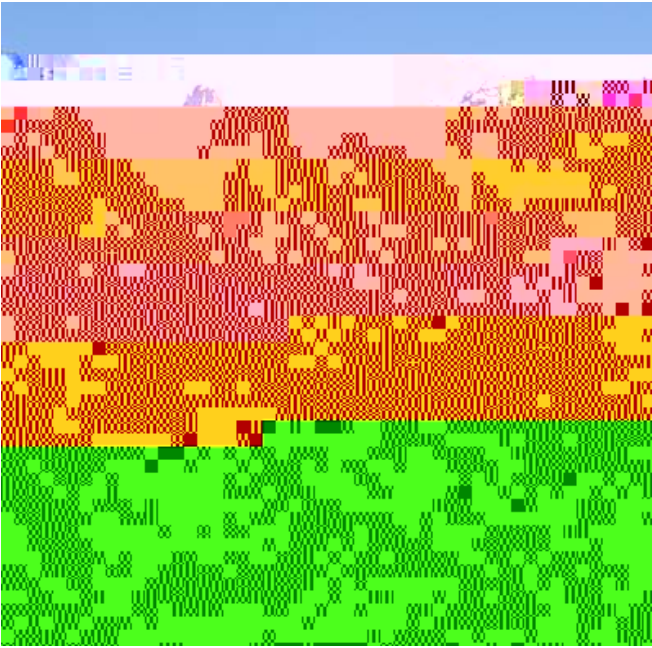




ECHOES FROM BARILOCHE: Conclusions, Recommendations and Action Guidelines





The Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas aimed to assess, value and project the contribution of protected areas towards the conservation and sustainable development of the region. It dealt with subjects as biodiversity, environmental services, rights and indigenous

among Latin-American countries. It was the largest ever regional-scale event on nature conservation in history.

During the II Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Area (Bariloche, 2007), the role of protected areas as an effective tool for conservation was ratified. New elements for the management of protected areas such as the following were highlighted:

- Institutionalized participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes.
- Integral planning of protected areas and surrounding spaces, institutionalized at different administrative levels.
- The role protected areas fulfill in the contribution for poverty reduction.
- The threats of Climate Change on protected areas and their role in mitigation and adaptation.
- The direct involvement of indigenous people and territories in the management of protected areas.
- The inclusion of cultural and social values as a management objective of protected areas.
- An increase on the effective use of traditional knowledge and practices for the management of protected areas.
- The recognition of the importance of marine protected areas in the equilibrium and functioning of ecosystems at a global scale.
- The impact of infrastructure and development projects at a regional level.
- Transboundary landscape and corridor management.
- The management of invasive exotic species.
- The promotion of good practice in productive activities related to protected areas.
- The responsible involvement of private companies.
- The importance of private conservation initiatives associated with protected areas, indigenous territories and other conservation mechanisms.
- The development of new long term financing mechanisms, such as trust funds.
- An increase in methods for effective management assessment.

After the 80 workshops and working groups organized around the 16 symposia of the congress, 2300 participants consented on the following **recommendations**:

Biodiversity Conservation

- Strengthen the promotion of regional systems and advance in the consolidation of national systems, both for terrestrial as marine protected areas.
- Decrease conservation gaps through strategies and tools for the management of natural resources within national conservation programs, with the participation of different actors. Such strategies should not be exclusively based on the implementation of the IUCN's management categories.
- Insert the issue of protected areas into the public policies.
- Use spatial planning as a political and juridical instrument to facilitate the solution of socio-environmental conflicts around the protected areas.
- Highlight the threats that exotic species represent in each area and system of protected areas. Guarantee the implementation of management strategies that include education, prevention, prioritizing, control and eradication actions.

in coordination with the authorities from protected areas.

- For the Management Effectiveness

Management of Protected Areas

- The management of protected areas should integrate both material and intangible values allowing the encounter of diverse cosmovisions.
- Carry out participatory national assessments for governance models in relation to their capacities to achieve conservation and development goals in terrestrial and marine ecosystems and areas of high conservation value.
- Clearly define roles and competences of different public and private entities in the planning and management of protected areas.

Management Effectiveness Evaluation

- The tools for Management Effectiveness Evaluation must be adapted to reflect on the needs of the country and must be systematically applied, at different scales,

- Promote the use of international treaties and agreements as tools for the creation of regional and trans-zonal networks for marine protected areas.
- Prioritize ecological, social and economic research programs that can validate the decision making to establish and manage marine protected areas and their

- Strengthening intra and inter generational knowledge sharing for the conservation of biological diversity.
- Integrate environmental research, extension, monitoring and education actions for the development of experiences within an adapted management framework.
- Identify and systematize experiences and good practices for the management of protected areas with special attention to tourism, fishing and forest activities (among other productive fields) and programs
- Accelerate south-south, north-south and learning communities knowledge exchange, through the use of existing mechanisms and tools.
- The diversity of stakeholders with responsibilities and shared competences in the management of protected areas.
-

Training

- Strengthening links and exchange between academic programs and technical training.
- Set long term goals to measure the impact of training programs, and facilitate follow up processes.
- Promote skill strengthening processes that incorporate:

And now, what will we do?

The participants of the congress committed themselves to work within the following ACTION GUIDELINES

Management of protected areas

- Use follow-up tools to the implementation of international agreements and guidelines in order to achieve an effective management of protected areas in the region.
- Incorporate the ecosystem approach and the results of periodic effective management assessment to the systems of protected areas' planning process.

Marine Protected Areas

- Generate guidelines for the establishment of national and regional systems of protected areas, with special emphasis on marine protected areas and the improvement of the quality of life.
- Declare the period 2008 – 2018 as the Decade of the Marine Protected Areas
- Ask governments to prolong the coverage of Marine Protected areas in priority marine coast ecosystems until 2012.
- Consolidate a regional specialists network WCPA-Marine with the mission of formulating a Work Plan for the Decade of the MPA (2008 – 2018) that prioritizes focalized actions to the achievement of the goals for 2012.
- Impact in presidential meetings of the region to reinforce the commitment and accelerate the processes tending to achieve the goals for 2012.
- Prepare and implement educational programs to involve new generations in marine conservation.

Climate Change

- Promote the design of protected areas systems that would allow a better adaptation to the climate change, especially in key ecosystems that could be affected by catastrophic events.
- Based on scientific research processes in *páramo*, wetlands and marine ecosystems and their ecotones, identify vulnerabilities of protected areas to

climate change and establish mitigation and adaptation measures.

- Formulate a Latin-American proposal to the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) in order to monitor the impact of climate change in vulnerable protected areas and to propose policies and adaptation measures.

Cultural and spiritual values from Protected Areas

- Implement specific normative for the conservation of cultural, social and spiritual values from protected areas with the participation of aborigine groups and related stakeholders.
- Strengthen and implement spaces of special value, management categories or zoning of national systems of protected areas, which importance and objectives are identified from cultural, social and spiritual aspects.

Information Exchange Mechanisms

- Make compatible scientific information on biodiversity in Latin American protected

Meetings, Forums, Platforms

- Ask to the pertinent instances the organization of a forum, to update policies and research protocols in protected areas
- Facilitate periodical meetings at a national level among IUCN Commissions, protected area services and science and technology national commissions.
- Organize, during 2008, a regional workshop on traditional and scientific knowledge (a dialogue of knowledge) on biodiversity (land and marine) and protected areas that will allow the alignment of priorities for the management of PA.
- Build an easy access virtual platform for the exchange of information concerning the strengthening of capacities, in order to ensure permanent contact between providers, users and sponsors.

Financing Mechanisms

- Strengthen the management of environmental funds as actors for the identification of new financial mechanisms and routing of new resources towards protected areas, promoting its capitalization and the increment of trust funds.
- incorporate private enterprises in the funding of protected areas, through the development of new financial mechanisms.

Capacities of managers and responsible actors of Protected Areas

- Incorporate the new paradigms of conservation (ecosystem approach, spatial planning, and adaptation to climate change) into the training of park rangers, and administrators of protected areas.

- Incentive and promote, from private and public sectors, the consolidation of the Latin American Park Rangers network through a virtual platform for the exchange of experiences, learning and the generation of capacities.

Assessment of Effective Management

- Monitor the compliance of the Goals 2010 from the CBD on the evaluation of at least 30% of the protected areas.
- Unify criteria, indexes and methodologies for the Management Effectiveness Evaluation and Gaps Analysis in conservation until the year 2010.
- At least 50% of the National Services of Protected Areas from Latin America must count, until the year 2010, on the evaluation of at least 30% of the protected areas.