



WCPA SPECIALIST GROUP ON GOVERNANCE OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Governance of protected and conserved areas is now clearly understood as a main element in the legal, policy, institutional and practical framework of conservation around the world. No longer a novelty, the concept and its application remain however a challenge for most countries and agencies. Fortunately, in line with the vision of the promise of Sydney, **countries are committed** to foster governance diversity, equity and vitality for their systems of protected and conserved areas, and to strengthen their relevant policies, practices and capacities. **Technical tools** such as the IUCN/WCPA *Best Practice Guidelines on Governance of Protected Areas* and the *Primer on Governance for Protected and Conserved Areas* are also **available** to offer guidance. **Networks of experienced and concerned professionals** were **created** in the occasion of the 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney (WPC 2014). And the Governance Stream at WPC 2014 has provided a set of **three strategic directions and twenty recommendations** to clearly outline the needed work ahead.

The World Commission on Protected Areas has now an unique opportunity to strengthen its leadership role in governance of protected and conserved areas by fostering, coordinating and actively and coherently engaging in a set of initiatives to take such strategic directions and recommendations to practice.

Purpose of Specialist Group

The WCPA Specialist Group on governance of protected and conserved areas builds upon the expertise and contributions of WCPA members and other relevant experts and practitioners. The Group fosters, coordinates and actively and coherently engages its members in initiatives that take to practice the strategic directions and recommendations that emerged from the Governance Stream at WPC 2014.

Integration in GPAP/WCPA's Quadrennial Programme 2013-2016

The Specialist Group directly addresses the Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use programme area of the IUCN's Quadrennial Programme 2013-2016, but also refers substantively to the other two programmatic areas: 1) Conserving and valuing biodiversity and 2) Deploying nature-based solutions to climate, food, and development. Significantly, it makes clear and direct contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020 and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives and Activities

1. Promote enhanced awareness and understanding, better informed policies and improved practices on governance of protected and conserved areas

- 1.1. Engage in processes of governance **inquiry, assessment, evaluation and action** in as many countries as possible, with a view to improving governance **standards and guidance**, and developing **stronger and more supportive legal and policy frameworks**, including better integration of customary law at all levels.
- 1.2. Promote and support a variety of **conservation partnerships** among governments and civil society, focusing on exemplary Transboundary Conservation Areas, migratory species and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- 1.3. Promote the recognition and support of **voluntary preservation, sustainable use, restoration and enrichment practices** of indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners and other actors for both protected and conserved areas, with specific attention to the overlaps between protected and conserved areas.
- 1.4. Develop further **guidance on quality of governance** with specific reference to equity and effectiveness standards and their integration in the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas
- 1.5. Develop **guidance on vitality of governance** with specific reference to indicators and assessment processes and their integration in the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas

2. Strengthen the implementation of existing policies and agreements relevant for governance for the conservation of nature

- 2.1. Assist governments, conservation agencies, NGOs, indigenous peoples, local communities and landowners to **identify, gather, analyse and report governance data for protected and conserved areas** to feed into UNEP WCMC databases and PoWPA's and other reports to the CBD, including for Transboundary Conservation Areas, privately protected and conserved areas, and ICCAs.
- 2.2. Review and draw lessons from, on regional and/or national bases as appropriate, the commitments, implementation and enforcement of governance-relevant binding agreements in conservation (e.g., the Aarhus Convention, national provisions to implement CBD's PoWPA, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, initiatives to achieve all Aichi Targets by 2020, etc.).
- 2.3. Assist the CBD Secretariat and relevant partners to develop guidance on assessing the "equitable management" dimension of Aichi Target 11 and on recognizing and monitoring conserved areas ("other effective area-based conservation measures").
- 2.4. Strengthen governance capacities via **regional learning networks** that focus, as appropriate, on policy implementation, enhanced practices and/or stopping transnational wildlife crime and patterns of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources
- 2.5. Support willing countries and relevant organisations to explore **innovative legal frameworks and tools** to promote equity, conflict resolution and the respect of procedural and substantive rights in conservation, and to redress conservation-related injustices that have occurred in the past.

3. **Highlight, support and diffuse models of well-governed protected and conserved areas that exemplify sustainable, equitable and satisfying local economies and societies**

- 3.1. Identify, review, analyse and draw lessons and inspiration from a number of cases where **well-governed protected and conserved areas deliver ecological success and sustainability**-- from the local level (e.g., a village forest) to the national level (e.g., fisheries in a marine economic exclusive zone), from the regional level (e.g., migratory wildlife) to the global level (e.g., the atmosphere and climate).
- 3.2. Identify, review, analyse and draw lessons and inspiration from a number of cases where **well-governed protected and conserved area deliver food and water sovereignty and human development**.
- 3.3. Develop and apply a **communications strategy** to promote the lessons learned in well-governed protected and conserved areas that exemplify sustainable, equitable and satisfying local economies and societies, including through platforms such as the Panorama: Inspiring PA Solutions .

Leadership and Organization

Two Co-Chairs of the Specialist Group and at least one Senior Advisor will be appointed and work closely with the Leaders of the Governance Stream and the roster of professionals identified before, at and after WPC 2014. From that roster, focal point persons will be identified for specific regions, biomes and themes/ initiative. The co-chairs, Senior advisor(s) and focal point persons will constitute a collegial body engaged in securing support, continuity and technical leadership for WCPA's work on governance of protected and conserved areas. They will develop the membership of the specialist group and engage it at best in all relevant initiatives.

The Specialist Group on Governance of Protected and Conserved Areas will interact with other Themes, Specialist Groups, Tasks Forces and Working Groups, as well as with other Commissions and the IUCN Secretariat (i.e. Global Protected Areas Programme, Regional Offices) and other regional or global networks, as appropriate, to set cross-cutting priorities, raise funds and operate harmonically in all regions.

Proposed Membership

A global network on governance requires specialized members, capable of effectively contributing to the Specialist Group outcomes. Such members should have an education and technical background and/or an extensive practical experience and demonstrated positive results in governance for the conservation of nature (specific experience in protected areas will be welcome but it is not necessary; experience in governing conserved areas will also be appreciated).

Demonstrated capacities and leadership in developing, supporting and running governance institutions for the conservation of nature, carrying out relevant advocacy work and academic research and/or providing legal support, training and distilling lessons for action towards more equitable, effective and wise governance will be an appreciated plus. Proficiency in English and/or Spanish and/or French will be important to facilitate interaction

with the other members of the Group, but is not necessary if other members can bridge the communication gap. Any additional language possessed by willing members will be taken as an asset.

Partnerships, Funding and Fundraising

From commitments made at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, it is expected that the IUCN GPAP and the WCPA Specialist Group on Governance will collaborate with UNDP, the ICCA Consortium, UNEP WCMC, the SCBD, GIZ and others to obtain financial and in-kind resource contributions and to carry out the Specialist Group's planned activities. The Co-chairs and collegial body will draw project profiles and present them to strategic donors, with the support of national and regional focal points and other members who will help mobilize official information, support letters, etc.

Communication

Electronic means will be the basis of communication of the Specialist Group, while "bridging" persons will assist in contacting in-the-field experts and communities.

IUCN outreach channels such as newsletters and mailing lists will be used for progress dissemination, calls for proposals, engaging new members, etc. Social media (e.g. from WPC) will be included as part of the communications strategy.

Reporting

The Co-chairs of the Specialist Group will report on an annual basis to the WCPA Steering Committee, and will submit other periodic reports as requested by the Commission Chair.

Reports from implementing organizations in governance related projects will also be monitored and offered to the attention of the WCPA SC and membership of the Specialist Group.

References

- (1) Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith, *Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20, IUCN, Gland (Switzerland), 2013
- (2) Borrini-Feyerabend, G. and R. Hill, "Governance for the conservation of nature", in Worboys, G. L., M. Lockwood, A. Kothari, S. Feary and I. Pulsford (eds), *Protected Area Governance and Management*, ANU Press, Canberra, 2014 (in press).
- (3) Borrini-Feyerabend, G., P. Bueno, T. Hay-Edie, B. Lang, A. Rastogi and T. Sandwith (2014). *A primer on governance for protected and conserved areas*, Stream on Enhancing Diversity and Quality of Governance, 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.
- (4) *A strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations to enhance the diversity, quality and vitality of governance in the next decade*, VI IUCN World Parks Congress, <http://worldparkscongress.org/downloads/approaches/Stream6.pdf>.