



Protected areas helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be the driving force behind much of the global work on sustainable

degradation, food and water security, health and well-being; The briefing considers each SDG and identifies targets that provide *opportunities* for the further development of protected areas or have *implications* for the ways in which protected areas will be managed in the future. Links can be identified in all 17 SDGs: 34 opportunities and 12 implications.

Fortunately, this is easy: the SDGs reflect many 2017-2020 policy objectives of WCPA, which include: (1) Catalyzing and supporting global efforts to expand and effectively manage systems of protected areas to achieve the Aichi Targets for halting biodiversity loss, in particular through meeting Aichi Target 11; and (2) Recognising and mainstreaming protected areas as natural solutions to global challenges, such as climate change, land

The two strongest links are with SDGs 14 and 15, where marine and terrestrial protected areas contribute directly to the goals. Other SDG targets provide opportunities to underscore the contribution that PAs can make to human welfare and wellbeing including poverty alleviation, food and water security, health, disaster risk reduction, sustainable cities and climate change strategies.



The matrix is a first attempt to identify those specific targets and actions stemming from the Sustainable Development Goals that have implications for protected areas and the work of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. In some cases the SDG goals and targets provide *opportunities*; in other cases

they have *implications* and infer additional obligations on protected area managers to ensure that their sites meet and support the wider aims of the SDGs. Both cases are addressed below. **Highlights in green** are where WCPA could have a particularly significant role.

SDG	Targets relevant to protected areas	Links to IUCN WCPA
	1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	<i>Implication:</i> protected areas in several countries are already expected to report on their contribution to poverty reduction targets. ¹ While this is wholly to be supported, it carries risks, for example from pressure to increase money-making activities such as tourism beyond sustainable limits.
	1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	<p><i>Implication:</i> there will be growing pressure to ensure that protected areas do not undermine the livelihoods of the more socially and economically vulnerable, and more attention when this is perceived to be the case. This should be welcomed, but it does imply that WCPA needs to have its own position very clear and to have mechanisms and policies in place to respond when these issues emerge.</p> <p>One clear step that WCPA could take would be to identify best practices for treatment of rangers and other staff (wages, living accommodation etc) both from governments and private enterprises (e.g., eco-lodges) in protected areas</p> <p>WCPA's existing work in developing principles for equitable distribution of ecosystem services from protected areas² could provide valuable input to this debate</p>
	1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	<i>Opportunity:</i> for the WCPA PA Climate Change Specialist Group to promote the role of protected areas in protection against climate-related events, droughts, sandstorms and other environmental shocks – in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) disaster risk reduction group. ³

2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Opportunity: to identify the role of protected areas in food security through:

1. Providing basic supporting services such as soil production and stabilisation of water supplies

2. Providing buffering against climate-related

shorti2y44413(ng -0.0040.004 Tc -pm1(i)-1 [(2.3 ab17(ov)15()T

SDG	Targets relevant to protected areas	Links to IUCN WCPA

SDG	Targets relevant to protected areas	Links to IUCN WCPA
	<p>11.A: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p>	<p><i>Opportunity:</i> to develop strong rural-urban links, through the urban specialist group, avoiding loss of natural habitat to city sprawl through planned green space, and Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes so municipalities can support surrounding ecosystem services.</p>
	<p>11.B: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p>	<p><i>Opportunity:</i> use of natural ecosystems in protected areas to provide mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including urban nature reserves to provide cooling and absorption for flood water</p>
	<p>12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p> <p>12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p><i>Opportunity:</i> protected landscapes and MAB biosphere reserves in particular can act as testing and demonstration areas for a landscape/seascape approach to sustainable development.</p> <p><i>Implication:</i> all protected areas will be expected</p>

SDG	Targets relevant to protected areas	Links to IUCN WCPA
	14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	<i>Opportunity:</i> MPAs play a (medium term) role in protecting

SDG	Targets relevant to protected areas	Links to IUCN WCPA
	<p>15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</p>	<p><i>Opportunity:</i> maintain and expand protected areas, and increase other effective area based conservation measures. There is no area target as for marine protected areas, or any explicit mention of protected areas. The case for use of</p>

alo2(oo)(ha)1i)-1(

Summing up: priorities for IUCN WCPA

Protected areas have realistic and non-trivial links to all the SDGs, but clearly some are more significant than others. SDG 14 and 15 are closely and consciously linked to Aichi target 11, and it is important that WCPA tracks progress towards these goals and, importantly, seeks to influence the revised targets after 2020. Many other links relate to ecosystem services such as crop wild relatives (SDG 2.5); Healthy Parks, Healthy People (SDG 3.4); water (SDGs 6.3 and 6.6); ecotourism (SDG 8.9 and SDG 12.B); and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change (SDG 13.1).

Other strong complementarities exist in the areas of linking people to nature, through the Nature for All initiative (SDG 4.7); and the work on urban protected areas (SDG 11.7).

SDGs will be a major touchstone of progress in environmental and social fields over the next decade or more. WCPA could usefully consider publishing occasional reports on how protected areas, and how the Commission's work, are contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This briefing has been prepared by Nigel Dudley, Natasha Ali and Kathy MacKinnon, October 2017. With thanks to Tom Brooks, Dan Laffoley and Cyriaque Sendashonga for comments on an earlier draft

References

¹ Dudley, N., Mansourian, S., Stolton, S. and Suksawan, S. 2008. *Safety Net: Protected areas and poverty reduction*. WWF, Gland, Switzerland.

² Dudley, N., Burlando, C., Cooney, R., Jones, S and Kehaulani-Watson, T. 2016. Draft principles for justice and equity in distribution of benefits from ecosystem services in protected areas. In: Burlando, C. Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Meher Marker Noshirwani, Caroline Seagle, and Trisha Kehaulani Watson. *From Solutions to Resolutions: A New Social Compact for Just and Effective Conservation of Biodiversity*. *Policy Matters*, Issue 20, pp 41-54. CEESP and IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.

³ Dudley, N., S. Stolton, A. Belokurov, L. Krueger, N. Lopoukhine, K. MacKinnon, T. Sandwith and N. Sekhran (.36 Hsarker4e6ct.57293 0 Td ()T0.554 0 Td ()Tj 0.26oph-3(02(S9p)13(p 41)]TJ 0 (e)13(c)-3(t)2(ed)13Ks)-3(ue)92 T pw d((