

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)

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Future priorities of the Commission

- x Building on past success and innovating we need to do more, faster, better and larger. WCPA must reaffirm its role assisting members/governments in achieving just that.
- x Protected areas continue to be the most cost effective, efficient and reliable tool for biodiversity conservation yet they are not by themselves sufficient to stem biodiversity loss. The message needs to be heard loud, clear and with convening power.
- x Protected areas have also positioned themselves as providers of other ecosystem services and are a significant component and contributor to other societal values.
- x Indigenous and rural communities need additional empowerment and incentives as frontline conservationists and we need more efforts to advance a variety of governance types.
- x Protected area managers and staff should continue to be at the centre of our efforts.
- x We need a “Green List” to show that we can have fantastic protected areas in every single region of the world. Get out the good news to every person in the world and bring out the pride, forget the doom and gloom.
- x There is a need to continue and strengthen the good work done for protected areas by WCPA, Global Protected Areas Program (GPAP) and other areas within IUCN. Arrangement of the Secretariat is ideally suited to increase cooperation and synergies amongst the Commissions.
- x The ONE Union approach and our Business Plan will also present new opportunities. Our renovated WCPA mandate to be approved in WCC 2012 will be of course a significant part of our road map.
- x Very welcome secondments have been negotiated and generously provided by Canada, Colombia and the US. These should of course be continued or expanded but actual staff to increase the capabilities of the committed staff of GPAP in collaboration with other areas of IUCN are direly needed.
- x Fundraising will be instrumental and the convening and actual capabilities of the future chair will be crucial.
- x Efforts to be closer to members and to diversify in several aspects and repopulate our membership have to be expanded.
- x The future Chair should have the ability to identify good opportunities to better serve the membership and to empower them to in turn serve conservation globally in their countries and regions.
- x Wilderness is the most threatened of all. While the quantitative expansion of protected areas needs to continue and be promoted in a variety of categories a special and urgent effort needs to go to wilderness before it is too late.
- x The 2014 World Parks Congress (WPC) represents a tremendous opportunity to move the conservation agenda another leap forward. We need to tap on all support from IUCN, our hosts and supporters such that the GPAP is not overburdened and can continue delivering on the conservation agenda while participating to insure the success of the WPC.
- x The threat of climate change to biodiversity has come much faster and in a different form. Globally resources are being massively redirected from conservation to mitigation and adaptation. Schemes like REDD++ or our own “Natural Solutions” are a response but much more needs to be done such that this unfortunate dichotomy is resolved in ways that it addresses both and on the ground and in national policies.
- x Quoting Sylvia Earle: “N29y TD -.OTj 9gy .9042 0fddo better serve the