



A road map for African protected areas: act now!

Africa is a continent with a rich, unique and irreplaceable biological diversity. It contains many protected areas whose vocation is to preserve this richness, now and for the future.

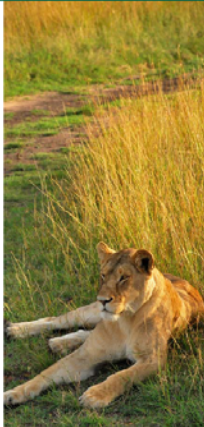
Are we succeeding?

Yes, certainly, in some places and in some countries, according to the context, actors, history, partnerships... There are some successes and encouraging initiatives, so there is hope.

No, definitely not, if we look more generally at the results of many recent analyses, and even more so if we consider the challenges that await, the first of which is the significant growth in the human population and a reduction in the area available for biodiversity and natural habitats.

What should we do?

Continue and strengthen conservation programmes and projects at all scales and of all kinds, research and other studies? Certainly. This is a very long-term task that has produced and will continue to produce, useful and necessary results. We should continue working on - what we have to do - to improve protected area management, because we need more efficient tools, more effective methods and a better understanding and evaluation of the results.



NAPA

News from African Protected Areas

Nouvelles des Aires Protégées en Afrique



N°57
October 2012



Papaco.org website is back online!

After a few weeks of "rest", the new site [papaco](http://papaco.org) is available online again. It is now organized around the **three axes** and the **nine directions** of the Road Map for African protected areas.

Simpler, more functional, it will keep us posted on the implementation of the Road map. A **database of experts, news...** and plenty of **tools** to better manage the PA on the ground ... and **much more to come!**

Your contributions, publications, experiences etc. are most welcome!



IUCN World Conservation Congress
6-15 September 2012 Jeju, Korea
www.iucn.org/congress



*Straight from the Wold Conservation Congress in Jeju...
a few IUCN press releases that concern African PA and the Road Map...*

More on www.iucn.org

1) Green light for IUCN Green List of Protected Areas (direction 9 of the road map)

09 September 2012

With several pilot projects underway, preparations for IUCN's Green List of Well-Managed Protected areas are gathering pace prior to its official launch at the next IUCN World Parks Congress to be held in Australia in 2014.

The IUCN Green List will celebrate protected area successes, acting as a benchmark for progress towards effective and equitable management and rewarding innovation, excellence and enterprise. Protected areas wishing to be included on the IUCN Green List will have to satisfy a threshold of agreed criteria, including meeting their conservation goals, achieving effective management and facilitating equitable governance.

“The IUCN Green List will make a valuable contribution to the more effective conservation of protected areas,” says Trevor Sandwith, Director of IUCN’s Global Protected Areas Programme, which is overseeing the initiative in partnership with the World Commission on Protected Areas. “The Green List will serve as a powerful motivator, inspiring protected areas to meet the standards and be shining examples of global best practice.”

Some of the advantages of inscription on the IUCN Green List will be greater international recognition for the protected area, increased political support, interest in quality tourism and stronger motivation among managers and other staff.

The initiative is currently being tested through projects with Parques Nacionales Naturales in Colombia, the Korean National Parks Service and CA/Ts (Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards), a WWF-managed tiger conservation programme in tiger range states*.

“I decided to accept the generous invitation for Colombia to be one of the countries in which this innovative initiative is developed because I find it extremely useful for our country to determine which national parks are doing a good job related to all issues on the management effectiveness of protected areas,” says Julia Miranda Londoño, Director of Parques Nacionales Naturales Colombia. “Sharing good practices is a very good way to raise the standards of management of the protected areas, which in the end will result in better nature conservation in Colombia.”

The IUCN Green List will also assist national governments and their conservation partners to meet their goals under the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Targets, particularly Target 11, which states that by 2020 at least 17% of the world’s terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas should be effectively and equitably managed and conserved.

**Kenya is currently joining the process...*

For more info on the Green List, please see the [NAPA letter n°56](#)



2) IUCN’s Red List of Ecosystems gains speed (directions 3 and 6 of the RM)

09 September 2012

From Australia to Patagonia, from coral reefs to rainforests and deserts, the new IUCN Red List of Ecosystems will assess the status of ecosystems worldwide, to identify their risks and the potential impact on both ecosystems and human wellbeing.

Modelled on the influential IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the Red List of Ecosystems will identify if an ecosystem is vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered, based on an agreed and internationally accepted set of criteria for risk assessment. In addition to providing a global standard for assessing the status of ecosystems, the outputs of the Ecosystem Red List could also be used to inform on the current and future threats to the services that such ecosystems provide, such as clean water, climate regulation and natural products.

“Natural environments are under increasing pressure from unsustainable use and other threats,” says Jon Paul Rodriguez, Leader of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management’s Ecosystems Red List Thematic Group. “Functional ecosystems are essential to our livelihoods and wellbeing. We will assess the status of marine, terrestrial, freshwater and subterranean ecosystems at local, regional and global levels. This, in turn, will help inform on the link between such systems and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. The assessment can then form the basis for concerted implementation action, so that we can manage them sustainably if their risk of collapse is low, or restore them if they are threatened and then monitor their recovery.”

The Red List of Ecosystems can help guide conservation action on the ground, including land use planning and investment priorities, by evaluating the risks of ecosystem collapse and the subsequent lost of ecosystem services. This can be a basis for landscape and economic analysis, which then forms the basis for action, leading, for example, to ecosystem restoration and improved governance.

“We envision that it could become a one-stop shop for economists, rural communities, local and national authorities, who can use the assessments of the Red List of Ecosystems to better manage the finite resources of our planet,” says Edmund Barrow,

Head of the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme.

According to IUCN, the Red List of Ecosystems will also influence the policy process of international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and guide investments for several Millennium Development Goals, such as poverty reduction and improvements in health—both dependent on healthy natural environments that provide important goods and services for human wellbeing.

The process for establishing an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems was launched at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in 2008 and since then the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management has focused on consolidating assessment criteria for categorizing ecosystems according to their risk of collapse and piloting this in different countries, such as Venezuela and Senegal. Though the process for assessing the world's ecosystems is ongoing, and regional assessments will be published as they become available, complete global coverage of all of Earth's marine, terrestrial, freshwater and subterranean ecosystems is planned for 2025.



3) Nature hotspots to get boost through joint EU initiative (directions 5 and 6 of the Road Map)

10 September 2012

Threatened natural areas in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific are set to benefit from a unique partnership IUCN, the Joint Research Centre (European Commission-JRC) and the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ)

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) is an initiative of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States funded by the European Union through its European Development Fund. It is a 20 million Euro effort to develop capacity

in the three regions for biodiversity conservation. BIOPAMA will also be supported by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries are home to extremely rich natural and human diversity, including nearly 2.2 million square kilometres of state, community managed and other protected areas. These countries are also host to 11 of 25 of the world's biodiversity hotspots and at least 220 different indigenous groups. The protection and sustainable use of these diverse regions' natural resources, however, is under threat due to lack of information and capacity to plan and effectively manage them.

BIOPAMA will address this challenge by providing skills, tools, training and information to conservation managers, policy makers, indigenous and local communities, training institutions, universities and the private sector. This will enable protected areas in these countries to be more effectively managed, while garnering the benefits from their use. BIOPAMA will contribute to improving implementation of global and national nature conservation policies in the framework of the three objectives (conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“Better conserving and valuing our biodiversity can help reduce poverty and provide benefits for local and national development,” said **Grethel Aguilar, Director of the IUCN Regional Office in Mesoamerica**, which will be helping to implement BIOPAMA's Caribbean efforts. “BIOPAMA will, for example, help provide protected area managers and conservation staff in the Caribbean with the skills, knowledge and networks they need to conserve biodiversity, in turn benefiting the region's diverse communities.”

BIOPAMA will provide technical support and advice to policy makers and protected area agencies as well as to all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, conservation observatories will be established in the regions to facilitate networking, serve as training centres, coordinate policy and develop and implement regionally tailored protected areas awareness programmes. Existing training centres will also benefit from support for improving their curricula and capacities.

BIOPAMA runs initially for four years starting in 2012. BIOPAMA has two main components – one on

protected areas implemented by IUCN and the JRC and another on access to and sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources implemented by the multi-donor Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative managed by GIZ.

4) Extinction of freshwater species in Northern Africa: a double loss (direction 8 of the RM)

10 September 2012

This is the first time that a study conducted at the species level collates and integrates information on the socio-economic value of freshwater species and the threats to those species in Northern Africa.

Freshwater ecosystems in northern Africa, like others throughout the world, support species that are of direct socio-economic importance to local communities, providing products such as food, construction and craft material, and medicines. However freshwater species in northern Africa also face some of the highest levels of threat in continental Africa, with 28% of all fishes, molluscs, crabs, dragonflies and damselflies, and aquatic plants threatened with extinction.

The findings of this study, coordinated by IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN Med) and conducted by the IUCN Global Species Programme, are most revealing. The high socio-economic value of freshwater species is clearly demonstrated: 46% of fish and 27% of plants utilized in northern Africa provide direct socio-economic benefits. Unfortunately, the freshwater species making up wetland ecosystems are also being rapidly lost through human actions with 25% of the utilized species already at risk of extinction. In relation to freshwater fishes, at least 378,000 people in Egypt depend directly on activities related to inland fisheries and/or aquaculture, an activity that generated around USD 355.7 million in 2009. In the Maghreb countries, inland fisheries and aquaculture operate at a smaller scale than in Egypt, but still provide an important input to the livelihoods of many thousands of people.

Over a quarter of the freshwater plant species native to northern Africa are used directly by people in the region, and more than 20% of these utilized species are threatened with regional extinction. The Rif mountain range and the Mediterranean coast of

Morocco, the area from Kroumiria region in Algeria to the Sejenane region in Tunisia, and the Nile Delta hold large numbers of threatened plants of socio-economic value. Moreover, 66% of the plants included in this study are Crop Wild Relatives (CWR); i.e. wild species with a close genetic similarity to cultivated crops, and as such they are of clear value to people, since they provide the genetic base upon which many commercial crops depend.

The aim of this study is to link IUCN Red List data on the extinction risk for 877 species across northern Africa with information on these freshwater species' socio-economic value, and to evaluate levels of dependence on wetland services. To do this, 646 species were selected in total, this includes all 128 native fish and 518 native wetland plants, and enables identification of those species that are both threatened and of high socio-economic importance.

“Species identified as both under threat and of high socio-economic value should be prioritised for conservation initiatives aimed at minimising or mitigating impacts on their habitat through integrated management initiatives at catchment and/or sub-catchment level” comments **Diego Juffe-Bignoli** from the IUCN Global Species Programme's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit and coordinator of the publication.

“This report clearly demonstrates the strong synergies between targets for the conservation of biodiversity and targets for the protection of sustainable livelihoods based on use of natural resources” comments **William Darwall**, Manager of IUCN Global Species Programme's Freshwater Unit...

5) The 100 most threatened species. Are they priceless or worthless? (direction 2 of the RM)

11 September 2012

Tarzan's Chameleon, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth have all topped a new list of the species closest to extinction released by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and IUCN.

For the first time ever, more than 8,000 scientists from the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC) have come together to identify 100 of the most threatened animals, plants and fungi on the planet.

But conservationists fear they'll be allowed to die out because none of these species provide humans with obvious benefits.

"The donor community and conservation movement are leaning increasingly towards a 'what can nature do for us' approach, where species and wild habitats are valued and prioritized according to the services they provide for people," **says Professor Jonathan Baillie, ZSL's Director of Conservation.** "This has made it increasingly difficult for conservationists to protect the most threatened species on the planet. We have an important moral and ethical decision to make: Do these species have a right to survive or do we have a right to drive them to extinction?"

The report, called *Priceless or Worthless?*, was presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The publication hopes to push the conservation of 'worthless' creatures up the agenda that is set by NGOs from around the globe.

"All the species listed are unique and irreplaceable. If they vanish, no amount of money can bring them back," **says Ellen Butcher, ZSL, co-author of the report.** "However, if we take immediate action we can give them a fighting chance for survival. But this requires society to support the moral and ethical position that all species have an inherent right to exist."

Their declines have mainly been caused by humans, but in almost all cases scientists believe their extinction can still be avoided if conservation efforts are specifically focused. Conservation actions deliver results with many species such as Przewalski's Horse (*Equus ferus*) and Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) have being saved from extinction.

The 100 species, from 48 different countries are first in line to disappear completely if nothing is done to protect them. The pygmy three-toed sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) is one of the animals facing a bleak future. Escudo Island, 17km off the coast of Panama, is the only place in the world where these tiny sloths are found. At half the size of their mainland cousins, and weighing roughly the same as a newborn baby, pygmy sloths are the smallest and slowest sloths in the world and remain Critically Endangered.

Similarly, the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) is one of the most threatened mammals in Southeast Asia. Known as the Asian unicorn because of its rarity, the population of these antelope may be down to few

tens of individuals today. In the UK, a small area in Wales is the only place in the world where the brightly coloured willow blister (*Cryptomyces maximus*) is found. Populations of the spore-shooting fungi are currently in decline, and a single catastrophic event could cause their total destruction.

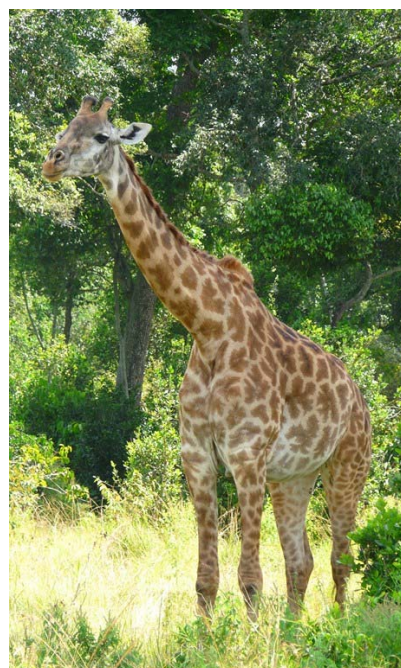
"If we believe these species are priceless it is time for the conservation community, government and industry to step up to the plate and show future generations that we value all life," **adds Professor Baillie**

Whilst monetising nature remains a worthwhile necessity for conservationists, the wider value of species on the brink of extinction should not be disregarded, the report states.

"All species have a value to nature and thus in turn to humans," **says Dr Simon Stuart, Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission.** "Although the value of some species may not appear obvious at first, all species in fact contribute in their way to the healthy functioning of the planet."

SOS – Save Our Species, is a global partnership initiated by leading conservation organizations aimed at mobilizing new sources of funding for threatened species, their habitats and the people depending on them. By joining SOS, governments, foundations, companies, wealthy individuals can join forces and ensure that species featured in this book prosper again.

More on www.iucn.org



Extracts from the IUCN position paper on protected areas and the Aichi targets for the eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October, 2012

Introduction

...protected area systems that are effectively planned, managed, governed and integrated will contribute to people's livelihoods and well-being, and will provide ecosystem services essential for water supply, food production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public health and reduction of the risk and impacts of natural disasters.

...IUCN is developing and providing guidance to protected area agencies and managers regarding the key skills and processes needed for enhanced implementation (*of the Program of Work for protected Areas PoWPA*). For example, IUCN together with its expert Commissions and other organizations, has just completed new guidance on Ecological Restoration in Protected Areas and on Protected Areas Governance in response to requests by Parties for advice on implementation. Several new initiatives are in progress...

...(Definition of a Protected Area)

Target 11, involving protected areas, invokes the definition of a protected area contained in the text of the CBD, as a "geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives". IUCN's definition includes specific safeguards as: "*A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*" (Dudley, 2008).

This definition states clearly that nature conservation is the primary role of protected areas as recognized by IUCN. For IUCN, only those areas where a principal purpose is to conserve nature can be considered protected areas. This can include many areas with other goals, at the same level, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation will be the priority. IUCN believes this definition to be consistent with the CBD definition and with the intent of Target 11.

IUCN believes this to be an important consideration in the application of Target 11, so that areas that contribute to the achievement of the percentage target, should in all cases either meet (i.e. be existing protected areas) or have the potential to meet the definition of a protected area. The 6 IUCN protected area management categories and 4 governance types provide broad scope for the recognition of a wide variety of forms of protected areas as contemplated in Target 11. This includes areas under governance types that are not currently legally recognized by Parties in their national legislation, e.g. certain Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories, Locally Managed Marine Areas, etc. IUCN maintains that those "other effective area-based conservation measures" that contribute to Target 11 should be subject to evaluation as to whether they meet the effectiveness criteria for protected areas and therefore whether they qualify as "effective" in conserving biodiversity. If biodiversity is not at least one of the principal considerations, with adequate safeguards for their long-term persistence, they should not be factored into the % target, and their role may be limited to other qualitative functions, e.g. in contributing to the connectivity of the protected area system contemplated in Target 11.

Aichi targets...

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 landscapes and seascapes.

IUCN thus recommends COP11 to call on the Secretariat, supported by IUCN, to provide Parties with specific guidance regarding the kinds of areas

that count towards the achievement of the area coverage element of Target 11. This should clarify that areas that do not, and will never qualify as protected areas, should not be included. Specific guidance should be provided to Parties to ensure that areas that meet the requirements, but which are not currently recognized or reported, are recognized appropriately, including those “other effective area-based conservation measures” that qualify.

Complementary achievement of the terms of Target 11

The many terms contained in Target 11, require that both quantitative (e.g. coverage, well-connected)) and qualitative terms (e.g. effectively and equitably managed) must be achieved as outlined in the Executive Secretary’s Note. It is important to emphasize that even though these terms can be considered separately in terms of their interpretation and measurement, the achievement of Target 11 requires that these terms are met in a complementary and complete way.

IUCN recommends COP11 to call on Parties, when considering the application of the terms of Target 11, not to restrict their interpretation only to the spatial indicators of percentage coverage, representativity and connectivity, but also to the qualifying terms for “effectively and equitably managed” and that these are taken into account in the design, implementation and reporting on the achievement of Target 11.

Well-connected systems of protected areas

Target 11 calls for protected area systems to be well-connected. Achieving connectivity requires the maintenance and expansion of sufficiently large core areas and the management of intervening areas to maintain functional connectivity. Achieving connectivity requires the involvement of a diversity of stakeholders, rightholders, including women and natural resource managers in the intervening landscape and seascape in new and equitable governance arrangements. It also demands the development and application of new skills and approaches to manage multiple agency and stakeholder processes, as well as land-use planning, regulatory and management arrangements. The attainment of targets for connectivity requires the development of a standard measure for ecological connectivity within protected area systems in support of Target 11.

IUCN recommends that COP11 recommend that

Parties incorporate connectivity into protected area system planning and management, by maintaining and expanding core areas, establishing linkages through working landscapes, and introducing natural resource management governance, regulatory and management practices in the wider landscape and seascape that contribute towards functional connectivity...



...Meeting standards for management effectiveness

The Executive Secretary notes the priority accorded by Parties to the mobilization of actions to conduct management effectiveness assessments for protected areas. The process of assessment is crucial to an understanding of whether appropriate measures are in place for achievement protected area outcomes, but the assessment process itself does not measure whether the objectives of protected areas are meeting minimum standards. IUCN is currently working with certain Parties to pilot and test an approach for determining and measuring protected area standards through what has been termed “*The Green List of Well-Managed Protected Areas*”. The intention is that areas that have been subject to a management effectiveness assessment could be further evaluated in accordance with a set of internationally agreed standards, effectively managed areas would be accorded Green List status, and Parties would be encouraged to seek this status, cumulatively including more protected areas onto the International Green List of Well-Managed Protected Areas...

...IUCN recommends COP11 to urge Parties, when fulfilling their targets, to increase the percentage of protected areas subject to management effectiveness assessment, to consider piloting and testing approaches to meeting an international minimum standard for well-managed protected areas (i.e. the IUCN Green List of Well-Managed Protected Areas currently being developed).

(Enabling equitable governance)

IUCN has responded to the request by Parties to the CBD Secretariat to compile guidance on Governance Assessment for Protected Area systems. This guidance has been published in IUCN WCPA's Best Practice Guidelines for Protected Area Managers Series, in conjunction with the CBD Secretariat, GIZ and the ICCA Consortium. The guide sets out a process for planning and undertaking governance assessments and evaluation for national systems of protected areas, and includes resources for those involved to be able to facilitate these exercises through multi-stakeholder committees and a participatory approach...

...There is now a need for a specific programme to use the assessment methodology in the national context, to test and refine the approach and to build capacity among all concerned to undertake this work with integrity and insight.

There is also a need to further develop the methods to undertake governance assessments at the level of individual protected areas, and to define parameters for inclusion in management effectiveness assessment and in the IUCN Green List of Well-Managed Protected Areas.

IUCN thus calls on COP11 to encourage Parties to actively apply the IUCN WCPA Guidelines on Assessing Protected Area Governance, through convening national protected area governance assessments and reporting on these in due course. In particular, donor organizations are encouraged to support projects in a diversity of regional and national situations, that include protected area governance assessment, and to make provision for the exchange of information and lessons learned so that the methods and resources can be enhanced and expanded.

(Developing professional capacity)

A priority for most Parties involved in implementing the PoWPA and meeting the Aichi Targets is to develop institutional and individual capacity to undertake these activities in a professional and accountable manner. These capacities include legal and policy enabling measures, organizational functions, and a wide range of individual professional skills. Most efforts to develop capacity have been at the level of education and training for protected area professionals...

... There remain as yet no internationally recognized curriculum and competence standards for protected

area professionals that would lead to accredited qualifications to meet the skills requirements for undertaking the PoWPA. IUCN WCPA is currently working on the development of a framework curriculum and accredited competence standards for use internationally...



...In this regard, IUCN calls on COP11 to recommend that Parties, while continuing to support capacity development on previously identified priorities, also contemplate cooperation, including with IUCN, to outline an internationally recognized and accredited curriculum, competence and qualifications standard that can be offered to educational and training institutions...

The full paper is posted on
www.iucn.org

For **more information**, please contact:
Mr. Trevor Sandwith
Director Global Protected Areas Programme
trevor.sandwith@iucn.org

Dr. Jane Smart
Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group
Head, Species Programme
jane.smart@iucn.org

Call for Applications 2013 Conservation Leadership Programme Awards

Deadline: 9th November 2012

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) aims to contribute to long-term conservation in priority areas by encouraging and engaging potential leaders in biodiversity conservation and providing opportunities for individuals to gain practical skills and experience. This partnership initiative, including BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, and Wildlife Conservation Society, has been helping young conservationists across the world to achieve their goals for over 25 years. The Programme currently works toward its aims by offering awards, training and mentoring support. CLP invites applications from early-career conservationists living and working in Africa, Asia, East/South-East Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. Countries designated by the World Bank as high-income economies are not eligible for CLP support. There are three awards categories:

- **Future Conservationist Awards:** Approximately 20 awards of up to \$15,000 each
- **Conservation Follow-up Awards:** Approximately 6 awards of up to \$25,000 each (available only to previous CLP award winners)
- **Conservation Leadership Awards:** 1 award of \$50,000 each (available only to previous CLP award winners)

The application deadline for full proposals is **9th November 2012 for ALL applications**. Those applying for a **Conservation Follow-up** or **Conservation Leadership Award** must submit a logical framework to the CLP by Monday, **1st October 2012**. Please visit the CLP [website](http://www.ConservationLeadershipProgramme.org) (www.ConservationLeadershipProgramme.org) for detailed eligibility criteria, guidelines and an application form. Have additional questions or seeking advice? Email clp@birdlife.org for more information.

About governance (directions 1 and 3 of the Road map):

Going once, going twice..... The great green land grab

By *Terry Sunderland*

Principal Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

“Buy land, they're not making it anymore!” Mark Twain's wry observation on the North American land acquisition boom of the late 19th century remains just as pertinent today as it was then. More than a

100 years later, the sheer scale of contemporary global land purchases and its appropriation from local stakeholders is unprecedented since the colonial land acquisitions of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Stimulated by a global spike in food prices toward the end of the first decade of 2000, a number of affluent nation states reliant on food imports began to buy up large areas of land in the developing world for agricultural production to achieve their own food security. Added to this the emergence of the biofuel market, plantation-based forestry and the increasing expansion of commodity crops such as oil palm, vast areas of the global forest estate have been transferred from state control to private ownership, often taking with it valuable forest resources in the process, notably timber.

The economic drivers of such land conversion have been well documented. Land-rich governments stand to profit from the expansion of agricultural production, despite the immediate impact on their own rural populations, who often do not benefit from such economic development and face annexation from their customary lands.

While the phenomenon of “land grabbing”, as it has become known, continues unabated, an increasingly subtle and arguably more ethically questionable movement has gathered momentum. Large tracts of land across the globe are being appropriated by the environmental agenda, a process that has found considerable traction with influential international conservation NGO's. The *Guardian* journalist John Vidal described this new approach to conservation as “green grabbing”.

Such environmentally driven appropriation is not a new concept. In the late 1980's the then Earthlife fund was offering private buyers the opportunity to purchase an acre of the newly promulgated Korup National Park in Cameroon to secure its long-term preservation. The scheme failed for a number of reasons, but despite early limitations the commodification of nature that such an initiative represents has become an increasingly pervasive conservation approach.

Witness, for example, the growth of portals such as the Ecosystems Marketplace, among others, who advocate that markets for ecosystem services provided by nature will become fully integrated into our current economic systems. And as John Vidal reported, buying land for conservation has become

the preserve of the wealthy, looking for an exclusive and seemingly ethical investment.

In a summary paper in a recent special issue of the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, James Fairhead and colleagues catalogue the increasing prevalence of “green grabbing” and how the environmental sector is influencing how nature is both perceived and managed. They provide an insightful analysis of just how far the environmental sector has gone in embracing the market economy, be it for carbon, biodiversity or ecosystem services.

Fairhead and colleagues argue that the commoditization of nature has reflected a global trend towards neoliberalism where the market defines and arguably dictates what we should value and what we should not. To that end, payments for environmental services schemes (PES), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and other finance-driven initiatives have become mainstreamed into the conservation agenda.

Increasingly, nature itself has become a source of profit, bringing together the strange bedfellows of corporations, land-rich governments, the banking industry, international conservation NGO’s and the donor community. Given the recent loss of confidence in the global financial industry and the resultant global recession, it is perhaps surprising that our shared environmental concerns are being influenced by the need to integrate markets for carbon and other natural commodities into our mainstream economies. It would seem money talks. But does it?

Unfortunately, finance-based approaches, no matter how well intentioned, tend to ride roughshod over the rights of local people. Appropriation of land without full cognizance of the customary tenure that rural dwellers have enjoyed for centuries will undoubtedly have major negative livelihood implications. Although rights-based approaches to “doing the least harm” with respect to local people are conceptually well advanced, the reality on the ground is often very different. Hence the well documented resistance to PES/REDD initiatives by indigenous people who are seeing their land rights infringed upon and livelihoods deleteriously affected.

The primary outcome of Rio +20, where “green economies” were perceived as central to the sustainable development agenda, has compounded the perception that market-based solutions are the overriding panacea to the world’s environmental problems. As a result, some argue that the intrinsic

value of nature and respect for local livelihoods and knowledge systems have been lost to increasingly influential market-based approaches.

The global market-focused system has been arguably responsible for overseeing the transformation of almost every ecosystem and biome on earth. To then turn to the same source to provide sustainable and equitable solutions to our environmental problems therefore seems perhaps questionable. Millions of soon-to-be landless people would surely concur.

More information

See www.cifor.org for more info on this article and other useful links.

For further reading of “green grabbing” please refer to the following link: www.tni.org/interview/green-grabbing



Good to know!

Charlotte Karibuhoye (WCPA vice-chair for West and Central Africa) calls our attention on some recent publications that may be of interest...

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study is a major international initiative to draw attention on the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and to bring together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward. Several reports were produced within the framework of TEEB and are available for free in English and French, including:

- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Local and Regional Policy Makers**

<http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEB%20for%20Local%20and%20Regional%20Policy/TEEB%20Loc%20Pol%20QG%20English.pdf>

- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Policy Makers Report**

<http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEB%20for%20National%20Policy%20Makers/TEEB%20for%20Policy%20exec%20English.pdf>

- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Climate Issues update**

<http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEB-ClimateIssuesUpdate-Sep2009.pdf>

The ACCC project (UNESCO) has produced a guidebook on options for **climate change adaptation for local decision makers**.

This document can be downloaded at:

<http://www.free-it->

[foundation.org/accc/kb/documents/2012/09/14/134/guidebook-adaptation-options-local-decision-makers](http://www.free-it-foundation.org/accc/kb/documents/2012/09/14/134/guidebook-adaptation-options-local-decision-makers)



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



CEPF invests in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot

This month sees the start of a new regional-scale funding opportunity for conservation initiatives in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. Over the next 5 years, the newly-appointed Regional Implementation Team will support civil society to apply innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated and underfunded protected areas, key biodiversity areas and priority corridors.

A HOTSPOT UNDER THREAT

The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot stretches over a curving arc of widely scattered but biogeographically-similar mountains from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and ranks among the world's most biologically rich yet threatened areas.

Characterized by a series of montane "islands" (including the highest peaks in Africa and Arabia) and extensive plateaus, it extends over 44 degrees of latitude and is bisected by the equator, covering more than 1 million square kilometres in 16 countries.

Given this scale, it is unsurprising that the hotspot contains such a diversity of ecosystems: broadleaf, pine and bamboo forests; forest-grassland mosaics; grasslands, bushlands and high altitude wetlands; and freshwater lakes and rivers. As a result the area is home to a wide range of vegetation types, with an estimated 7,600 plant species, of which at least 2,350 are endemic to the region. The diversity of birds currently measures 1,300 species, including 157 endemics, whilst new species continue to be discovered. Mammal fauna of the Eastern Afromontane includes nearly 500 species, of which 100 are endemic. There are also 350 species of reptiles of which 90 species (mostly chameleons) are

endemic, and a further 323 amphibian species, including more than 100 endemics.

The countries of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, are characterized by high poverty and rapid population growth. The result is agriculture encroaching into marginal, fragile high montane ecosystems, and increasing deforestation for fuelwood to meet growing energy needs. Degradation, habitat fragmentation and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources are the most important threats to biodiversity in the region.

In response, national governments are pursuing ambitious strategies that include large infrastructure projects—dams in particular—and increasing exploitation of oil and mineral resources. Some countries are being lured into selling large tracts of land to foreign agribusiness investments.

There is a significant risk that the pursuit of these economic activities will incur high biodiversity and livelihoods costs, if efforts are not taken reduce or mitigate negative impacts. Only rarely are ecosystem services recognized in the development agenda for their contribution to national wealth and potential long-term economic growth. In this hotspot, development and conservation are inextricably linked.

CEPF STEPS IN

Established in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global leader in enabling civil society to participate in and influence the conservation of some of the world's most critical ecosystems. CEPF is a joint initiative of *l'Agence Française de Développement* (AFD), Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CEPF is unique among funding mechanisms in that it focuses on high-priority biological areas rather than political boundaries and examines conservation threats on a landscape scale. From this perspective, CEPF seeks to identify and support a regional, rather than a national, approach to achieving conservation outcomes and engages a wide range of public and private institutions to address conservation needs through coordinated regional efforts.

DEFINING THE INVESTMENT NICHE

The unique biological attributes, and economic and cultural importance, of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot, led the CEPF to prioritize the region and develop an investment strategy. The strategy, detailed in the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot ecosystem profile, will guide CEPF's \$9.8 million investment in the region, to be disbursed via



grants to civil society groups including community associations and other nongovernmental organizations.

The ecosystem profile was developed through the input of more than 120 organizations based in or working in the region. Much more than CEPF's strategy, it offers a blueprint for future conservation efforts in the Eastern Afrotropical biodiversity hotspot and cooperation within the donor community.

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) - sites important for the conservation of globally threatened species, restricted-range species, biome-restricted species assemblages or congregatory species—were identified as targets for achieving site-level conservation outcomes in the hotspot. A total of 261 terrestrial and 49 freshwater KBAs, within 14 biodiversity conservation corridors, were identified. The terrestrial areas cover close to 300,000 square kilometers, or approximately 29 percent of the land area of the hotspot. 192 of the terrestrial KBAs are each less than 100,000 hectares, and most fall outside the formal protected area network, highlighting the issues of habitat fragmentation and the lack of formal protection. To align the level of funding with the geographical scope, 36 of the terrestrial sites, five freshwater sites and six corridors were designated as priorities, reflecting their particular importance for biodiversity, and the magnitude of threats they face. The profile calls for investments that address improvements in ecosystem services and human well-being at the corridor level.

INVESTING IN THE HOTSPOT

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) chosen by CEPF to implement the investment is a consortium of BirdLife International, IUCN and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society. With offices in Kenya, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Jordan, and a network of partners throughout the hotspot, the RIT possesses the local knowledge and on-the-ground presence to orchestrate this far-reaching strategy. The RIT will disburse funds through small and large grants programs, supporting a portfolio of projects



KBAs and corridors.

that address the Strategic Directions identified in the ecosystem profile:

- 1) Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
- 2) Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
- 3) Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority

FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The first call for proposals from this new investment was announced at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in Jeju, South Korea, September 2012. It invites civil society organisations throughout the hotspot to submit proposals that address Strategic Direction 2 (above), through the following Investment Priorities:

- 2.1) Increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for terrestrial priority KBAs.
- 2.2) Support the role of civil society organizations in the application of site safeguard policies and procedures including the strengthening of environmental impact assessment implementation in order to address ongoing and emerging threats to priority KBAs, including freshwater KBAs.
- 2.3) Advance the identification and prioritization of KBAs in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Future calls for proposals, with different thematic and geographical focuses, will be announced in due course.

FURTHER DETAILS

For more information: www.cepf.net.
Contact: CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of International Conservation

Wildlife Without Borders Programs

Notice of Funding Opportunity - Congo Basin

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has a funding and partnership opportunity available to enhance wildlife conservation in Africa's Congo Basin through the USFWS Wildlife Without Borders - Africa program.

USFWS works closely with national governments, U.S. agencies, and a range of other partners to ensure a strategic, results-based approach to wildlife conservation. In collaboration with the U.S. Agency of International Development's (USAID) Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), the USFWS is providing a new funding opportunity to improve protected area management, reduce threats to key wildlife populations, and develop the requisite individual and institutional conservation capacity to undertake long-term conservation programs.

The priorities outlined in this Notice of Funding Availability were derived from meetings with many of

our conservation partners over the past several years as well as discussions with USAID on how best to complement the existing activities of CARPE.

It is anticipated that grant funding through the USFWS Multinational Species Conservation Funds will continue to provide support on a competitive basis to Congo Basin countries and corresponding landscapes not covered in the priorities outlined below.

The FY 2013 call for applications will be limited to the following geographic and thematic areas:

1. Gabon
2. Sangha Trinational and Odzala National Park
3. Virunga National Park
4. Tsuapa-Lomani-Lualaba (TL2)
5. Maringa-Lopori-Wamba
6. Wildlife Law Enforcement
7. Capacity Building
8. Species Conservation and Applied Biodiversity Research

In addition to the call for proposals above, two cooperative agreements will be developed with government agencies in Gabon and Cameroon to raise national and regional conservation capacity.

Application instructions can be found:
<http://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/africa/index.html>

Information in **French** is available for how to apply:
<http://www.fws.gov/international/grants-and-reporting/how-to-apply-french.html>

Deadline: November 1, 2012

NAPA – CONTACTS

www.papaco.org and www.iucn.org

geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org	Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation – PAPACO <i>IUCN-ESARO (East/South Africa)</i>
leo.niskanen@iucn.org	Coordination - Program on Conservation Areas and Species Diversity – CASD
christine.mentzel@iucn.org	Program Officer – BIOPAMA – World Heritage <i>IUCN-PACO (West/Central Africa)</i>
bora.masumbuko@iucn.org	Coordination – program on Protected Areas - Climate
beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org	Program Officer - Protected Areas Assessment - Trainings
florence.mazzocchetti@iucn.org	Program Officer – Forest protected Areas – Congo basin
youssouph.diedhiou@iucn.org	Program Officer - World Heritage
lacina.kone@iucn.org	Program Officer - Conservation Territories – Support to local NGOs
thomas.bacha@iucn.org	Program Officer - Small Grants for Conservation (PPI) – Support to local NGOs
arsene.sanon@iucn.org	Program Officer - Small Grants for Conservation (PPI) – Support to local NGOs

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