

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)

Jeffrey McNeely, USA

Personal

Name: Jeffrey A. McNeely
Date of birth: 30 May 1944
Nationality: US citizen

Education

Bachelor of Arts, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

Current position

A.D. White Professor at Large, Cornell University
Member, UNEP International Resource Panel
Member, Scientific and Technical Council, International Risk Governance Council
Chair, IUCN-SSC Red List Committee
Chair, Policy Committee, Society for Conservation Biology

Professional background

Jeff McNeely began working internationally in 1968, as a Peace Corps Volunteer building school water systems in Thailand. In 1970, he started working with Dr. Boonsong Lekagul and co-authored **Mammals of Thailand**. While working with Dr. Boonsong, he also prepared an FAO report on wildlife in the Lower Mekong Basin, which included a systems plan for protected areas for the region. He spent 2 years doing research in eastern Nepal, in an area that later became Makalu-Barun Conservation Area. He moved to Indonesia in 1977 to manage the first IUCN–WWF Country Programme, working closely with the Indonesian Government and FAO to design and establish a national system of protected areas. During this time, he managed 35 projects.

Jeff joined the IUCN Secretariat Headquarters in 1980 as Executive Officer of CNPPA (now WCPA). He started the Commission newsletter and managed the establishment of the Protected Areas Data Unit (PADU), now the World Database on Protected Areas. He organized regional Commission meetings in Cameroon, Peru, Zimbabwe, and Scotland and led the secretariat team that organized the 1982 3rd World Parks Congress, in Bali. He co-edited with Kenton Miller **National Parks, Conservation, and Development: The Role of Protected Areas in Sustaining Society**, published by Smithsonian Institution Press and widely credited as a critical contribution to defining the modern role of protected areas. He was responsible for IUCN's relations with UNESCO, including both biosphere reserves and World Heritage; wrote the first indicative list of natural sites worthy of consideration for the World Heritage List in 1982, and co-edited the Proceedings of the First World Conference on Biosphere Reserves (held in Minsk in 1983).

Jeff left CNPPA to become IUCN Programme Director in 1984 and later Deputy Director General. During this time, he established IUCN programmes on Marine Conservation, Forests, and Wetlands. He later started and directed IUCN's Biodiversity Programme and helped draft the Convention on Biological Diversity and establish and manage the Global Biodiversity Forum, as well as publishing numerous books on biodiversity. In 1990, he was appointed Secretary General of the 4th World

Jeff served as Chief Scientist of IUCN until retirement in July 2009, and as Senior Science Advisor until March 2012. He has recently worked with the Government of Tanzania on World Heritage issues and the Government of Japan, also on World Heritage issues as well as protected areas and natural hazards and advising on the content of the Asia Parks Congress. He has worked on protected areas for the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and numerous bilateral agencies/NGOs in over 80 countries. His publications comprise over 40 books (including co-editor of **Sacred Natural Sites** in 2010) and 500 scientific and popular papers on various aspects of conservation.

Experience and past involvement with IUCN