



TERMS OF REFERENCE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES NATURAL SOLUTIONS SPECIALIST GROUP

Background

This is the third year of the specialist group's existence. Throughout the second part of 2016 we built a new programme, up to and building on the WCC, and carried out a series of meetings late in 2016 and early 2017 to identify partners and resources for putting these in practice; this process is ongoing. We now have a website, three YPs to run social media and our first newsletter. We hope / expect to see great progress in 2017.

Purpose of Task Force/Specialist Group

The WCPA Natural Solutions Specialist Group promotes responsible use of ecosystem services and related socio-economic benefits from protected areas, to secure livelihoods and support conservation strategies.

Integration in GPAP/WCPA's Quadrennial Programme 2017-2020

- **Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature:** the valuation work of the SG falls directly in this area
- **Programme Area 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources:** the Principles for equity in distribution of benefits from ecosystem services in protected areas work reflects and contributes to this theme
- **Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges:** Natural solutions is recognised by IUCN as the WCPA contribution to the nature-based solutions theme

Objective 1: Promote the role of ecosystem services from protected areas in global and national development strategies – equivalent to WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2 (i) and (iv)

Goals and activities: To carry out a series of initiatives to increase recognition of natural solutions from protected areas

- **Sustainable Development Goals** – write briefing on the role of protected areas in achieving SDG key targets during March 2017
- **Convention on Biological Diversity** –collaborating with the secretariat, briefings and technical guidance, at Conferences of Parties; SCBD has asked us to prepare a technical document as input to the next COP
- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** – integrating protected areas into land-based responses in collaboration with the climate SG, *strategy to be developed*
- **UN Convention to Combat Desertification** – stressing the role of protected areas in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality; inclusion of protected areas as a tool in the UCCC Global Land Outlook
- **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** – promoting DRR role of protected areas in collaboration with CEM, *strategy for next phase to be developed during March/April*
- **IUCN Nature-Based Solutions theme** – supporting the protected area component – paper in draft
- **Business and investment interests:** recognising benefits and promoting Payment for Ecosystem Service schemes
- **WWF landscape programme** – including ecosystem services from protected areas within the landscape programme

Objective 2: Knowledge about ecosystem services from protected areas is collected, analysed and disseminated to build understanding and support – equivalent to WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1

Goals and activities: In addition to everyday activities, a major goal of the year is to build a project with UNEP-WCMC to help carry forward the WPC proposal for a portfolio of learning sites.

- Collecting case studies, for the IUCN *Panorama* portal and a printed volume - ongoing
- Building a global learning portfolio of protected areas, for lessons in use of ecosystem, services, capacity building etc – developing a project with UNEPWCMC, initially focused on Latin America
- Running a website of information – launched in February 2017

- Applying assessment of wider values of protected areas, such as the *Protected Area Benefits Assessment Tool* and the *Assessment Guide on Social and Economic Benefits of Protected Areas*, ongoing in North Africa and Colombia
- Writing policy briefings
- Preparing web-based courses on ecosystem services from protected areas

Objective 3: Protected area agencies, managers, governments, and donor agencies have the capacity to optimize ecosystem services from protected areas, without undermining conservation values – equivalent to WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2 and 3.3

Goals and activities: To develop a comprehensive capacity-building programme to help protected area managers and others to optimize ecosystem services from protected areas, without undermining conservation values

- Prepare manuals for protected area managers on managing for ecosystem services – ongoing discussions with UNDP on collaboration and support
- Online courses, webinars etc – *plans to be developed*
- Key messages for policy-makers: working with IUCN secretariat to ensure that IUCN policy statements for CBD, UNFCCC and other key initiatives carry the natural solutions message
- Guidelines for valuation of protected area ecosystem service benefits, including principles for when and how valuation should be applied – continue application of the PA-BAT. (Major workshop planned for 2018 on all aspects of valuation)
- Principles for equity in distribution of benefits from ecosystem services in protected areas finalised as technical guidance, building on the draft published in *Policy Matters* in 2016.
- Working with the WCPA capacity building theme to make sure that capacity building efforts are up to the minute, effective and reaching the right people

Leadership and organization of the TF/SG (address also joint TF/SG leadership here)

Chair: Nigel Dudley
 Deputy chair: Marianne Kettunen
 Regional contact points being appointed

Proposed membership of the TF/SG

- A core group has been invited; wider membership is open to anyone interested in WCPA, the full list is now available

Partnerships, funding and fund-raising

Exploring joint activities with the following:

- UNEP-WCMC
- UNDP
- WWF

Communication (outline the proposed communication strategy, use of website, etc)

- Website now launched
- First newsletter distributed; regular newsletters planned

Reporting (a report is submitted in a standard format to WCPA at the end of each calendar year, and/or a report at the end of the task, and it includes also a section on goals for the year ahead)

- Reporting in two stages as in 2016 – a half-year report in August and a final year report at the end of January 2018.

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017 - 2020

IUCN WCPA has the following goals within the 3 programme areas of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. Please identify which goals your group or region will support by placing an X in the relevant box(es). Specify only those where you will contribute directly.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 1: Valuing and conserving nature

WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.1:

- (i) Protected Planet includes all relevant information to monitor and report on implementation of Aichi

Target 11	
(ii) Protected area quality enhanced through Green List of Protected Areas	
(iii) Marine protection towards achieving Aichi Target 11 accelerated	
(iv) Effectiveness of World Heritage Convention and protection of listed sites is enhanced, leadership on performance demonstrated, and nature/culture integration advanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2:	
(i) Parties to the CBD are supported to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	x
(ii) Institutional and professional capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is developed	
(iii) Financial capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is enhanced	
(iv) The value of protected areas is communicated to key constituencies including urban dwellers and young people	x
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.3	
(i) The ecological and functional connectivity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is enhanced	
(ii) Criteria for the identification of OECMs developed and applied	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.1:	
(i) Governance and equity assessment approaches for protected area systems are developed	
(ii) Pilot governance assessments conducted	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.2:	
(i) Governance quality and equity of protected areas is enhanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.3:	
(i) Legal and institutional approaches for enhancing the role of PAs in natural resource governance are piloted	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1	
(i) Case studies for nature-based solutions involving PAs in a range of sectors are collated	x
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2	
(i) Dissemination and use of PAs as nature-based solutions across a range of sectors	x
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.3	
(i) Cross-sector learning and application of solutions is enabled	x