

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
PURPOSE AND GOALS
IUCN WCPA CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION SPECIALIST GROUP (CCSG)**

Background

The IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (CCSG) facilitates the recognition, establishment, spatial delineation and effective management of connectivity conservation areas (CCAs) globally (*1). CCSG prepares expert IUCN guidance material and provides specialist advice on all aspects of connectivity conservation for the eight Types of CCAs (*2). This role especially recognises the importance of interconnected protected area systems in the context of biodiversity conservation and climate change including as identified by Target 11 of the 2011-2020 CBD Strategy (*3).

Explanatory Text

***1. Connectivity Conservation Areas (Definition)**

A Connectivity Conservation Area is *“A large and/or significant spatially defined geographical space of one or more tenures that is recognised as a Connectivity Conservation Area and actively, effectively and equitably governed and managed to ensure that viable populations of species are able to survive and move between systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation areas. The purpose of a Connectivity Conservation Area is to connect protected areas and other effective area based conservation areas and to maintain or restore ecological and evolutionary processes of species and ecosystems across a landscape, freshwaterscape or seascape that may also be used and occupied for a variety of human purposes, so that people and other species are able survive and to adapt to environmental change, especially climate change”*.

***2. Eight Types of Connectivity Conservation Areas (CCA)**

The Draft 2016 IUCN Connectivity Conservation Guidelines recognises eight types of Connectivity Conservation Area. They are:

TYPE 1: TERRESTRIAL CCAs

TYPE 1a: Terrestrial species movement CCA

TYPE 1b: Terrestrial large scale migration CCA

TYPE 2: FRESHWATER CCAs

TYPE 2a: Freshwater species movement CCA

TYPE 2b: Freshwater large scale migration CCA

TYPE 3: MARINE-ESTUARINE CCAs

TYPE 3a: Marine-Estuarine species movement CCA

TYPE 3b: Marine-estuarine large scale migration CCA

TYPE 4: AIR CCAs

TYPE 4a: Bird Flyway – Large Scale CCA

TYPE 4b: Flight Migration – Large Scale – (Non Birds) CCA

***3. Target 11, 2011-2020 CBD Strategy**

*“By 2020 at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and **well-connected** systems of protected areas and other effective-area based conservation measures, and **integrated** into the wider landscapes and seascapes” (CBD 2011).*

Purpose of the WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group

The Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group's purpose is to facilitate biodiversity conservation and the enhanced conservation, management and protection of protected areas and their values through the identification, retention and effective management of Connectivity Conservation Areas.

The principal functions of the Specialist Group are:

1. To foster extensive membership and active participation of the IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network members as a basis for establishing new CCAs; for communicating the importance of CCAs and for disseminating information about the effective management of CCAs;
2. To promote global awareness of the importance of CCAs and their role in helping to conserve biodiversity and protected areas in an environment of climate change through workshops, conferences, electronic media; targeted printed information and other appropriate methods;
3. To prepare, following full consultation and discussion, IUCN Guidance material that defines CCAs and the Types of CCAs;
4. To prepare , following full consultation and discussion, guidance material on criteria for establishing all Types of CCAs;
5. To prepare guidance material on managing all Types of CCAs;
6. To collaborate and (as appropriate) develop partnerships with organisations that facilitate different Types of CCAs including Flyways; Marine CCAs; and Terrestrial Migration Corridors as a basis for improved protected area management and biodiversity conservation; and
7. To work collaboratively with UNEP WCMC on the CCA global database and as appropriate, to provide expert technical advice on connectivity conservation matters.
8. To work closely with the WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group for large scale corridors that extend across international borders, and especially where adjacent protected areas are found at the border.
9. To work collaboratively with the RAMSAR Secretariat (and their Wetland initiatives) and UNESCO (and their Biosphere Reserve and Geopark Initiatives) as a basis for facilitating large scale connectivity conservation.
10. To facilitate CCA's that help achieve poleward and altitudinal connectivity to assist species as temperatures change and east-west connectivity for when precipitation changes.

IUCN GPAP/WCPA's Quadrennial Programme 2013-2016 and 2017-2020

The WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group activities have been integrated with IUCN's Quadrennial Programme and its (subsequent) more detailed GPAP/WCPA priorities.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREA – VALUING AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

Priority Area 1: .Protected Areas - Conserving nature:

CCSG Activity Objective: To facilitate the establishment and spatial recognition of CCAs as a basis for achieving CBD Target 11's "well-connected" system of protected areas.

Priority Area 2: Protected Areas – Developing Capacity

CCSG Activity Objective: To facilitate the development of resource materials that define CCAs; that identify the CCA Typology, that provide clear criteria for establishing CCAs; and, that help facilitate the management of CCAs.

CCSG Activity Objective: To facilitate the organisation of WCPA sponsored forums, events, conferences, launches and other activities that promote CCAs and their effective management.

Priority Area 3: Protected Areas – Achieving Quality

CCSG Activity Objective: To facilitate the evaluation of CCAs relative to biodiversity conservation outcomes, connectivity conservation benefits; people and community benefits and connectivity conservation management effectiveness.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREA – GOVERNING NATURES USE AND SHARING ITS BENEFITS EQUITABLY

Priority Area 4: Protected Areas - Respecting People

CCSG Activity Objective: To help facilitate, as appropriate, those processes that involve the wide range of peoples that are involved in the stewardship of CCAs as a basis for developing an agreed vision and broad management outcomes.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREA – DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Priority Area 5: Protected Areas – Offering Solutions

CCSG Activity Objective: To facilitate establishment of a strategic CCAs that contribute to biodiversity conservation for KBAs, World Heritage Properties; RAMSAR Sites and Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas around the World

2016-2018 IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group: Actions

ACTIONS

1. Review comments on the Draft IUCN Connectivity Conservation Guidelines arising from the January-March 2016 consultation period. Prepare an Advanced (but not final) Draft IUCN Connectivity Conservation Guideline document in readiness for presentation at the 2016 IUCN Hawaii World Conservation Congress.
2. Facilitate a Motion at the 2016 Hawaii WCC that supports the Advanced Draft IUCN Connectivity Conservation Document and that encourages further consultation and refinement of its content.
3. Work with UNEP WCMC on refining the WCMC Global Data Base on CCAs using the Advanced Draft IUCN Connectivity Conservation Document for guidance and facilitate the production of the first global map of CCAs.
4. Organise and present the Advanced Draft CCA Guidelines at the 2016 Hawaii WCC at the Protected Planet Pavilion; at the Species Survival Commission Pavilion and at a WCPA Knowledge Café forum.
5. In partnership with the CBD and UNEP WCMC, evaluate the number of protected areas that are well-connected with spatially recognised CCAs, and assess progress against the Target 11 Objective using this initial assessment as a baseline. Develop a performance indicator with the CBD to provide a measure of progress for connectivity conservation against the Target 11 objective.
6. Post Hawaii, as a whole-of-IUCN action, plan, organise, and implement an extended consultation period (including associated forums) for the further review of the IUCN Advanced Draft Connectivity Conservation Guidelines as a basis for finalising the document as a policy statement of IUCN.

7. Further develop the ICCN as the official network of the CCSG, including its administrative support systems and increased membership to achieve an effective, well informed, participative and dynamic global network of connectivity conservation practitioners.

8. Initiate new mechanisms of communication for the CCSG and its ICCN including a website and a regular Connectivity Conservation Newsletter.

9. Finalise the establishment of a new CCSG Executive to help achieve the governance of the Specialist Group and as a basis for implementing the 2016-2018 actions.

IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group: Governance

Chairperson

Gary Tabor

CCSG Executive

(To be advised)

Connectivity Conservation Special Projects

Olivier Chassot

International Connectivity Conservation Network (ICCN) Administrator

Rod Atkins

Senior Advisor

Graeme Worboys