



## TERMS OF REFERENCE WCPA SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT THEMATIC PROGRAMME

### Background

The IUCN WCPA Science and Management Thematic Programme works to promote the application of good science to management of protected areas. While science and knowledge underpin all of the thematic programs of the Commission, the Science and Management theme aims to broadly promote science application and to make scientists more aware of the key research and information needs of managers. Individual Specialist Groups and Task Forces allied to the program have a role to undertake work on their topics of interest and will each have a terms of reference and defined deliverables approved by the Chair and WCPA Executive Committee (EXCO). WCPA members who have expressed interest in Science and Management, and related Task Forces and Specialist Groups, in their application/renewal survey will form the main membership of the thematic program. Some priority objectives for the Science and Management Theme will be carried out through Specialist Groups and Task Forces within the program while others will be managed at thematic level. The two Chairs of the Thematic Programme will work closely together but also take defined lead responsibilities for elements of the thematic programme as indicated in parentheses.

### Objectives of the WCPA Science and Management Thematic Programme

The Science and Management Thematic Programme's purpose is to promote the application of good science to management of protected areas. The priority projects for the thematic programme will be reviewed and revised annually in discussion with the Chair, EXCO and the Steering Committee.

Ongoing functions of the Thematic Programme are:

- To foster membership and active participation of the IUCN WCPA Science and Management programme in order to better connect science and management relevant to management of protected areas by promoting the conduct of management-relevant science by scientists and evidence-based decision making by managers (joint);
- Liaise with Regional Vice-Chairs, other thematic Vice-Chairs, the GPAP and Regional IUCN offices as needed to coordinate activities and initiatives of the programme with other activities of WCPA and IUCN;
- To promote global awareness of the importance of application of science to protected area management through participation in or organisation of workshops, conferences, electronic media; targeted printed information and other appropriate methods (joint);
- Contribute to the IUCN WCPA journal *Parks* as one of the journal editors (Hockings).
- To collaborate and (as appropriate) develop partnerships within IUCN and beyond as part of facilitating the application of science to management of protected areas (joint);

Priorities for the thematic programme in the current quadrennium are:

#### 1. ***Ensure well managed and conservation-effective protected areas***

**a. *Green list of protected areas (Hockings)***- In collaboration with the GPAP and regional offices of IUCN, develop and deliver the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (GLPCA) including capacity development for and coordination of WCPA member support for the GLPCA (note: will also contribute to Programme area 2 Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources). A Specialist Group will be set up, to be chaired by Hockings to carry out this work – Terms of Reference developed and submitted for approval in November 2016;

**b. Protected Area Management Effectiveness (Hockings):** In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, GPAP and regional offices of IUCN, maintain IUCN's leading advisory role in Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME), build capacity for PAME in countries and regions and analyse PAME data to inform global and regional PA priorities; A new Chair for this specialist group to be identified.

**c. Joint WCPA-SSC Protected Areas and Biodiversity Specialist Group (Woodley):** communicate gained understanding of what drives protected areas biodiversity outcomes and extend linkages between PAME and conservation outcome measures for PAs to inform global and regional PA priorities and provide guidance on improved PA monitoring processes and procedures

2. **Increase Science Capacity and Advice to the WCPA Program** - Working with other WCPA program leads, develop and implement a more active and inclusive Science and Management program around key themes arising from priorities identified within the IUCN Quadrennial Program and the Promise of Sydney. We will aim to increase the science capacity of the Commission with targeted recruitment and aim to find useful roles for existing members. Focus will be on the following program areas:
  - a. **Connectivity Conservation Areas (Woodley)** – provide assistance and assistance with the public consultation and development of the CCA standard
  - b. **Beyond Aichi Targets (Woodley)** – provide assistance and assistance with development of new Task Force in beyond Aichi, building on the outcomes of WCP Stream 1.
  - c. **Invasive Alien Species (Hockings)** – help assess the needs and gaps for protected areas guidance and action on the management of invasive species, and assess the possibility of corporative work with the SSC.
3. **Provide Science Focus to meeting the Aichi Targets** – Working with the CBD secretariat, the GEF and other WCPA program leads to provide direction and support countries working to meet Aichi Target 11, in particular:
  - a. Providing science guidance to the **OECM process (Joint)**
  - b. Acting as WCPA representative on the **KBA partnership committee** and promoting the national application of the IUCN KBA standard (**Woodley**)
  - c. Assisting with IUCN participation in **CBD SBSTTAs and COPs (Joint)**

## PROMISE OF SYDNEY

Key elements of the work of the thematic program relevant to the Promise of Sydney are as follows:

### IUCN PROGRAMME AREA – VALUING AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

1. **Scaling up Conservation:**
  - a. Assisting with implementation of Aichi Target 11
  - b. Developing a new program for defining and designating IUCN Areas for Connectivity Conservation
  - c. Developing a global vision for effective conservation to replace the Aichi Targets after 2020
  - d. Focusing protected areas on areas of importance for biodiversity (Key Biodiversity Areas)
2. **Improving the quality of the global protected area system** on land and sea through better management effectiveness that results in measured biodiversity outcomes, by
  - a. Working to implement the IUCN Green List of Protected areas
  - b. Conducting and communicating research the drivers of biodiversity outcomes in protected areas
  - c. Working to ensure the protected areas system is properly documented (management effectiveness, biodiversity outcomes, categories) through Protected Planet, in partnership with UNEP-WCMC
  - d. Working with biome specialist groups (Grasslands, Freshwater, Geoheritage and Mountains) to ensure challenges associated with particular ecosystem are addressed.
  - e. Working with thematic specialist groups (Invasives) to mitigate threats based challenges in protected areas

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  - e.
4. Working with thematic specialist groups (Invasives) to mitigate threats based challenges in protected areas **Developing a network of scientists to increase understanding of all aspects of protected area and their management**
  - a. Contribute to the Parks Journal
  - b. Recruit selected scientists to improve overall commission capacity and fill gaps

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## IUCN WCPA C Science and Management Programme: Governance

### Chairs

Marc Hockings  
Stephen Woodley

### Associated Specialist Groups (with SG Chairs and associated Science and Management lead contact)

Key Biodiversity Areas (Woodley) – WCPA representative to the KPB Partnership  
Biodiversity and PAs (Woodley-Langhammer) (changed from TF to SG – new ToR to be prepared)  
Beyond Aichi (Locke – Woodley)  
Connectivity (Tabor – Woodley)  
Grasslands (Olson – Woodley)  
GLPCA (Hockings – Woodley to Chair GL Standards Committee)  
Management Effectiveness (Vacant – Hockings)  
Freshwater (Harrison – Hockings)  
Invasives (Vacant – Hockings) – joint with SSC TBD ToR to be developed when leader is identified  
Geoheritage (Woo – Hockings)  
Mountains (Jacobs – Hockings)

### Associated Task Forces

Nil