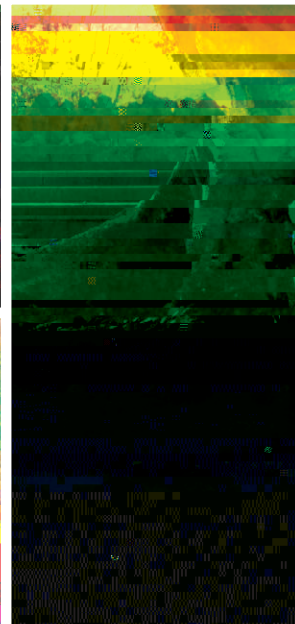


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Protected Areas

Joint PAEL-TILCEPA workshop on
Protected Areas Management Evaluation and
Social Assessment of Protected Areas

Founded in 1948, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 1000 members in all, spread across some 160 countries. As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

Website: www.iucn.org

Funding for the workshop was provided by CEESP with support from WCPA, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Queensland.

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Main Workshop Summary Points

Introduction

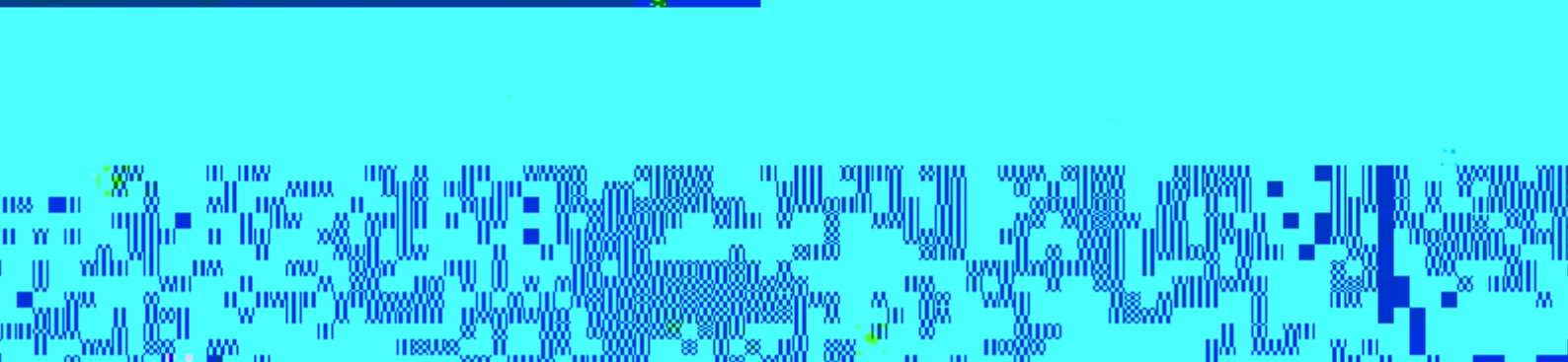
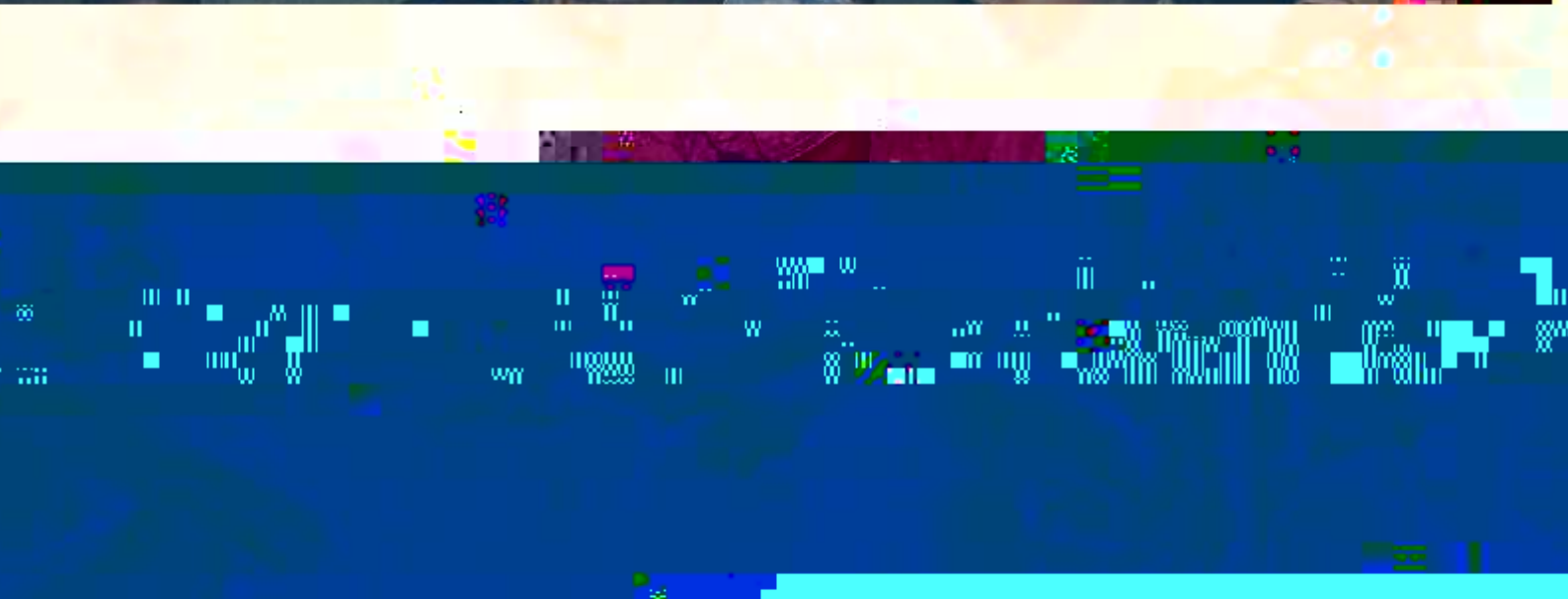
Programme Element 2: Governance, Participation, Equity, and Benefit Sharing
PAME-SAPA workshop background

Social Indicators within current Protected Areas Management Evaluation

Improving Social Indicators in PAME
WCPA assessment framework
PAME currently in use and relevant information for social assessments
Global Study on PAME

Social Assessment of Protected Areas

Social Assessment of Protected Areas AD Å

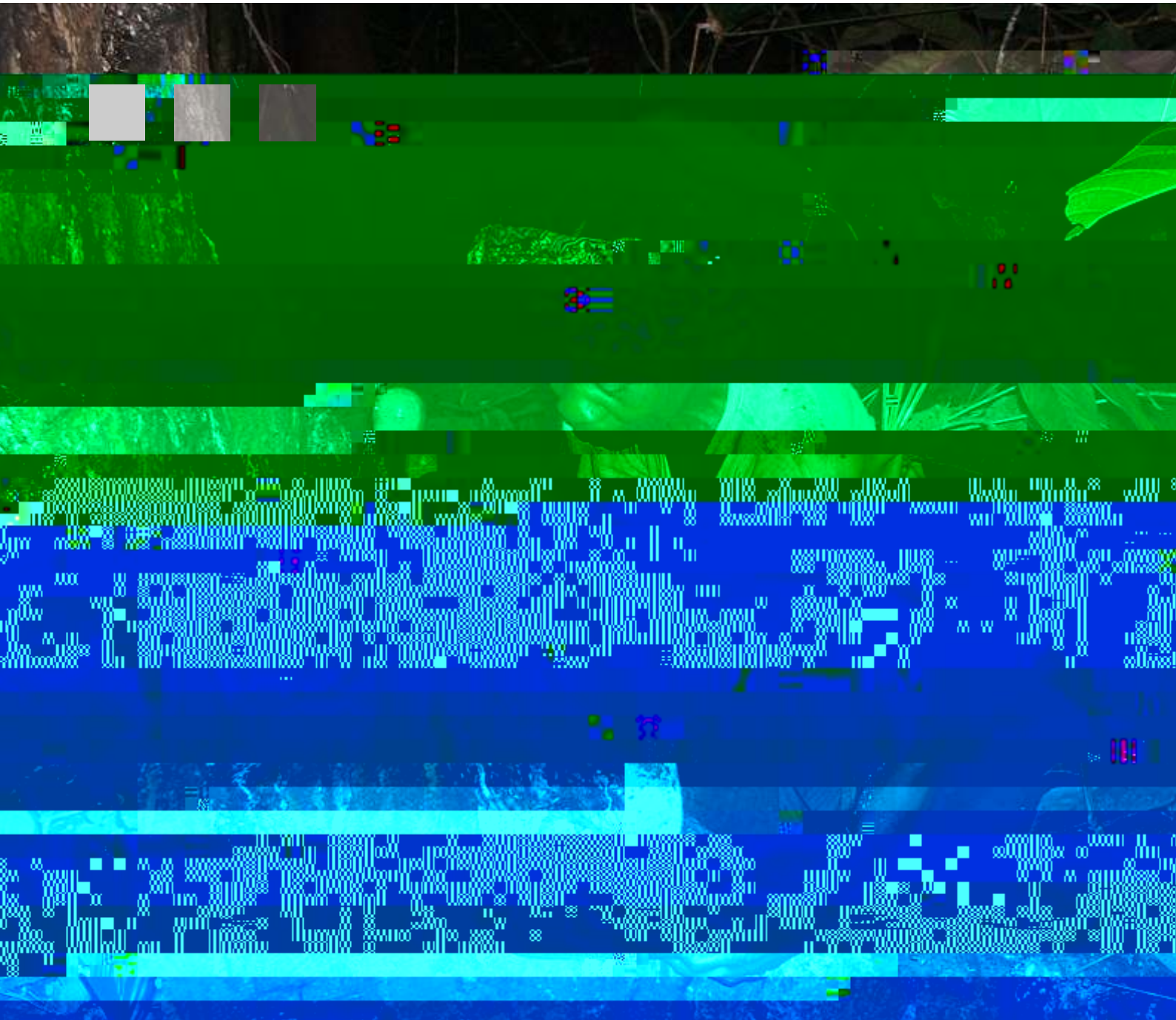


Introduction

In 2009, two of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commissions, CEESP and WCPA, held Steering Committee meetings which set out priority work for the 2009-2012 period. Both Commissions highlighted the importance of contributing to the review of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) which comes under review by Parties to the Convention in 2010, as well as the wider issues of governance, equity and rights that pertain to biodiversity conservation programmes more broadly.

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) share a *Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihood Rights in Relation to Protected Areas* which deals with social issues pertaining to Protected Areas. Members of the Strategic Direction took on the responsibility of contributing to the PoWPA review process and elaborating ways to resolve areas of under-performance in the implementation of the PoWPA, notably Element 2.

Below: Abongo woman collects Okoumé (*Aucoumea klaineana*) resin for traditional lamp, Ikobey Commune, Ngounié, Gabon.



Moreover, State conservation agencies need to appreciate how and why they are reporting on social indicators related to Protected Areas, as part of their overall capacity building to effectively protect biodiversity. This understanding needs to be effectively transmitted to the national authorities who set Protected Areas agency budgets and mandates. Protected Areas management effectiveness and the equitable benefit sharing arising from conservation need to be embedded in national development programmes and actions.

Furthermore, transparent reporting on the positive and negative impact of Protected Areas through social indicators helps to engage civil society (including indigenous peoples, local communities, traditional authorities, NGOs, faith-based institutions and private sector) in the shared obligation to conserve biodiversity and work cooperatively with State agencies and resist further degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

At the joint IUCN-CBD International Workshop on the Future of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, Jeju Island, South Korea (14-17 September 2009), members of the Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihood Rights in Relation to Protected Areas (which includes TILCEPA and PAEL) and the WCPA Science and Management Strategic Direction identified the importance of State reporting on social assessment indicators (on governance, participation, equity, rights and livelihoods) within national and multilateral frameworks as a strategic area which could be strengthened.

PAME-SAPA workshop background

At the CEESP Steering Committee in Bangkok, Thailand (27-28 November 2009), it was agreed to hold a workshop to share experiences between three constituencies in the CEESP-WCPA cluster of IUCN Commissions, namely the Protected Areas Equity and Livelihoods (PAEL) taskforce, the Theme on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA), and the focal point on Protected Areas Management Evaluation (PAME) in the WCPA. This meeting was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand (18-19 February 2010) with the following objectives:

1. Review the current situation regarding social assessment in PA Management Evaluation and reporting;
2. Review the progress of PAEL's Social Assessment in Protected Areas (SAPA) work;
3. Identify synergies and mutually reinforcing lessons between PAME and SAPA;
4. Discuss other potential opportunities to incorporate social assessments within conservation initiatives;
5. Set out a strategy and communication plan to help CBD Parties and stakeholders understand how SAPA and PAME can be used to improve the reporting and Phow

Improving Social Indicators in PAME

It is important to distinguish between data collection on *biodiversity* and data on *management effectiveness*. The assumption is that improved management effectiveness monitoring allows fine-tuning of the collection of data on biodiversity and generating actions to address threats and recognise opportunities. Similarly with social indicators, the goal is to make sure that management capacity and competence related to social assessment will in turn generate indicators, methods and baseline data, which, on a cyclical basis allows decisions to be made in a dynamic and progressive way. Where appropriate, more in-depth investigation can be undertaken or contracted in cooperation with agencies with greater expert capacity.



Hockings highlighted that:

Above: Red Starfish (*Fromea milleporella*), The Similan Islands National Park, Thailand. Photo by Jameie Tyler.

- PAME should lead to **adaptive** management – managers at different levels should understand current strengths and weaknesses and self-adjust their actions according to the results. It is a challenge to make sure evaluation is used as a learning opportunity for improving management. For example, social indicators help management understand the value of consultation, inclusivity, and local knowledge which in turn shapes and informs changes in policies and practices;
- PAME helps allocate resources efficiently (prioritising human and financial resource allocation);
- Site managers are less likely to be trained in social assessment research and related functions, and may need additional help in collecting and reporting on social indicators;
- National Protected Areas agencies may need support in elaborating policies relevant to including stakeholder forums and cyclical, participatory social assessment;
- Social indicators create a baseline for accountability and transparency. Governments are often sensitive about releasing information, especially if it does not put them in a good light. Those coaching the reporting process need to be sensitive to the political context and act responsibly with that information;
- PAME helps build a supportive constituency. Where stakeholder are able to participate in PAME they gain greater understanding of the management challenges and can contribute their own values, knowledge and cultural expertise to data collection and problem solving. If the evaluation involves both communities and PA managers, it can build better mutual understanding and cooperation.

WCPA assessment framework

The WCPA PAME Framework sets out the elements and broad criteria for assessment but specific indicators are developed within individual evaluation methodologies which vary in depth and assessment approach. Social criteria and indicators are already included in the Framework and various evaluation methodologies, but any elaboration or addition d eb

By Lea M. Scherl & Phil Franks, Protected Areas Equity and Livelihoods (PAEL) Taskforce

Scherl and Franks provided an historical overview of the emergence of PAEL and the SAPA initiative (see timeline mat ')

The term “well being” is broadly applied in this case and includes local understanding(s) and definitions of poverty.

Outputs from the workshop were:

- A table of potential users of social impact methodologies, and their objectives and requirements;
- A table outlining the different characteristics of social impact methodologies;
- A synthesis of the methodologies used, and lessons learned, by the workshop participants;
- A timetable and work plan, outlining the next steps of the working group.

The full report is available at: <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/socialimpact>

A forthcoming publication by IIED under its Natural Resource Issues series is due out in April/May 2010: *Social Assessment of Conservation Initiatives: A Review of Rapid Methodologies. An output of the Social Assessment of Protected Areas (SAPA) Initiative.*

This publication addresses the issue that no standard methodology exists to assess the social impact of Protected Areas in spite of a growing interest in ensuring that they fulfil a range of social objectives as well as their more conventional conservation objectives. The publication aims to contribute to the development of rapid methodologies to assess the social impacts of Protected Areas. It reviews conceptual models and frameworks relevant to addressing social impacts of Protected Areas and identifies those mostly frequently in use.

The SAPA report proposes an overarching framework that combines different elements of various existing frameworks as a guide to social assessments. It reviews 30 distinct methods and methodologies used to assess social impacts either in Protected Areas or other relevant contexts. Nearly 200 indicators were Ñ

Participants at the PAME-SAPA workshop in Bangkok made the following observations:

- Similar to the PAME work, within SAPA processes it was not always evident that social indicators were used for *adaptive* management. Learning opportunities provided by social assessment were not always evident or systematic;
- The relationship between social assessment and governance types needs further attention. There were assumptions in some of the existing research that any form of public consultation could be seen as an equivalent to sharing of power in decision-making. This was particularly an issue in assessing various c o - m a n a g e m e n t arrangements where there could be a substantial gap between the right to participate in certain forums and the mandate to take certain decisions or be involved in decision-making;
- There is scope for further discussion with indigenous peoples, local communities, NGOs, site managers and policy makers about what

Table 1: SAPA initiative Timeline of Activities

Vth World Parks Congress (WPC) Recommendation 5.29 on Protected Areas & Poverty, Durban, South Africa (2003);

Publication on Protected Areas and Poverty launched at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand (2004);

Conservation organisations encouraged to fund the assessment of the economic and socio-cultural impacts occurring from the establishment and maintenance of Protected Areas, World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, Thailand (2004);

Poverty & Conservation Learning Group established; a forum that supports information exchange and enhanced knowledge on topics related to social dimensions of conservation initiatives (2005);

CBD COP8 side event organised by TILCEPA sub-group working on the links between PAs, Poverty reduction and livelihoods with other partners, Curitiba, Brazil (2006);

PAEL established as a joint Task Force of CEESP and WCPA (2006);

Vision 2020 workshop within UNEP WCMC – discussion on how to integrate socio-economic data into the World Database on Protected Areas (2007);

Two regional PAEL taskforce workshops held in Thailand and Kenya (2007);

Groups and organisations members of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group note the need for an agreed framework on Social Assessment in Protected Areas (SAPA)(2007);

Side-event on SAPA at CBD POWPA meeting, Rome, Italy (2008);

Side-event at WCMC with practitioners/professionals from different organizations that have used social assessment methodologies to address different elements of a SAPA initiative and develop a working strategy, Cambridge, United Kingdom (2008);

SAPA methodologies workshops at CBD COP9, Bonn, Germany (2008);

SAPA methodologies workshops at WCC, Barcelona, Spain (2008);

Draft Report on Social Assessment of Protected Areas: A Review of rapid assessment methodologies prepared. Final Publication by IIED available in April 2010.

The workshop participants noted the strong synergies between PAME and SAPA. The two fields of work were seen as a Venn diagram with a significant overlap and also distinct elements of unrelated activity. Much of PAME does not involve social assessment, and SAPA involves tools and processes which should be autonomous from the role of managers.

The Bangkok PAME-SAPA workshop was premised on the idea that what has been learned in the evolution of global standards for good PAME and MEI could be relevant and useful for Social Assessment and *vice versa*. The PAEL taskforce work on SAPA could help fill gaps and provide insights into strengthening social indicators in national PAME reporting, particularly in the context of implementing PoWPA's Element 2. Also PAME work tends to start at site level and be aggregated upwards to a system level, which is not yet the case for social assessment. Social assessments tend to be conducted at site level and then not drawn upwards into national policy making. The aggregation of research at site level upwards to facilitate higher level reflections and decision-making at policy level is something that PAME can contribute to SAPA.



SAPA and PAME in the context of Social Movements & State Parties

IUCN is a network that brings together civil society, academic and scientific specialists with State representatives to find a common approach to the conservation of biodiversity and a sustainable approach to life on Earth. In keeping with United Nations' principles, IUCN recognises the importance of community-based stewardship of natural resources and the need to encourage dialogue between the public and State agencies responsible for conservation. Rather than lecturing State representatives about the value of Element 2 of PoWPA, p

SAPA is a concrete example of linking conservation with human rights. Social assessment, when transparent and participatory, affirms the right of indigenous peoples and local communities to attest to the impact of

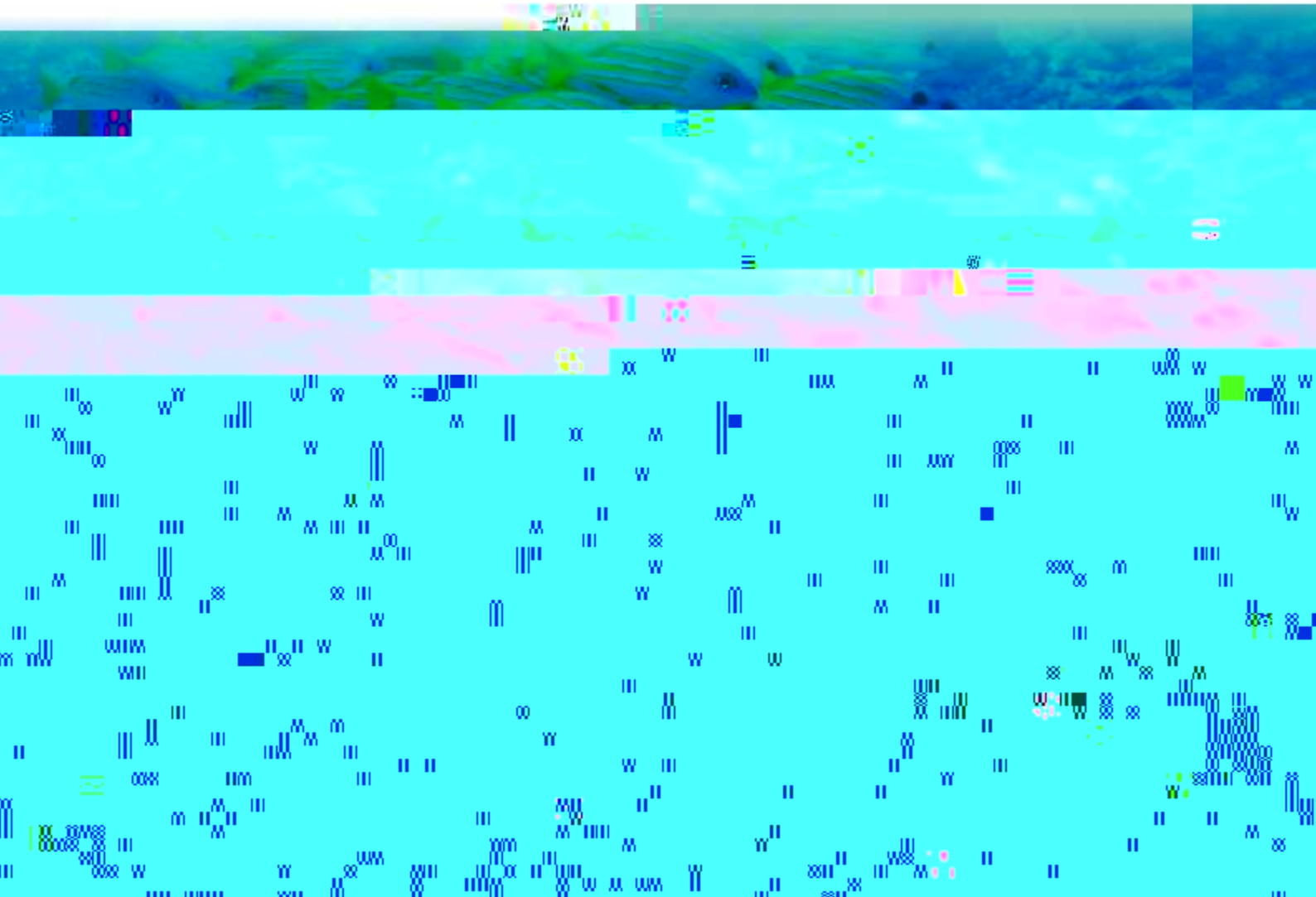


Table 2 Promoting SAPA within PA ME

Strategy	Multilateral instruments		
Influence Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold side events at SBSTTA 14 and COP10; • Promote refreshing of PoWPA agreement with emphasis on achieving Element 2 results; • Outreach and alliances with major CS groups; • Follow a geopolitical strategy: find committed G77 allies; • PoWPA Text Goal: No Changes! • Risk analysis 		
Implement pilots and build capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct pilots / show clear results of correlation between participation / benefits and biodiversity conservation as evidence; • Consider geopolitical dynamics – influence the influential actors across the planet; • Have a comprehensive SAPA report available for OVB B A A PoWP 		

Addis Ababa Guidelines and Principles on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf>.

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Dudley, N. and S. Stolton, 2008. The Protected Areas Benefits Assessment Tool, A methodology. Available at: http://www.equilibriumresearch.com/upload/document/PA_BAT_-_Final_Feb_2008.pdf.

Earth Summit 2012 information page: <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/index.php?id=708>.

Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Environment and Social Assessment and Indigenous Development Plan: http://envfor.nic.in/mef/SEIA_report.pdf.

Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee: www.ipacc.org.za.

International Institute for Environment and Development: <http://www.iied.org/>.

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