the workshop streams, respondents noted that they were successful in exploring new ideas, themes and issues while strengthening technical knowledge. Workshops were also attributed with having made contributions towards the advancement of knowledge and science of Protected Areas and for having raised the profile of Protected Areas issues.

While respondents were generally positive about the thoroughness of the workshop contents, the fourth most often stated weakness and/or area for improvement noted by respondents suggests that relevant issues were addressed superficially or too broadly. Comments collected from all the workshop questionnaires indicate that there was a lack of depth to the presentations and/or that important gaps were not addressed. Respondents indicated that improvements should be considered regarding the quality of the presentations and materials provided to ensure delivery of more substantive in-depth analysis and substantive content.

Further it was recommended that workshops should limit their focus to the most important themes and issues, with fewer presentations, more debate and discussion, improved facilitation and chairing, and fewer workshops/breakout sessions.

Significant Strength of the Workshop Attended

“Exposure to tools, training and demonstration sessions and lessons learned.”

“Quality of technical detail and substance.”

“New approaches to link landscape/seascape wider ecosystems.”

“Conocer el perfil del Nuevo administrado de AP.” (Got to know the new Protected Areas administrator)

“Obtained practical information/guidelines that can be used.”

Inadequate Depth of Workshop Streams

“Profundizar un poco mas en el tema de las lecciones aprendidas en el proceso, eso permitiría generar un poco mas de conocimiento sobre las experiencias que se presentan ya que muchas veces únicamente se presentan generalidades.” (Go a bit deeper into the theme of lessons learned, to generate a little more knowledge on experiences instead hearing only generalities in many presentations)

“Fewer subgroups/workshops would enable one to focus better.”

“Mejorar el resultado del taller al enunciar adecuadamente los objetivos.” (Improve the results of workshops by announcing the objectives adequately)

“Less presentations. Presentations better prepared and focused.”

“Presentations general, little specifics or hard evidence.”

“Dilucion de buenas ideas.” (Dilution of good ideas)

Exhibit 2.6 Key Issues in Workshop Stream

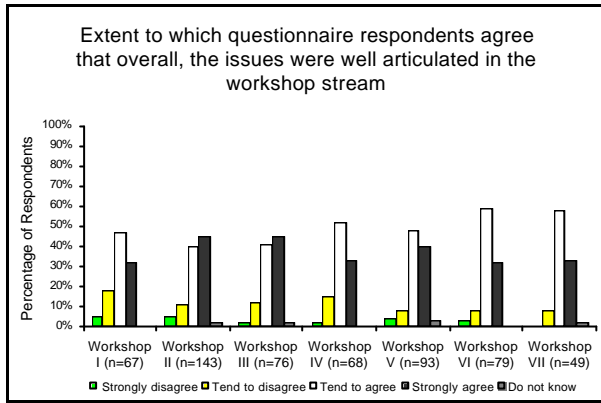


Exhibit 2.7 Workshop Effectiveness in Identifying Key Challenges and Issues

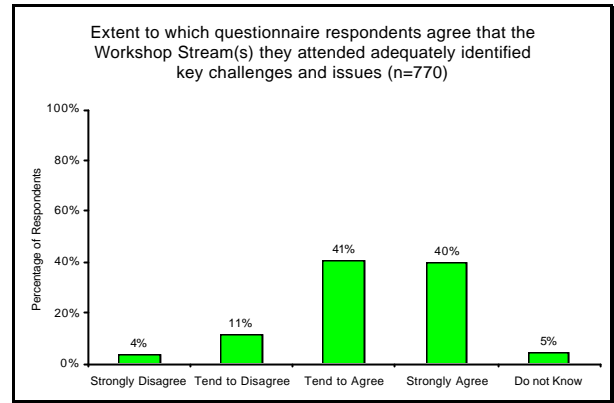


Exhibit 2.8 Level of Debate to Address Key Issues

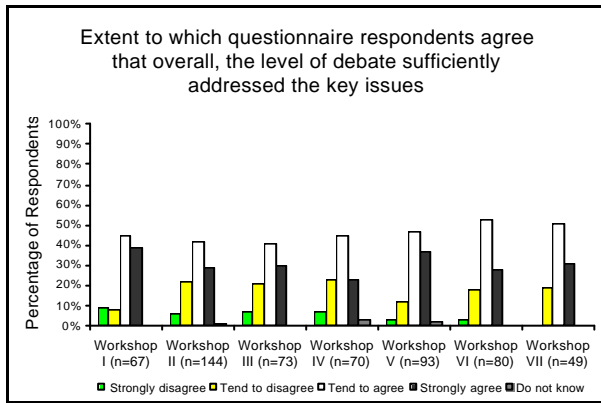
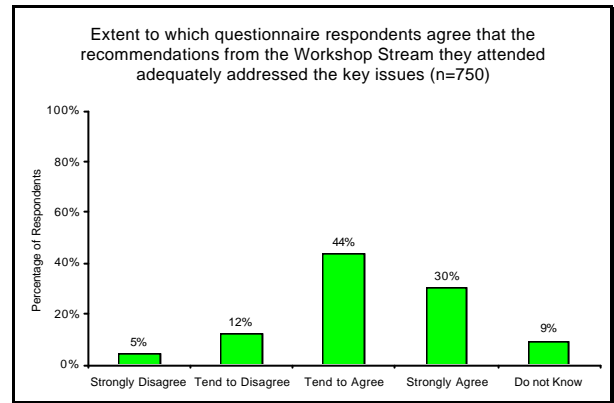


Exhibit 2.9 Workshop Stream Recommendations' Effectiveness in Addressing Key Issues



The most significant weakness noted by questionnaire respondents as well the single most important improvement they would make related to the lack of discussion and debate in the workshops. The majority of comments noted that the sessions were either inappropriately facilitated to foster the exchange of ideas or that time was poorly managed.

Lack of Debate and Discussion

“Participants should be allowed to comment and ask questions at the end of each presentations.”

“No adequate time to discuss presentations.”

“Workshops often did not allow time for rebuttal or discussion. We were often asked only for one key comment or recommendation rather than being able to discuss case studies and issues among the group.”

“Ampliar las discusiones, porque de lo contrario quedar cases obturas.” (Widen the discussions, with contrasting case studies)

“Too many presentations and too little time for discussions.”

“Time constraints for in-depth study and understanding of so many important and relevant issues.”

“Need to hear more experience from the audience to analyze issues and implications more carefully.”

Finding 2: Overall workshop streams were effectively chaired and relevant resource persons were able to constructively contribute to the debates, however some improvements were suggested.

Over three-quarters of questionnaire respondents agreed or tended to agree that workshops were either effectively chaired (see Exhibit 2.10) or that resource persons associated with each workshops (subgroup chairs, co-chairs and presenters) were able to constructively contribute to the workshop debates (see Exhibit 2.11). While the quality of presenters (competence, expertise and experience) was recognized as being one of the most significant strengths of the workshop streams, a concern was noted by participants that improvements could be made. Some respondents commented that chairs and facilitators lacked appropriate skills or abilities to manage sessions, facilitate discussions and use time efficiently.

Exhibit 2.10 Effectively Chaired Workshops

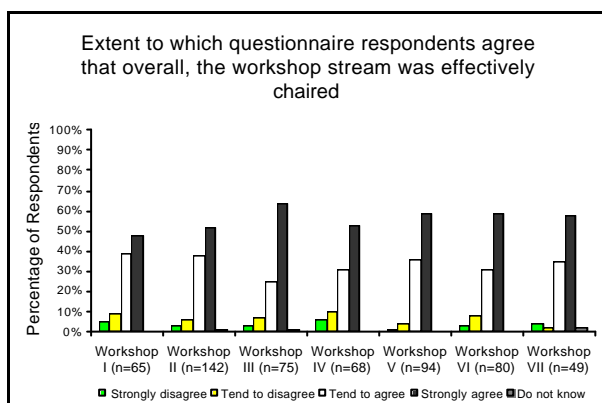
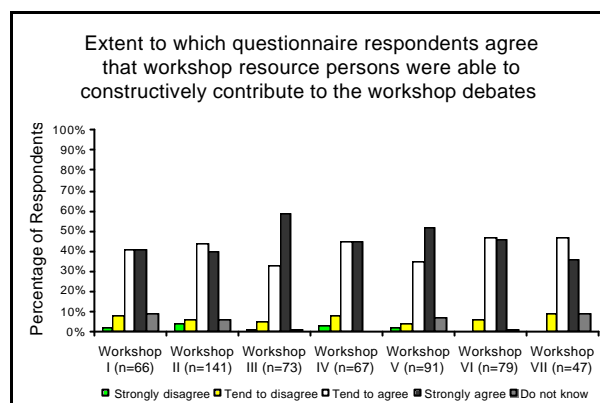


Exhibit 2.11 Resource Person Contributions



Finding 3: The workshop streams were perceived as being directly relevant to the work of respondents: the workshops were successful in enhancing the knowledge of respondents on key issues as well as in providing skills that would be useful to their organizations.

On average², over 90% of survey respondents indicated that the workshop they attended had enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the topics discussed (see Exhibit 2.12), that the stream issues were directly relevant to their work (see Exhibit 2.13) and that the knowledge and skills gained would be useful to their respective organizations (see Exhibit 2.14).

Exhibit 2.12 Knowledge of Topics Discussed

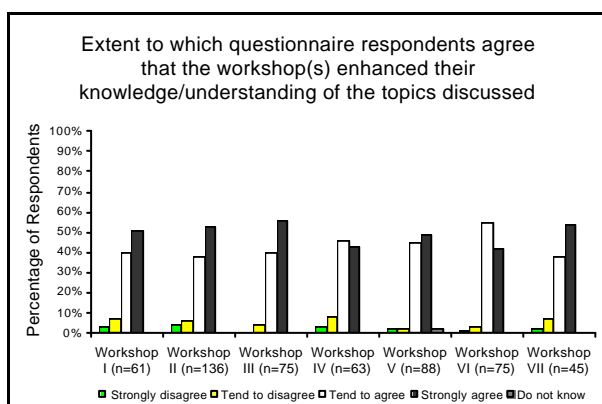
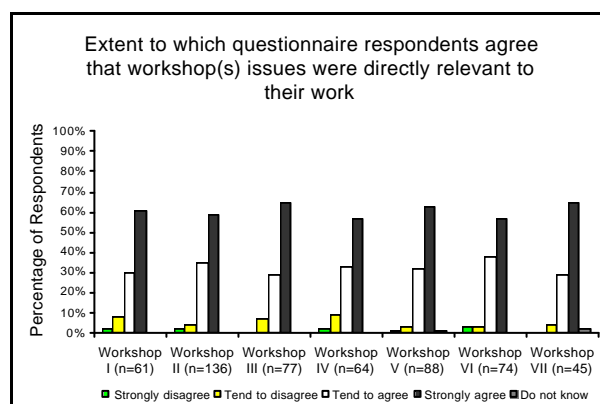


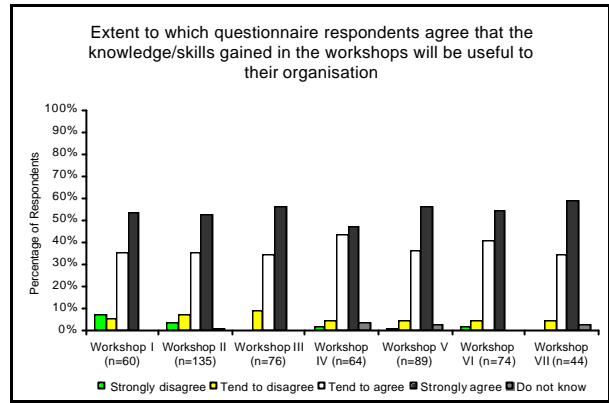
Exhibit 2.13 Workshop Relevance



² Average based on responses from the seven workshopstreams. The lowest value noted was 86% and the highest was 96%.

As noted earlier, the effectiveness of the workshops in providing new insights on relevant topics was the second most significant strength noted by respondents. Survey responses further indicate that workshops were successful in advancing the level of knowledge on the topics discussed as well as on raising the profile of issues and in setting directions. Similarly, respondents also indicated that the workshops had provided participants with relevant and practical application. Sample statements relating to these observations are noted in the textbox below.

Exhibit 2.14 Knowledge Usefulness for my Organization



Usefulness of Workshop Stream

“New approaches to link landscape/seascape.”

“Quality of technical details and substance.”

“Conocer muchas experiencias de paises y como solucionar sus problemas.” (Learned of many countries’ experiences and how they have solved their problems)

“Practical solutions presented.”

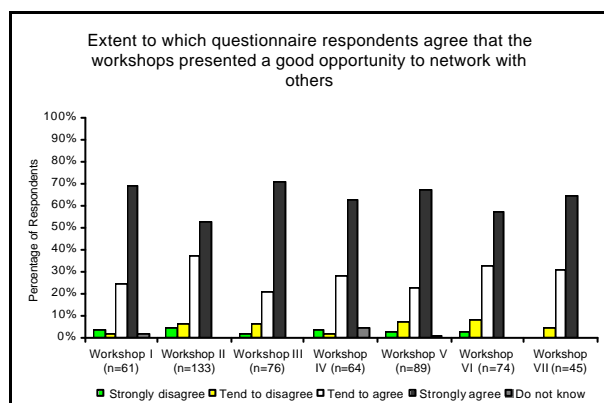
“Presentation of best practices and experiences from countries all over the world.”

“Various topics such as: “case studies,” “lessons learned,” “finance tools,” “management effectiveness,” “ecological integrity,” etc.”

Finding 4: The workshop streams were highly effective in providing networking opportunities to participants.

More than 89% of all questionnaire respondents indicated that the workshop they attended provided a good opportunity to network with others (see Exhibit 2.15). The richness and diversity of participants and the resulting wealth of knowledge and experience that was brought to bear in the workshop sessions, proved to be the most significant strength of the workshop streams according to the respondents

Exhibit 2.15 Networking Opportunities



The Most Significant Strength of the Workshops

- “High number of experiences from all over the world presented.”
- “Networking and understanding what other areas are doing.”
- “Allowed me to establish contact with a strong approach useful to my organization.”
- “The number of experts and parishioners who were pulled together to share experiences and forge new directions.”
- “Bringing the global community to share experiences.”
- “La forte mobilisation de tous les acteurs concernés par la conservation de la nature et de la biodiversité.” (All the actors concerned with the conservation of nature and biodiversity were strongly motivated)
- “The opportunity to hear other experiences and listen to how people in other countries and Protected Areas are dealing with issues we work on.”

Workshop stream contributions towards the advancement of the Protected Areas Agenda as well as the Outputs of the World Parks Congress were perceived as being potentially significant.

While the extent to which workshop streams were able to make contributions to the WPC Outputs and the advancement of the Protected Areas Agenda was perceived as being potentially significant by more than two thirds of survey respondents, some wide variances were noted between the different workshops. When asked whether or not the workshop stream represents a potentially significant contribution to the Durban Accord and Action Plan, a strong majority of respondents agreed with the statement and some notably so, such as in Workshop Stream VII Building Comprehensive Protected Areas (see Exhibit 2.16). Similar results were obtained for the contributions of the workshop streams towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (see Exhibit 2.17) and the advancement of the Protected Areas Agenda (see Exhibit 2.18).

Exhibit 2.16 Contributions to the Durban Accord and Action Plan

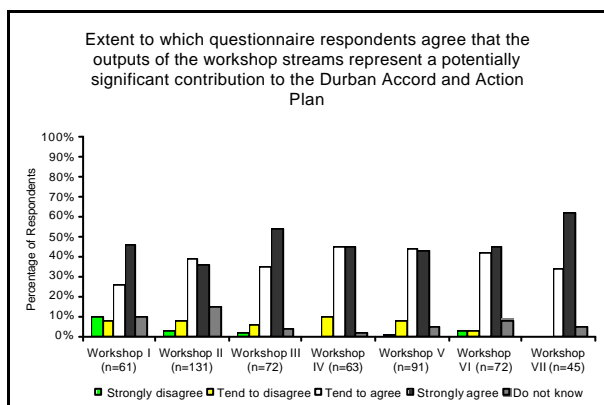
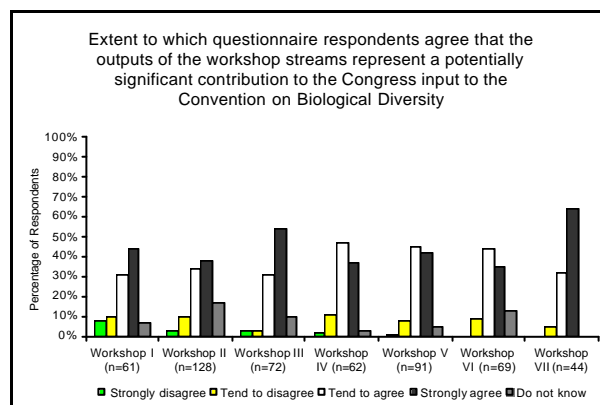
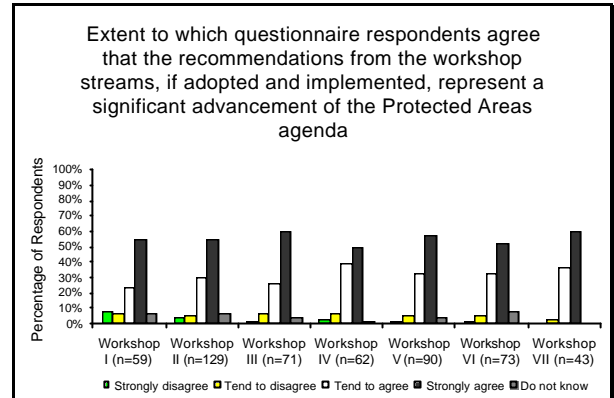


Exhibit 2.17 Contributions to the Convention on Biological Diversity



Correspondingly, the contributions made by workshop streams towards the advancement of the Protected Areas Agenda and the Outputs that resulted from the Congress were also noted by participants as one of the most significant strengths of the WPC. Respondents indicated that the workshops were successful in making contributions towards the advancement of Protected Areas knowledge and science and consequently, towards the relevant conventions and WPC Outputs.

Exhibit 2.18 Contributions to the Advancement of the Protected Areas Agenda



Linkages Between Workshop Streams and WPC Outputs

- “The linkages to Congress key Outputs were clearly seen/acknowledged.”
- “The recommendation represents a significant advancement of Protected Areas.”
- “Reinforce and give new value to category V protected landscapes.”
- “Acknowledgement of importance of indigenous people.”
- “Bringing the TBPA experts together to set an Agenda for the next 5-10 years.”
- “Content represented the scientific basis of Protected Areas design and management.”
- “El consenso de los participantes sobre los principales puntos de analisis.” (Consensus among participants on the main points of the analysis)
- “Programme towards setting targets for biodiversity conservation.”

Finding 5: Workshop streams were successful in meeting the expectations of participants and in providing significant added value to the World Parks Congress.

While some variances were noted between the workshop streams regarding the extent to which participants expectations were met, more than three-quarters of survey respondents were found to be in agreement with the latter statement (see Exhibit 2.19). Similarly, survey results show that 83% to 100% of workshop stream questionnaire respondents agreed that the stream they attended would provide significant added value to the World Parks Congress (see Exhibit 2.20).

Exhibit 2.19 Meeting Expectations

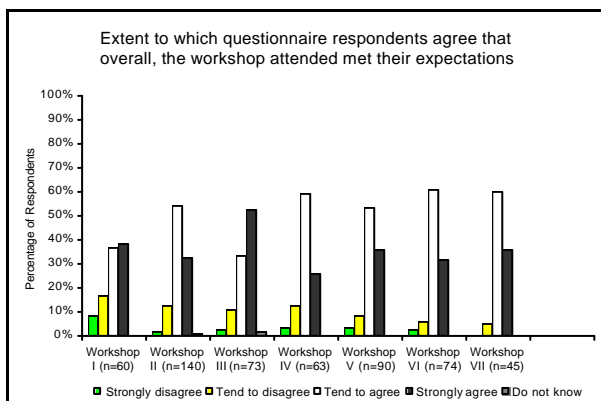
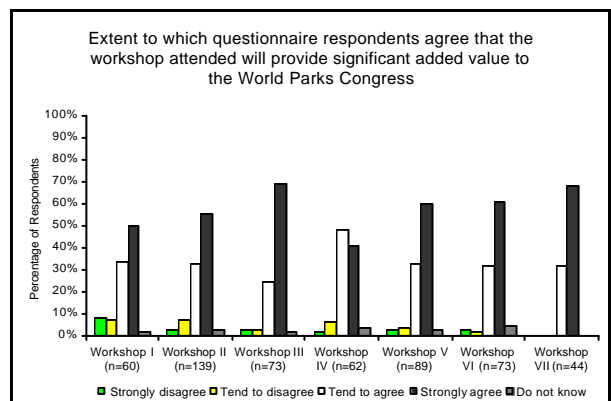


Exhibit 2.20 Added Value to the World Parks Congress



3. Specific Workshop Evaluation Results for Workshop Stream VII

3.1 Workshop VII Objectives

Finding 6: While objectives for Workshop Stream VII, Building Comprehensive Protected Areas Systems, were mostly addressed, awareness-raising and issue identification were deemed as having been more successful than objectives having to do with the use and application of relevant issues such as managing or developing comprehensive Protected Areas systems.

Workshop objectives related to the presentation or identification of key issues were deemed by questionnaire respondents as having been better addressed overall than those dealing with use and application such as managing or developing comprehensive Protected Areas systems. Consequently, workshop objectives designed to create awareness for the need to identify gaps in Protected Areas systems and for identifying the requirements for establishing comprehensive Protected Areas systems were both perceived by more than three-quarters of respondents as being largely or completely addressed (see Exhibit 3.1 and Exhibit 3.2). However, when respondents were asked to rate the extent to which the workshop was successful in developing an understanding of procedures and criteria to manage Protected Areas with adequate connectivity, 40% of respondents felt that the objective had been partly true, 33% thought this was mostly true and only 20% perceived this as being completely achieved (see Exhibit 3.3). Similar responses were obtained for the objective on proposing methods to develop “bioregional” programmes in landscapes surrounding Protected Areas (see Exhibit 3.4).

Exhibit 3.1 Awareness of Gaps in the Protected Areas Systems

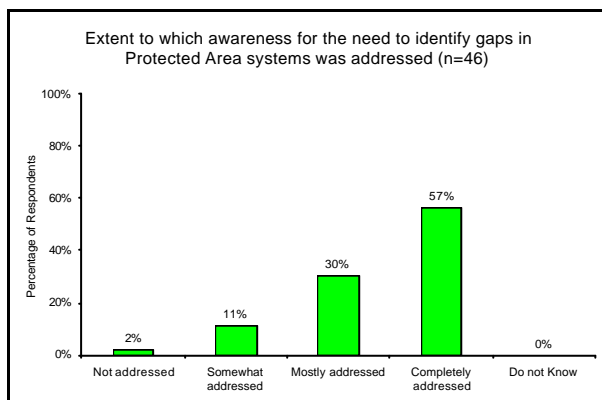


Exhibit 3.2 Requirements for Establishing Comprehensive Protected Areas System

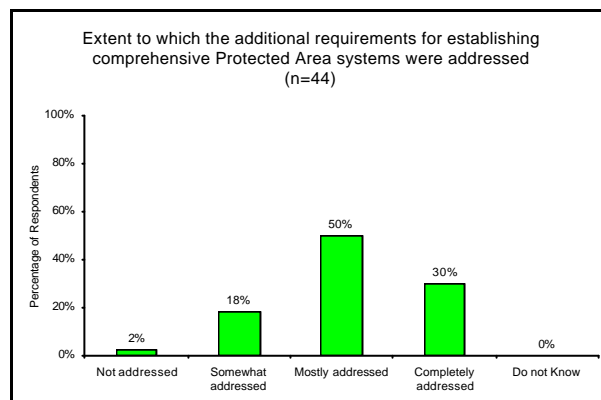


Exhibit 3.3 Procedures and Criteria to Manage Connected Protected Areas

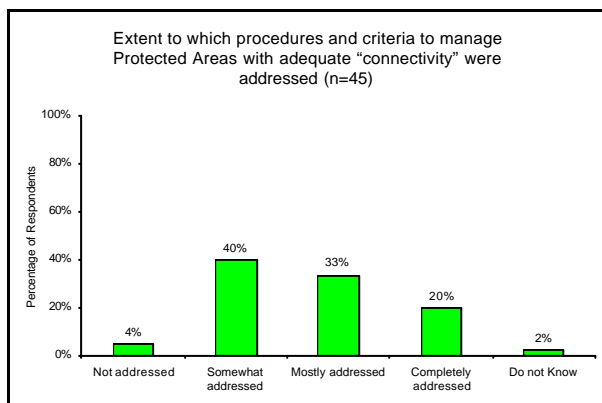
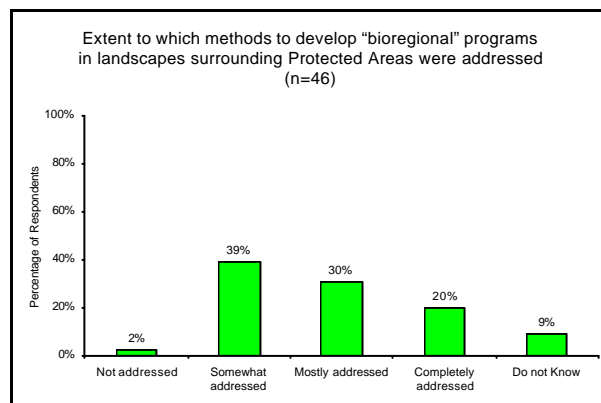


Exhibit 3.4 Methods to Develop "Bioregional" Programs



3.2 Workshop VII Cross-Cutting Themes

Finding 7: Marine issues relative to building Protected Areas systems were perceived as having been addressed to some extent, despite considerable number of questionnaire respondents who did not perceive the latter as being pertinent to the sessions they attended.

While a relatively high proportion of respondents indicated that Marine issues were not pertinent to the sessions they attended, overall results suggest that relevant issues were nevertheless addressed for the most part. The methods of building resilience into coral reef management practices were perceived as having been mostly or completely addressed by 40% of respondents and as not being applicable to the sessions attended in close to 47% of responses (see Exhibit 3.5). Similar results were obtained regarding the guideline/tool kit for application of resilience principle to Marine Protected Areas and network design as well as the issue of adapting Marine Protected Areas designations to the effects of climate change (see Exhibit 3.6 and Exhibit 3.7).

Exhibit 3.5 Building Resilience in Coral Reef Management

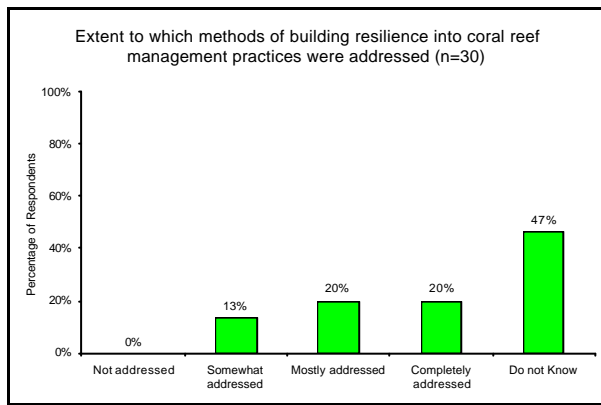


Exhibit 3.6 Guideline/Tool Kit for Application of Resilience in Marine Protected Areas

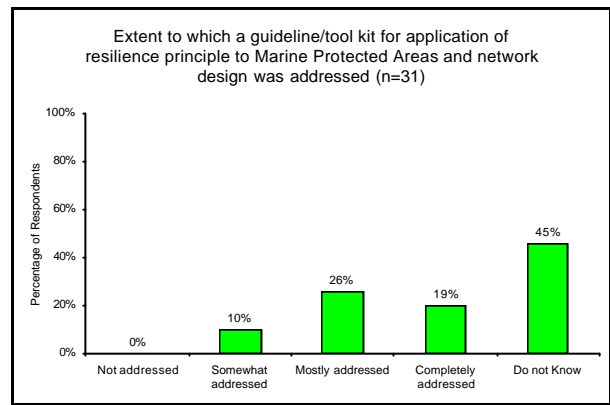
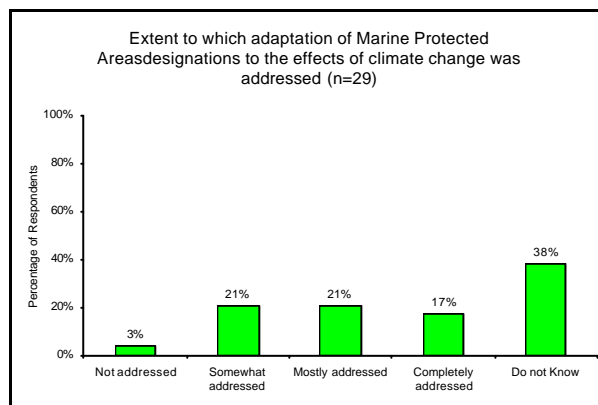


Exhibit 3.7 Effects of Climate Change



Finding 8: Awareness of the need for transboundary Protected Areas using the World Heritage Convention as a tool for international cooperation was noted as being well addressed by those who felt the issue was pertinent to the sessions they attended.

While close to 39% of questionnaire respondents indicated that issues relevant to the need for transboundary Protected Areas using the World Heritage Convention were not pertinent to the sessions they attended, 40% of respondents also noted that this issue had been largely to completely addressed.

Finding 9: Workshop questionnaire respondents were equally divided on the extent to which Communities and Equity issues were addressed or even applicable to the sessions they attended.

A third of questionnaire respondents viewed issues related to communities and equity as not applicable to the sessions they attended with the remaining responses equally divided between those who felt that the issues were mostly addressed and those that believe that the latter were only marginally addressed (see Exhibit 3.8, Exhibit 3.9 and Exhibit 3.10).

Exhibit 3.8 Role of Community Conserved Areas

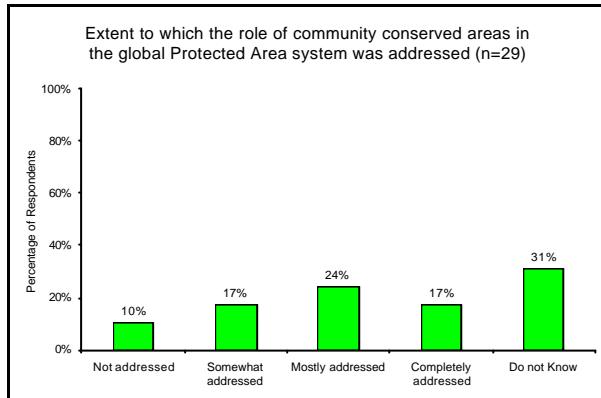


Exhibit 3.9 Community Lands and Resources in Bioregional Corridors

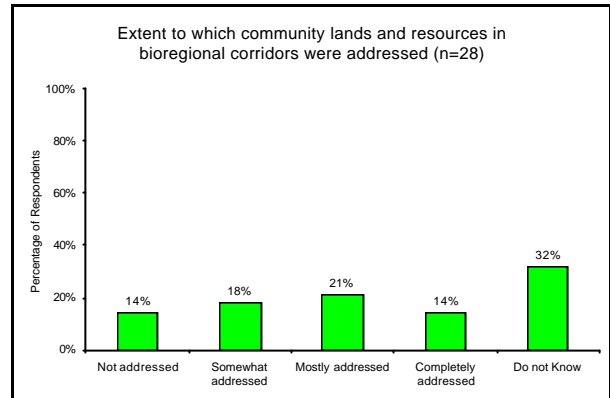
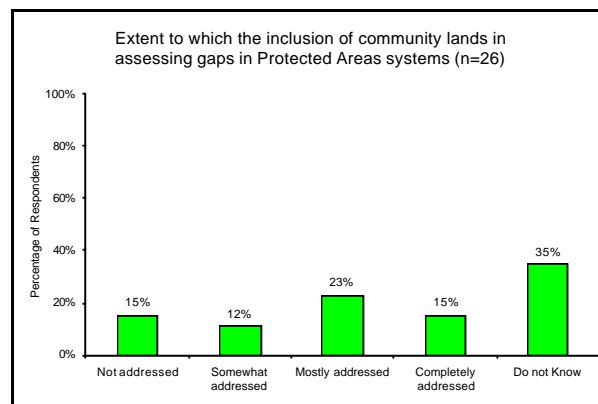


Exhibit 3.10 Community Lands in Assessing Gaps in Protected Areas Systems



3.3 Workshop VII Outputs

Finding 10: The majority of workshop stream Outputs were achieved.

In the outline of the objectives for the workshop stream on Building Comprehensive Protected Area Systems, workshop organizers proposed a series of 11 Outputs as key targets to be achieved. Of the 11 listed Outputs, 58% to 64% of workshop questionnaire respondents thought that seven of the Outputs had been mostly to thoroughly achieved while another two Outputs were perceived by almost three-quarters of respondents as having been largely achieved (see Exhibits 3.11 to 3.21).

The most unfavourable results were obtained for the Output relating to a “consensus on achieving coverage and ensuring representation,” which was perceived by more than 53% of respondents as having been achieved only to a limited extent. Responses on the “feasibility and costs for enhancing the global coverage” were mixed: 36% of respondents indicated that the Output had been achieved to a limited extent, 39% suggested that it had mostly been achieved, and close to one-quarter said they did not know the extent to which it was achieved.

Exhibit 3.11 Understanding of Gap Analysis

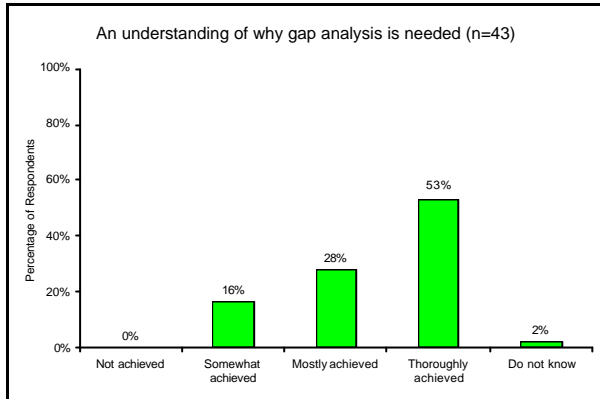


Exhibit 3.12 Evaluation of Strategies for Future Work

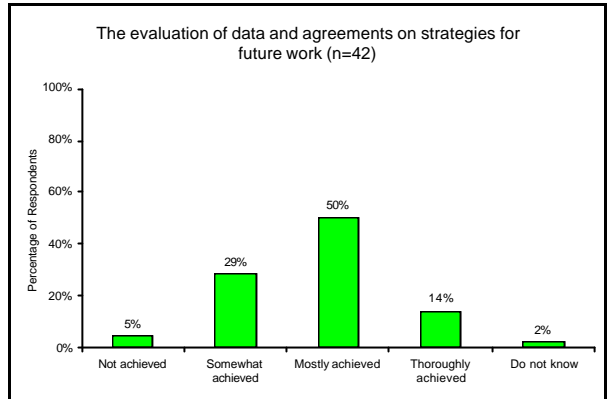


Exhibit 3.13 Input on the WPC Recommendations

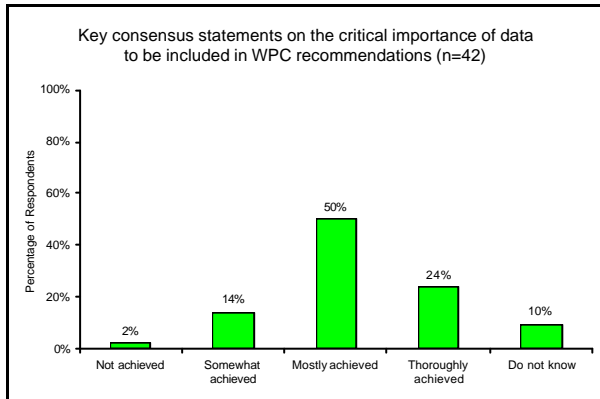


Exhibit 3.14 Gap Analysis Methods and Limitations

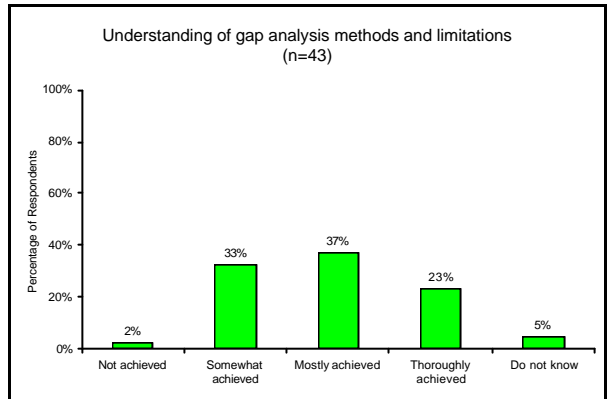


Exhibit 3.15 Gaps in the Protected Area System

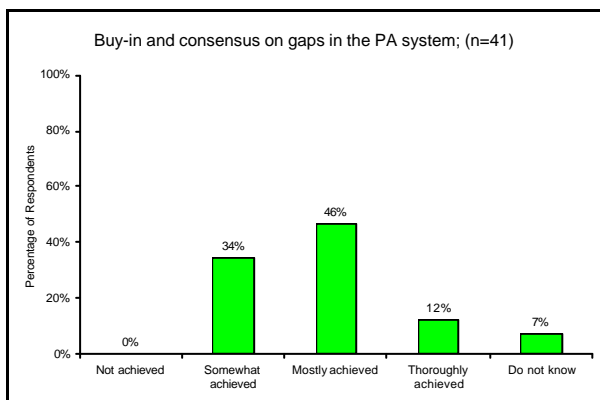


Exhibit 3.16 Criteria for Achieving Coverage and Ensuring Representation

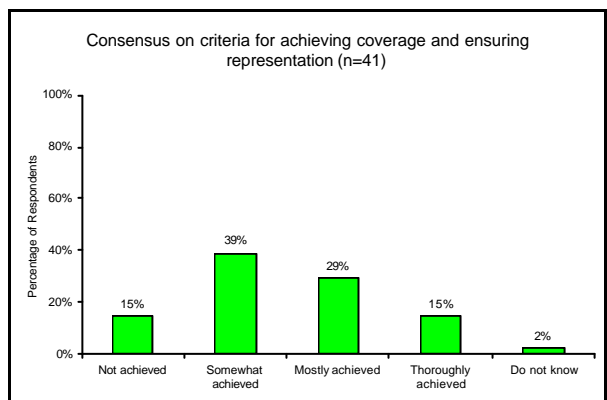


Exhibit 3.17 Addressing Ecological Processes in a Global Protected Area System

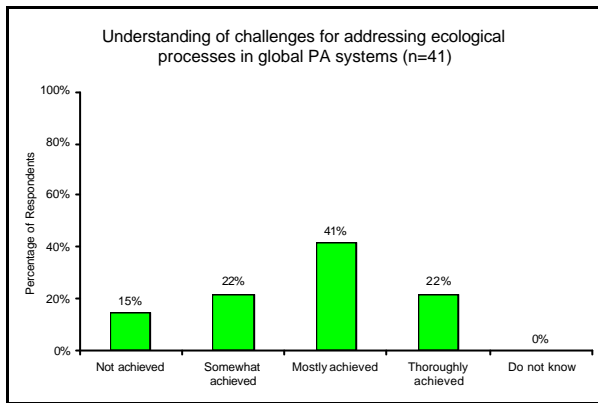


Exhibit 3.18 Priorities to Address Gaps and Implications for Viability

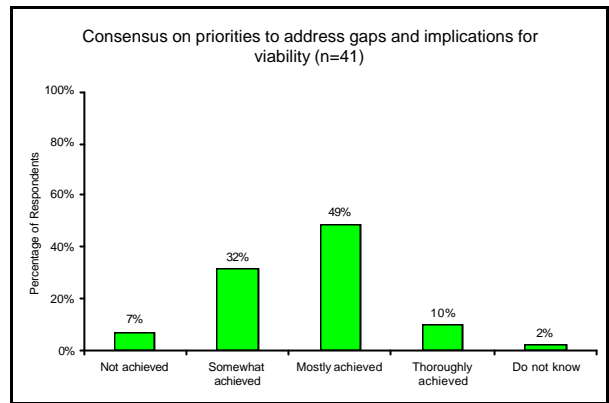


Exhibit 3.19 Crucial Conservation Targets

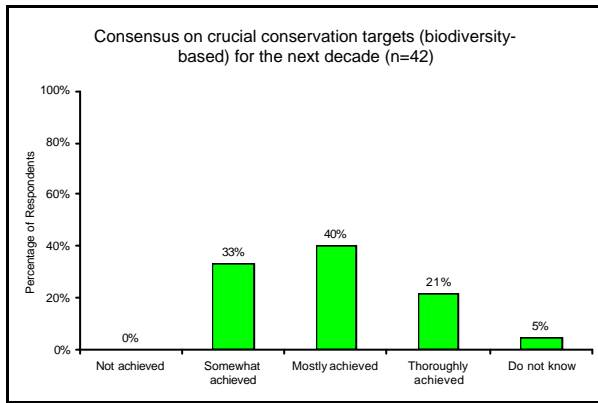


Exhibit 3.20 Global Change Issues

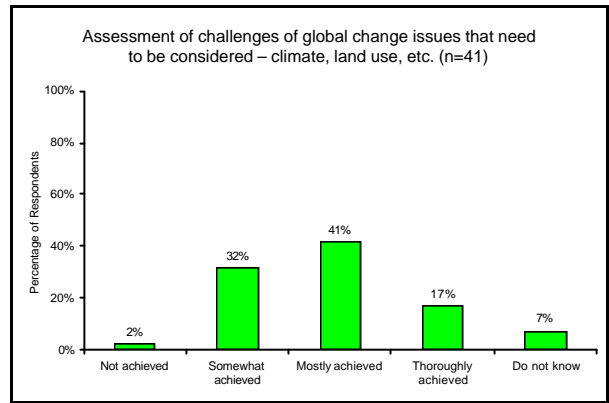
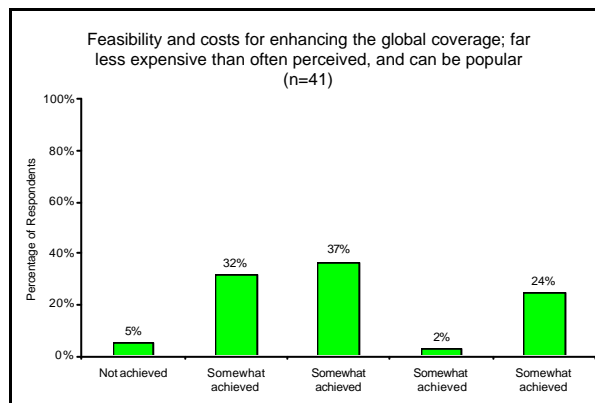


Exhibit 3.21 Feasibility and Costs of Global Coverage



3.4 Profile of Workshop Stream VII Participants

The following section presents information relative to the description of the workshop participants. Exhibit 3.11 and 3.12 provides the sex ratio and affiliation of workshop participants; Exhibits 3.13 and Exhibits 3.14 describe the respective professional qualifications of the participants and the region in which they work; Exhibit 3.15 details the approximate level of attendance and Exhibit 3.16 provides an overview of what participants attended.

Exhibit 3.22 Sex ratio of workshop participants

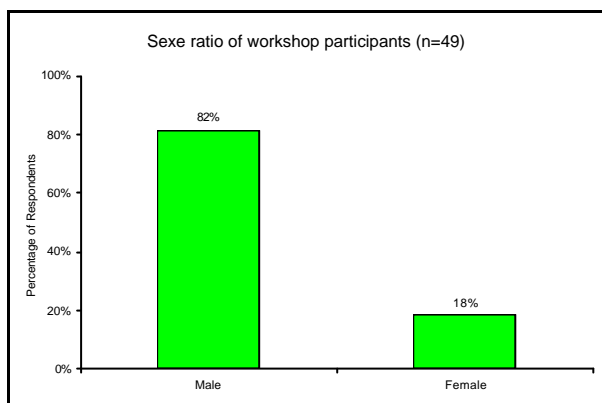


Exhibit 3.23 Affiliation of Workshop Participants

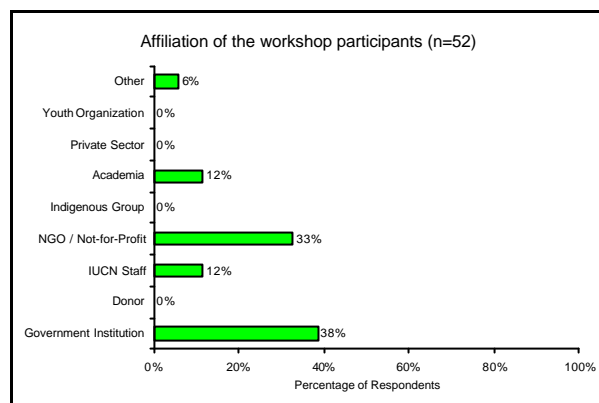


Exhibit 3.24 Protected Area versus Non-Protected Area Professionals

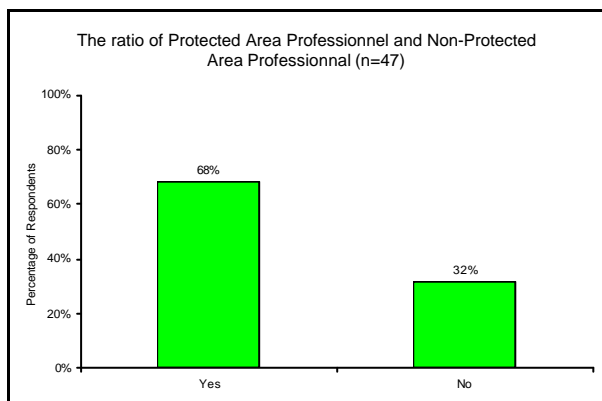


Exhibit 3.25 WCPA Regional Representation of Workshop Participants

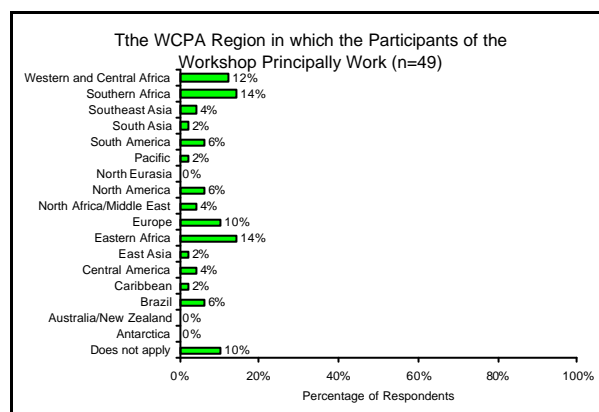


Exhibit 3.26 Level of Attendance

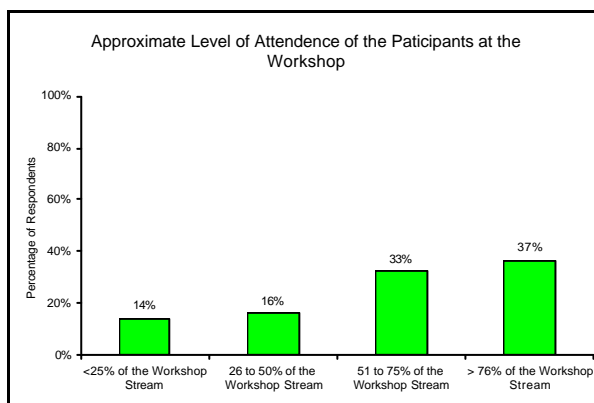
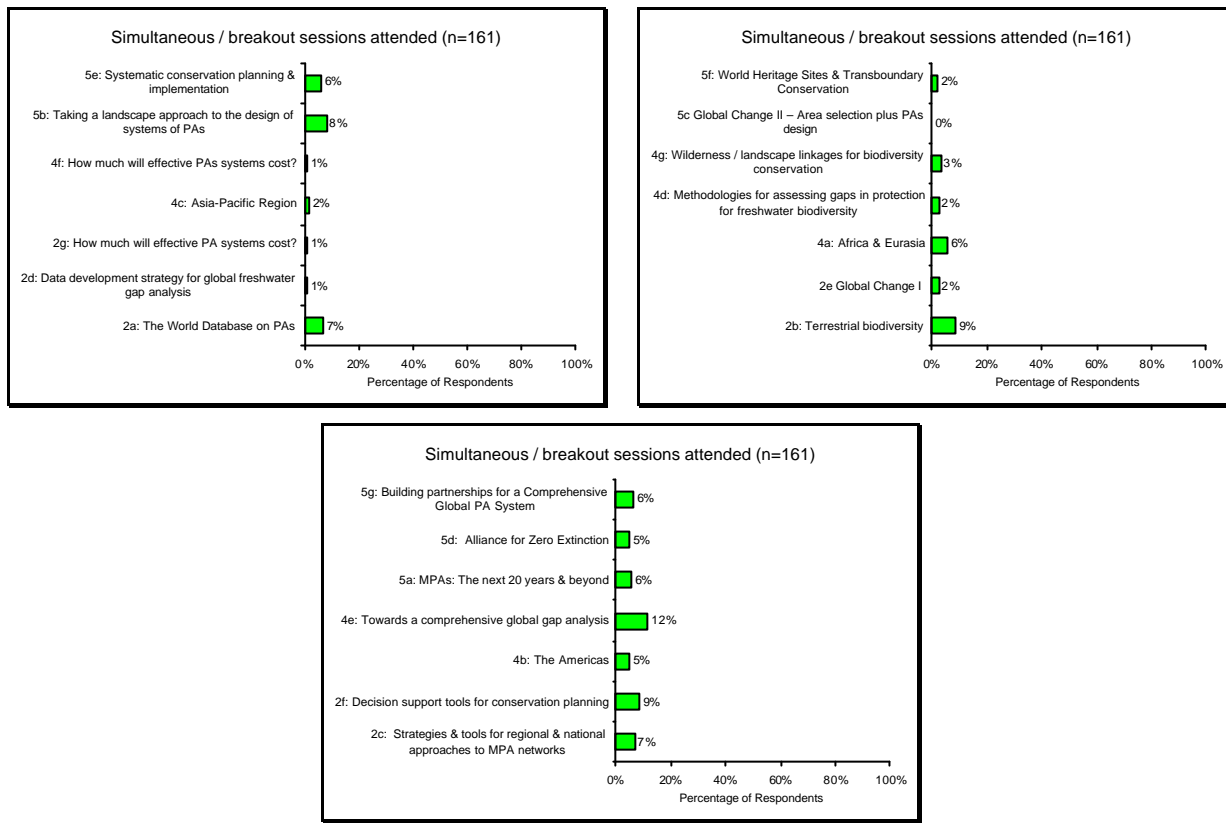


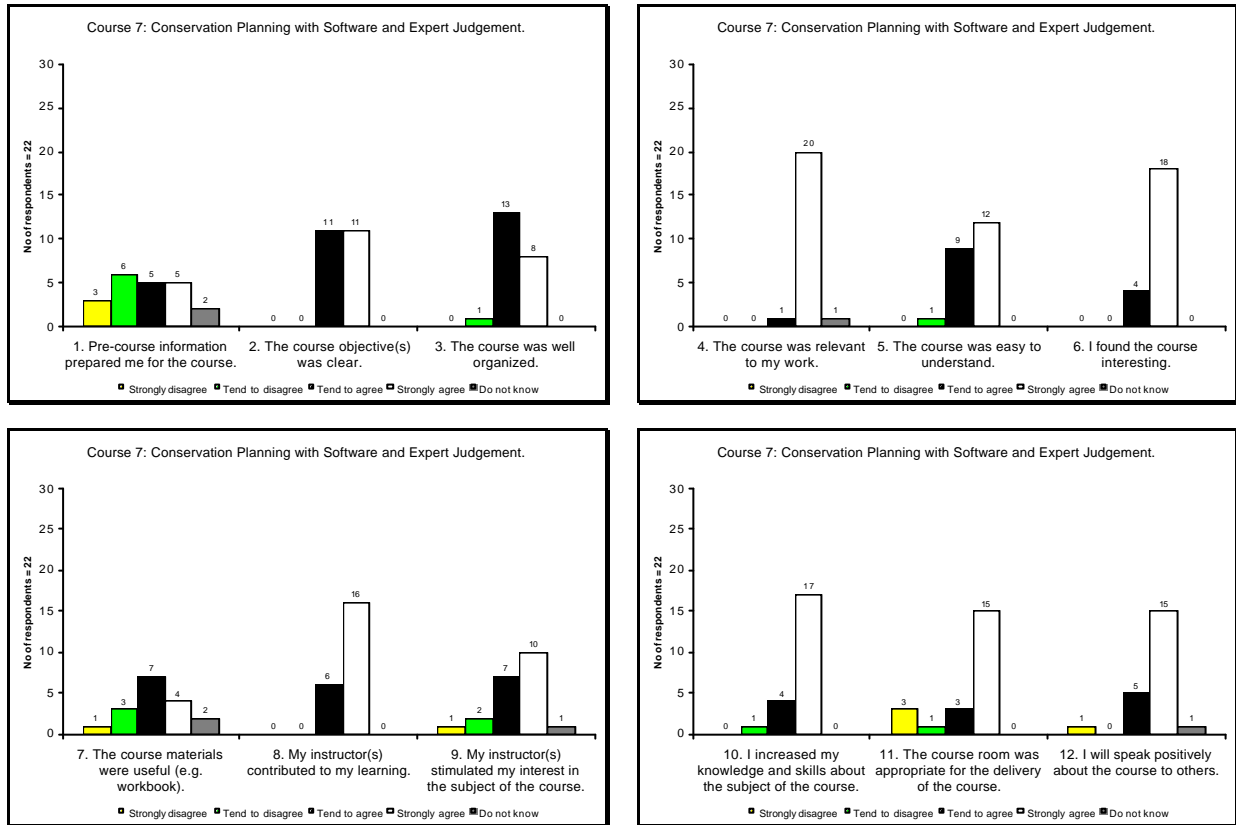
Exhibit 3.27 Sessions / Working Groups that the participants attend to



3.5 Short Course Results

The following section presents the results of the short course evaluation on Conservation Planning with Software and Expert Judgment followed by comments noted by participants.

3.6 Conservation Planning with Software and Expert Judgment



Participant Comments (Conservation Planning with Software and Expert Judgment)

“The limit of time might have been a limitation for a better work. I would suggest the organisation of a 2-3 weeks training course on the subject including both parts: the data collecting and analysis with application of the software and the theoretical part of the course - planning stages linked to national level connections, policy makers advising and awareness by researchers.”

“No course materials.”

“Very clear and interesting. Good job! Q1. - could not access because of slow email connection.”

“The instructors should provide and/or prepare a lab session with computers to allow hand-on exercises by participants as demonstration/or assignment goes on.”

“It was a great experience. I have learned new methodologies to analyse and process information regarding new nature reserves.”

“Q.7 No materials were provided!”

“I wish we could have another follow-up workshop as participant of this workshop.”

“Could be very useful to have hard copies of the presentations and the relevant bibliography (cited) (on pdf. Too). A very interesting, technical and comprehensive course on very useful tools for Pas. Planning. *Is it possible following the course by email?”*

“Open discussion among people w/different backgrounds - this was far better than most workshops at WPC!”

Participant Comments (Conservation Planning with Software and Expert Judgment)

“The course was too focused on C-Plan and Marxan, it should have covered many more of the software that are available. Obtaining data is important and the use of remote sensing package would have been much more interesting. The manipulation of data was not clearly demonstrated and emphasised. The course was weak on application in the Marine environment. Practical sessions would have been also more interesting to give a feel to the attendees and make them want to use the software. I would download the packages and see what they are like but I don't think I will use them.”

“All presentations were very interesting, so there should have been a manual as handout that the participant should have in hand because: 1. There were some of the explanations missed while listening and taking notes. 2. That will help the participants to better understand the use of the software when they run into problems (Yes, the participants can always send email to the Short Course leaders, but still that will also help).”

“Presentations should have been made available for effectively learning ie. Hard copy to write notes on!! In this way, participants would have been able to concentrate on all that is said around each part of the presentations, and hence take better notes.”

“Trainers were well prepared. They had excellent command of subject and delivered it well.”

“I would like to have done some practical exercises with computers or follow one case study more deeply.”

“Q.4. It was excellent preparation for future career opportunities (Not relevant to my current position.).”

“This is a course that is highly relevant for all managers involved in conservation especially planning and designs of PAs!”

“The course reinforced my decision to get higher training.”