



NAPA

News from African Protected Areas

Nouvelles des Aires Protégées en Afrique



N°55
July 2012

A road map for African protected areas: act now!

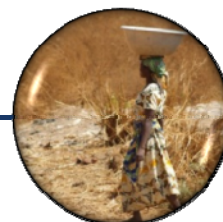
As you'll recall, our roadmap for African Protected Areas (PA) - see the full document on www.papaco.org – focuses on three main axes to lead us towards **healthy, efficient and sustainable protected areas**.



Healthy =
transparent
governance
and
integrity of
the territory



Efficient =
modern
management
and
responsible
managers



Sustainable =
long-term
ambition and
the rich
biodiversity
secured forever

The two previous NAPA newsletters (n°53 and n°54) presented rapidly the three directions that are included in the first axe: **healthy PA**, and in the second axe: **efficient PA**. The current newsletter focuses on the third and last axe, about **sustainable PA**. In September, the NAPA n°56 will also present a synthesis of all your reactions, ideas, comments, proposals... received about this roadmap and how to better implement it for more sustainable and efficient results. Please, continue to share your opinion and ideas...

Third axe : sustainable PAs

Because conservation is built upon informed and long-term actions for sustainable resources

Direction 7: optimise the effectiveness of support for protected areas

Too many actions undertaken still do not produce real results and even have negative impacts. We should support projects that: reinforce good management plans (existing, or if necessary, to be developed); take account of the capacities of the actors and encourage cooperation, whatever the scale of intervention. Transforming « big » projects into « long » projects that are adaptive, and imposing a « good conduct » charter on donors would offer more sustainability to the changes sought.

Management plans are again at the heart of this direction. To optimize the support that is provided to PAs, we have to proceed strategically and in an organized way: this is done through a common, shared, simple and pragmatic document that meets the expectations of all the PA partners, who will in turn respect and abide by it. We too often see sorcerer's apprentices financing their own ideas without any consideration for the existing knowledge, the

people's know-how, the site's history... and without taking into account the stakeholders' capacities to act. Very often too, without consideration for on-going or planned actions, without real synergy with other supports, without sincere intention to collaborate beyond what is necessary to obtain some needed co-financing. These projects follow their own logic, that could be described as de-constructive and short-term oriented, and generally create imbalances that will take years to be compensated for. Heritage of past times, they are not building capacities of the future but on the contrary, they strengthen yesterday's gaps. We know that this can be easily corrected and the first three directions of the road map will contribute accordingly to that purpose (improve consultation and supervision for stronger decisions, share them, and raise all actors' awareness on conservation issues related to PAs). However, we can go further now by clearly defining new rules for all of us to make sure that we walk in the same direction. Thinking of more sustainable financial and technical supports, with means that will evolving over time alongside the existing needs, and according to the users' abilities, avoiding short cycles for projects and shortages of funds, mixing sources and supports to avoid partial and arbitrary decisions, sharing objectives, methods, indicators for common accountability of all projects and programs, imposing management plans as the backbone for positive achievements, respecting those who are in charge of implementing them... In one word, defining and following a sort of good conduct code for project implementation. This is not utopia, but will certainly change some habits!



Therefore, the seventh direction proposed by the road map deals with the emergency to review the way we are working, in particular for development partners when they are involved in conservation. We must think of a common basis of key principles to make sure that our supports contribute their best to conservation. We must think of guides or codes that will govern projects (whatever their size) for them to strengthen each other and promote the best practices, the best stakeholders, the best impacts.

There is much flexibility to be kept over time, and much to be learnt from successful experiences.

Direction 8: ensure the resources available for management and governance are made permanent

We need to rationalize expenditure, multiply, diversify, and consolidate sources of income, establish strategic bridges between different contributions and sources of support...to allow management decisions to be made and their impact assessed over time, and put in place long-lasting mechanisms of governance that are ultimately independent of the means occasionally available.

Apart from the support, often crucial, of donors (see direction 7), there is a multitude of potential resources for PAs, many of which are still unknown or under used. And yet, it is by significantly diversifying the sources of revenues that we'll build sustainable PAs that will, at last, be independent of temporary, therefore risky, financing. As usual, the first step is to spend the money more efficiently and, if

need be, to save money as much as possible. It is simple and however, rarely done as annual PA budgets are locked in procedures and habits (the same budget is conducted again every year) that limit their optimization. Then comes the search for resources. Some are already known (tourism, sustainable exploitation of a few resources, taxes...) and can, most of the time, be profoundly improved, provided that their management is delegated to the good operators, within the good partnerships, thus opening the PA management decision-making circle (direction 1). Some have not yet been mobilized (funding for ecosystem services, carbon storage, REDD+...) and managers will have to learn how to call for the required competences without losing tracks of their management plan goals. And some other external financing sources also exist, like trust funds, donations, sponsoring... that can usefully complement all the other resources once they are optimized. These are ways, there are others... but we can imagine that they require many competences and new skills; this also goes in the sense of widely opening parks' governance to include and enhance new profiles who will bring on board these new competences and make decisions more efficient and reliable.



Therefore, the eighth direction of the road map proposes to continue and strengthen the progresses that have been underway for years and which aim to enhance all the resources the territory can benefit from. However, this will happen only if managers are not left alone in face of these evolutions (that they cannot fully manage) and if they accept to diversify governance bodies in order to give them the capacity to draw the best from all these forms of revenues, in transparency and professionalism.

Direction 9: promote protected areas that show the way (green list)

Whatever their ecological importance and route followed, PAs which succeed in their conservation mission should be acknowledged and used as examples to improve practice and motivate those in charge. The **green list** of the best PAs should allow us to embark on a long-term progress selecting good options for PA management and to reward the best performance in the long-term.

The last direction of the road map is the continuation of all the previous ones and cannot be implemented unless all of them have been followed (and certainly some others this road map could not list). This direction is about identifying and recognizing the territories that have made progress, the successful partners, the parks where conservation has finally been achieved, today and for the future. Very few in reality

are already at this stage in Africa, but some exist, depending on the regions, depending on the management categories, depending on leaders' political commitment, depending on managers' technical capacities, depending on partners' support, depending on the history etc. But all together, these territories do not form the required critical mass to expect to sustainably conserve the continent's natural resources. Much more is needed, better is needed, more coverage of the territory is needed, more connectivity, new exemplary practices, more men engaged, more favourable practices, more perceptive and efficient donors... As this will not happen by itself, a driving force is needed, a label, an acknowledgement that counts, shows successful examples, rewards the best initiatives. Not an « additional » label that endures even when all indicators are already red and values are lost, like for example that of the "World Heritage" today in some sites of Africa, but a glowing report for those that are working, day after day, a label depending on stakeholders' efforts that would collapse if they stopped working. Of course, this movement is not only African, and the **green list** of the best protected areas will be global (to enable each one to position themselves), but the continent must join this movement and proudly show its successes and heritage. It is in the light of those successes that the incredible degradation of all the rest will become unbearable to us and that, let us hope, discussions, workshops, forums, conferences... road maps (!)... will become acts then results, then impacts.

The ninth direction proposed by the road map will guide us towards recognizing the best PAs of the continent. Not the most important ones, not the richest ones, not the biggest ones... but those where the best work is achieved, those that have developed the best methods, applied the best practices and eradicated all the other, those that are proud of their results, in their own context, those which managers, partners, friends... can and should be congratulated. They exist, they have to be identified and recognized on the basis of clear and transparent criteria. Then we'll build on this network an exemplary PA group that will attract money and energy and will open the way towards new PAs...safe, effective and sustainable.



The few steps proposed in this road map provide an **initial framework** to direct our **ambitions, choices, and strategies** towards **stronger and more effective protected areas, acknowledged and recognized** in the green list. **Build on this framework, innovate and communicate... share your experiences, ideas, and wishes or expectations...** on the following address: geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org. The NAPA newsletter n°56 (September 2012) will publish your comments and new ideas...

An IUCN/WCPA initiative to improve the management of protected areas (direction 9 of the Road Map)

The IUCN Green List of Well Managed Protected Areas

WHAT IS THE IUCN GREEN LIST?

The IUCN Green List of Well Managed Protected Areas is an initiative to measure and celebrate the success of protected areas in reaching good standards of management. It contributes to the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and particularly Target 11, a requirement of which is the effective and equitable management of protected areas.

CBD Target 11 - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through *effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas* and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

Protected areas considered for the Green List will meet internationally agreed standards for established and successful management, with consideration for the local and national context, and will demonstrate successful outcomes for biodiversity conservation, effective management and equitable governance.

The IUCN Green List will focus on celebrating PA management success and sharing best-practice. The IUCN Green List is designed with the following principles in mind:

- *Simplicity in process and designation, with no undue burden on reporting*
- *Recognition of diversity, such as PA management context and capacities*
- *Celebrate accomplishments of PA managers and agencies*
- *Include various dimensions (i.e. achieved conservation, visitor experience, community outreach...)*

This initiative will be led and overseen by IUCN's Global Protected Areas Program (GPAP), in relationship with Regional Protected Area staff and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). A partnership with protected area agencies or other responsible management bodies, including private and community managed protected areas, will ensure the process is

consistent while acknowledging regional contexts and allowing for full participation of management partners.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BENEFITS

The IUCN Green List allows a positive approach to protected area management, as it will measure progress towards effective and equitable management and celebrate and reward innovation, excellence and endeavour. This will promote engagement of people and government with protected areas in a positive way.

It is expected that the Green List will also provide a positive mechanism for more active engagement of protected area experts through participation of IUCN WCPA members. A reference group of regional IUCN protected area programme staff and WCPA members will work with the protected area management agencies to establish regionally relevant standards (consistent with the overall global standards) and to select, review and validate candidate areas for the Green List.

For Protected Area Managers or PA agencies, the IUCN Green List may provide direct and indirect benefits from certification, possibly including:

- **International recognition** for the PA and its management authority that will bring prestige and reward for past and ongoing efforts – especially innovation, excellence and ground-breaking achievements.
- **Political support** as achieving IUCN Green List status will add credence to PA management requests for recognition and budget allocations to help continue to achieve objectives.
- **Increased motivation** of senior staff and rangers, with a benchmark for future management and operational planning to maintain.
- **New project development opportunities**, as a well-managed PA is better able to articulate needs for external support and will give confidence in its ability to achieve project or investment objectives.
- **Promotion of tourism**, allowing visitors the satisfaction of knowing their choice of destination meets international standards.
- **Enhancement of local stakeholders' involvement** in decision-making, as this will be a criterion for successful nomination for the IUCN Green List.
- **Motivation for enabling policies** and investments in local or national protected areas and systems, including in programs and policies that measure and enhance Management Effectiveness

- **Positive contributions to national communications to the CBD**, especially Target 11
- Etc.

HOW WOULD IT WORK?

To be eligible for the Green List, protected areas will need to meet a threshold standard for effective and equitable management. The Green List criteria will cover several topics such as values identified, objectives declared, process developed and implemented, boundaries secured, legal establishment, governance procedures, equity, visitor management....

For each of these criteria, global standards are defined; to be considered for the Green List, protected areas would need to provide a prospectus for review in a required format, documenting how each of the standards has been met. As a general guide, **candidate protected areas would need to achieve a mean score of at least two-thirds in all Green List criteria, based on a mapping of their management effectiveness indicators to the Green List.**

But successful evaluation will also require i) documented and recognised protected area management effectiveness evaluation system within the last three to four years, ii) evidence that the core ecological and biodiversity values of the protected area have a status of 'good' to 'very good' according to the IUCN Green List criteria for ecological and biodiversity values and evidence shows they are not declining.

Once certified, it is proposed that the protected area's Green List status will be valid for 5 years, after which the protected area will need to provide evidence that management standards have been maintained and that outcomes are still positive, for the renewal of the Green List Certification.

IUCN and WCPA will maintain oversight, coordination and independent quality control throughout the process and will verify and select protected areas to be listed, based on the strengths of their nominations and the meeting of Green List standards. The operation of the Green List will largely depend on the commitment of WCPA members, who will therefore need to be oriented and certified to undertake this quality control.

THE GREEN LIST PROCESS IN A GLANCE

1. ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AT THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

WCPA has identified good practices in protected areas at the global levels, based on the experiences in evaluating and improving protected area management effectiveness (Leverington *et al.* 2010a; Leverington *et al.* 2010b). The identified good practices form the basis for criteria and standards for protected area management to be adopted by the Green List, globally and regionally. The Green List criteria and standards provide a framework to be applied, with appropriate adaptation, at the regional and national/system levels, in order to ensure consistency across the world while allowing for differences in regional and state context.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN LIST PROJECT AND PARTNERSHIP AT NATIONAL LEVEL

A country interested in participating in the Green List will first establish a project outline and partnership with IUCN and the WCPA. Regional WCPA will work in partnership with protected area agencies and stakeholders to establish a local Green List Reference Group and to set regional/national standards. It is anticipated that 5-10 protected area per year will be added to the Green List in any country or state, primarily so that the verification process can be assured.

For eligible sites, the relevant management agency/organization will prepare a prospectus for each nominated protected area. The Green List Reference Group will then assess nominated sites against the standards, seeking supplementary information as required and visiting the site if necessary.

3. GREEN LIST: STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

As the Green List is meant to be an inclusive program, there will be two main aspects to it: the listing or awarding of protected areas that have achieved good standards of management; and a continuous improvement program to support the protected areas that have not been listed or awarded in improving their management standards.

4. SUPPORT NEEDED: TRAINING, VERIFICATION, MAINTENANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The Green List will deliver major benefits for protected areas with modest inputs, as it will rely largely on volunteer participation of management agencies and WCPA members. However, to ensure this is a credible, robust and sustainable IUCN

initiative, some funding will be required for training, materials and other implementation needs.

NEXT STEPS IN AFRICA

As for the rest of the world, we need to identify countries, agencies and protected areas who may wish to embark in the process. This will require a voluntary commitment of governments, or parks departments, but also staff, individuals, partners... in order to prepare all the relevant material (standards adapted to the region, guidance, trainings...) to develop pilot cases which will guide the work through the continent. We therefore need to identify, as soon as possible, who could be the first to start writing the story in Africa...

USEFUL REFERENCES

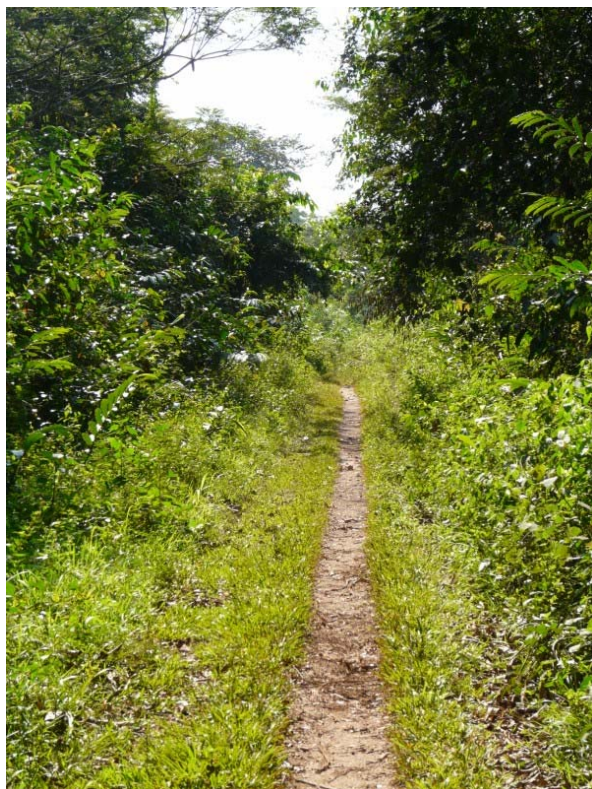
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Leverington, F, KL Costa, J Courrau, H Pavese, C Nolte, M Marr, L Coad, N Burgess, Bastian Bomhard and M Hockings (2010b) Management effectiveness evaluation in protected areas: a global study. Second edition. University of Queensland, IUCN- WCPA, TNC, WWF, St Lucia, Australia.

More information

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Financing of conservation strategies? Direction 7 of the Road map

A new publication from AfD:

Payments for Ecosystem Services From Theory to Practice – What Are the Prospects for Developing Countries?

Yann LAURANS and Schéhérazade AOUBID - Ecowhat - info@ecowhat.fr

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Abstract

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) cannot be ignored today, when considering environmental and developmental policies. However, there is a considerable lack of clarity regarding their definition, leading to a number of misconceptions, such as the belief that any environmental policy instrument involving a money transfer constitutes a PES instrument.

In order to bring more clarity to the subject, this analysis first defines the special features constituting a PES. It is an instrument which aims at protecting the environment by bringing about changes in producers' farming practices and banking on their doing so voluntarily by offering them payments. It differs from prescriptive or coercive approaches, such as regulatory instruments where producers are required to pay in order to offset any negative environmental impacts caused by their activities. The archetypal approach consists of a voluntary, contractual and bilateral agreement entered into by a group of ecosystem service (ES) beneficiaries and a group of producers. Although there are numerous examples of this approach, a great number of PES systems differ, especially when payments are not requested from ES users aware of such payments and even more so when payments arise from mandatory taxpayer contributions. These distinctions have led to defining and illustrating a 'mapping' that places the different types of PES in relation to each other on the one hand, and within the scope of environmental public policy instruments on the other.

The study shows that the attractiveness of PES systems lies in their ability to mobilize economic agents, associative intermediaries, public bodies and finances. Their main features are pragmatic – in certain circumstances, they are able to provide functional, sustainable and profitable arrangements

to partners. However, conditions for their widespread use remain problematic: dependency with regard to the State's regalia or sovereign powers; potential difficulties in overcoming the pilot project stage; the risk of numerous adverse effects, etc. Such difficulties hinder the PES system's potential to establish conditions that can effect profound environmental policy changes in Developing Countries, (DCs).

In conclusion, this study underlines the importance of PES systems, viewed as monetary transfers which form part of an already effective transfer network constituting a given area's economy, but which are far from being always consistent. In that sense, PES systems could help review the coherence of monetary transfer policies targeting environmental objectives in the perspective of effective sustainable development.

More on <http://recherche.afd.fr>

JOBS

IUCN-ESARO (Nairobi) is recruiting a **Senior Programme Officer- Protected Areas** (2 year contract)

Based in IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya, the PO will in particular coordinate and provide technical input to IUCN's protected area programs in the region, and coordinates day-to-day implementation of projects work plans, help identify and contract technical experts to implement the projects, provide administrative and logistical support to projects implementation, etc.

He (she) should have an advanced degree in natural science related to Conservation/Protected areas or related fields, at least 5 years of relevant working experience in the eastern and southern Africa region and familiarity with established and emerging protected areas and biodiversity conservation approaches and policies in the region, project management experience, including management of donor grants and donor relations, technical and financial reporting, monitoring and evaluation, experience in capacity building activities, including training on environment-related issues, demonstrated ability to work as part of a team and communicate in a cross-cultural environment, excellent verbal and communication skills in English, with ability to communicate in French and/or Portuguese as an added advantage.

Deadline: 6 July 2012

More info on www.iucn.org/involved/jobs/
Candidatures will be sent to earohr@iucn.org

Consultation and land-use planning as a tool for conservation management: an illustration of the direction 3 of the Road Map

IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: Mining and Oil/Gas Projects

The purpose of this Advice Note is to provide guidance on IUCN's position on mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation within or affecting natural and mixed World Heritage Sites.

The global importance of natural World Heritage Sites

Natural World Heritage Sites are internationally recognized as the world's most important natural areas. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ratified by 187 countries, provides a unique framework for securing the conservation of these exceptional places, recognized as being of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to humanity. World Heritage Sites include many household names of conservation such as the Serengeti, Galapagos Islands, the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef, and are often a last refuge for species threatened with extinction, such as the Mountain Gorilla, Giant Panda and Orangutan. There are more than 200 natural World Heritage Sites covering over 260 million hectares, which equates to less than 1 % of the Earth's surface and over 10% of the 130,000 protected areas worldwide. Natural World Heritage Sites represent a commitment to future generations that the international community has a duty to uphold, as embodied in Article 6(1) of the World Heritage Convention which states that "...such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate."

Mineral and oil/gas projects affecting natural World Heritage Sites

World Heritage Sites are designated as being of Outstanding Universal Value in accordance with strict criteria, conditions of integrity, and requirements for protection and management, as defined under the [Operational Guidelines](http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines)¹ to the Convention. The World Heritage Committee, which is the decision making body of the World Heritage Convention, has long held the position that mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation is

¹ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

incompatible with World Heritage status. IUCN's position is that mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation (including associated infrastructure and activities) is incompatible with the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Sites and should not be permitted within these sites. Mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation outside World Heritage Sites should not, under any circumstances, have negative impacts on their Outstanding Universal Value.

IUCN also has a clear position on mineral resources and protected areas, as defined by its Members². This position is embodied in a range of IUCN Congress Resolutions including Resolution 2.82³, approved during the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Amman, Jordan in 2000⁴ (which states that all exploration and extraction of mineral resources in protected areas corresponding to IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories I to IV should be prohibited by law, and that such projects in Category V and VI sites should undergo thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has also prepared a '*Position Statement on Mining and Associated Activities in Relation to Protected Areas*'⁵, which reflects IUCN's position.

In applying its position, IUCN considers the following points:

1. On numerous occasions, the World Heritage Committee has stated that mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation within or affecting a World Heritage Site are incompatible with its World Heritage status, and has considered that these activities can constitute a basis for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines* to the Convention. A selection of recent relevant decisions is included in Annex 1.

² IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

³ 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress Proceedings
<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/WCC-2nd-003.pdf>

⁴ The World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important environmental congress event and brings together the governmental and non-governmental members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

⁵ The WCPA Position statement on Mining can be found in Annex 1 of Document WHC-99/CONF.209/20 on World Heritage and Mining
<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/1999/whc-99-conf209-20e.pdf>

2. The Committee's position is in line with the International Council on Mining and Metals' (ICMM⁶) [International Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas](#)⁷, and the positions of industry leaders such as Shell⁸, and that of international investment companies such as JP Morgan⁹. The Committee has frequently taken these industry lead positions as benchmarks for its decisions.

3. In accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to the Convention, all development projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site (including mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation projects and associated infrastructure) should be submitted by State Parties to the World Heritage Committee before a decision on their implementation is taken.

4. All proposals for mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation (including associated infrastructure) which may affect a World Heritage Site, but are located outside its boundaries, should be subject to an appropriate and rigorous appraisal process, such as an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), prior to considering whether to grant consents and licenses. These appraisal processes should respect the highest international best-practice standards, including, but not limited to:
 - Specifically assessing the likely effects of the proposal(s) on the site's Outstanding Universal Value, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects;
 - Identifying and evaluating alternatives, to determine least damaging options;
 - Being publicly disclosed and subject to thorough public consultation; and
 - Proposing an environmental management plan detailing operating, monitoring and restoration conditions.

⁶ The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) brings together major mining companies throughout the world

⁷ <http://www.icmm.com/our-work/sustainable-development-framework/position-statements>

⁸ http://www.shell.com/home/content/environment_society/environment/biodiversity/protected_areas/

⁹ http://www.jpmorganchase.com/corporate/Corporate-Responsibility/document/JPMC_ESRA_Position.pdf

5. Boundary modifications to World Heritage Sites, as defined in the *Operational Guidelines* to the Convention, should not be proposed for the purpose of facilitating mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation projects, and/or associated infrastructure, within or affecting a site. Any proposed changes to the boundaries of a World Heritage Site should be subject to procedures at least as rigorous as those involved in the nomination of the Site, as required under the *Operational Guidelines* to the Convention.

Information on mining and oil/gas projects affecting natural World Heritage Sites

A list of all natural World Heritage Sites is available through the [UNESCO World Heritage Centre website](http://whc.unesco.org/)¹⁰ and additional information is also available on the [IUCN World Heritage Programme website](http://www.iucn.org/worldheritage/)¹¹. IUCN welcomes dialogue with all stakeholders on proposals for mineral and oil/gas exploration and exploitation projects that could potentially affect natural World Heritage Sites, including early discussion with developers and licensing authorities. Any information on mining and World Heritage is appreciated by IUCN and can be treated as confidential when required.



Examples of recent World Heritage Committee decisions on mining and oil/gas exploration and exploitation taken at its 34th session, Brasilia, 2010

Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – Decision 34 COM 7A.4

Reiterates its concern with regard to the envisaged oil prospecting projects overlapping the property, recalls its position regarding the incompatibility of oil exploration and exploitation in respect of World Heritage status, and also urges the State Party not to authorize any project of prospection or oil exploitation.

Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) - Decision 34 COM 7A.2

Reiterates its utmost concern about the granting of mining exploration licenses covering the property, urges the State Party to take the necessary steps to ensure the withdrawal of these licenses, and calls upon the holders of any concessions to respect international standards, in line with the international position statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties;

Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) – Decision 34 COM 7A.3

Notes the delay experienced by SMFG (Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée) in conducting an Environmental and Social Impact Study, due to the delay in the implementation of the mining project, and reiterates its request to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Study be conducted in accordance with the highest international standards and quantify the potential impact of planned mining on the property, in close consultation with all the stakeholders, and to submit all intermediate results to the World Heritage Committee;

Expresses its concern that the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire has not yet confirmed that all mining concessions have in fact been revoked within the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee since its 32nd session, and emphatically reiterates this request;

Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) – Decision 34 COM 7B.1

Expresses its deep concern as regards the conclusions of the World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission that considers that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is threatened by a progressive erosion of its biodiversity due to increased poaching, as well as by the negative impact of the commencement of mining activities of the GEOVIC Company, the development of forestry exploitation, and the encroachment of agriculture around the property;

Requests the State Party to review the Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIS) based on the final technical feasibility study prepared by the GEOVIC Company, and to submit an Environmental and Social Management Plan to mitigate the direct and indirect negative impacts of the mining project;

Urges the State Party to suspend the implantation work for the GEOVIC mining activity until the conclusion of the new ESIS and also requests the State Party to control the validation of these documents by the different stakeholders and to inform the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2010;

Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) – Decision 34 COM 7B.3

Also expresses its utmost concern about the weakening of the legal protection of the property by the 2009 Wildlife Act, which allows for the prospection and mining of oil, gas and uranium inside Game Reserves and reiterates that any decision to go forward with oil exploration inside the property would constitute a clear case for inscribing Selous Game Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

Also urges the State Party to enact specific legislation to prohibit the prospection and mining of oil, gas and uranium inside the Selous Game Reserve on the basis of its status as a World Heritage property;

Reiterates its request to the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of all planned activities within and in the vicinity of the property which could impact its Outstanding Universal Value, including dam and mining projects, and provide an Environmental Impact assessment before taking a decision on these projects;

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) – Decision 34 COM 7B.12

Notes with great concern that legal mining that predates the inscription of the property is taking place within the Hongshan sub-unit of the property, and that additional areas are subject to mining licenses, and further requests the State Party to take all necessary steps to ensure that mining does not take place within the boundaries of the property, and to not permit any further expansion of mining production in the property;

¹⁰ <http://whc.unesco.org/>

¹¹ <http://www.iucn.org/worldheritage/>

Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation) – Decision 34 COM 7B.25

Strongly regrets that the State Party appears to have licensed a significant open cast gold mining operation within the World Heritage property, and has also excised other areas from protected status, and *also regrets* that the State Party did not take into account the previous requests of the World Heritage Committee in taking these actions;

Strongly urges the State Party of the Russian Federation to take all necessary steps, with provincial and local government as appropriate, to immediately halt mining activities within the property;

Calls on all companies holding licenses for mining in the World Heritage property, with the support of their investors, to not proceed with mining activities, in line with the international position statement of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties, as also endorsed by the World Heritage Committee;

Alejandro de Humboldt (Cuba) – Decision 34 COM 7B.33

Notes with appreciation the confirmation provided by the State Party that at present no mining is planned in the property, but *considers* that the continued existence of mining concessions if activated would be considered a threat to the property, as per Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

Reiterates its request to the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to eliminate the mining concessions granted within the boundaries of the property (in line with the international position statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties), and those in its periphery, that could seriously and irreversibly affect its Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity, if activated;

Belize Barrier Reef System (Honduras) - Decision 34 COM 7A.13

Expresses its serious concern about oil concessions reportedly granted within the marine area of the property, notes that any decision to go forward with oil exploration would be incompatible with World Heritage status, and urges the State Party to enact legislation to prohibit oil exploration within the Belize Barrier Reef System on the basis of its status as a World Heritage property;

Request for proposals for consultancy services**Regional assessment of protected area and biodiversity management needs in eastern and southern Africa**

Launched by the European Commission, the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme is a four-year Programme implemented jointly by IUCN, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project aims at enhancing the understanding of the ecological and human factors that influence the management of protected areas and at developing a regional capacity building programme in partnerships with existing institutions. The project will also support the creation of a regional “Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity” with the right capacities and means, which will have the general mandate of ensuring the awareness and effective buy-in to the necessity to maintain efforts on biodiversity conservation of political institutions.

The IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) is currently seeking qualified consultants to carry out feasibility and capacity needs assessments to inform the implementation of BIOPAMA. The purpose of the consultancy is to carry out the following assessments: (i) **a capacity needs assessment** for protected areas management in the region and (ii) **an assessment of the options and regional priorities for establishing an “Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity”** to support protected areas and biodiversity management in the region. Separate proposals are required for carrying out each of the two assessments.

The consultant(s) will be expected to compile information mainly from existing sources supplemented by telephone interviews and limited travel to visit one or two key institutions in the region. During the assessment, the consultant(s) will be required to liaise with the JRC team (by telephone / video conference) on technical criteria relevant to the information systems for the Regional Observatory. Date of delivery of draft report: by 15th of August 2012. Delivery of final report: **31st August 2012**. Interested consultants are requested to email by **10th of July 2012** their technical and financial proposals, together with detailed CVs, to: Leo Niskanen, Technical Coordinator, Conservation Areas & Species Diversity Programme, IUCN-ESARO - email: leo.niskanen@iucn.org

For more information
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African Protected Areas & Conservation – PACO/ESARO
Coordination - Program on Conservation Areas and Species Diversity – ESARO (CASD)
Coordination - Regional Program on Protected Areas – PACO (PAPACO)
Program Officer - Protected Areas Assessment - Trainings
Program Officer - Climat - Communication
Program Officer - World Heritage
Program Officer - Conservation Territories – Support to local NGOs
Program Officer - Small Grants for Conservation (PPI) – Support to local NGOs
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