



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.

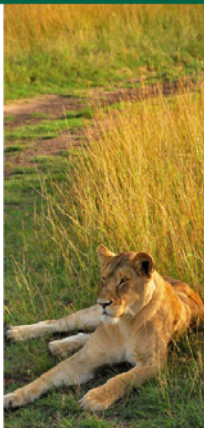
Are we succeeding?

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

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Edito

By Geoffroy Mauvais, coordinator of the Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation, IUCN

A new year begins ... what are we going to do that's new?

And if for once we did nothing new?!

The year 2012 was full of conferences and conventions (including IUCN WCC in Korea), meetings at different scales. Many opportunities to reflect, discuss, share ... a lot of discussions, ambitions and projects.

But what about action? Did we move from words to deeds, from ideas to achievements? Did we make progress on the goals we set for ourselves in 1992, in Rio, to conserve biodiversity, to value it more highly and equitably share the benefits it provides? Everyone will have an answer or a point of view. Certainly a lot has been done, and there is still a lot to do. Some progress, some failures, just like every year.

So, 2013?

This year will be quieter on the discussion front. So let's take advantage, because 2014 will not be, with a minimum of a new CBD CoP and of course the World Parks Congress in Australia. So let us try to realise some promises before making any new ones...

Let's start by strengthening the governance of our protected areas because it remains fragile and often random. Nowhere should it be possible for one player able to decide everything. Certainly, it is reassuring to have only one partner, and this is sometimes effective, but it is always dangerous and ultimately ... Let us dare to consult, to be open, let us dare to confront ideas, instead of individuals. Risky? Yes of course. Because in seeking to agree, we risk agreeing on only the minimum. Because the most robust and ambitious positions for biodiversity may find themselves weakened. Because the fundamentals of conservation will be exposed. But can we really keep on believing that by speaking to no one, the debate is closed? It will just take place elsewhere. And without us. This is the eternal debate about the rationale for Protected Areas: protected for or against whom? Both Captain, is the answer! There is no shame in considering "nature conservation" as a priority - that is the very function of our PAs. That is where we need to preserve towards and against everything to avoid losing our biodiversity, and let us have the courage to do it. It is now more urgent than ever. But what was possible yesterday no longer is today. The decisions we make about these territories should be explained, understood, accepted in the absence of support. Those whom they impact need to know the meaning, those who decide must understand the consequences, those who apply them must know their responsibilities. On the other hand, wherever options are available and where conservation can take different routes, we must agree choices that are sustainable and more legitimate. Open the decision-making space, invite a wide range of actors, gather skills. Finish with citadels of specialists and give up the space to citizens. Because it is they who will ultimately be able

to defend their heritage, will ensure that those in charge do their job, that those who make decisions, do so in the common interest. In the "Roadmap for protected areas in Africa" that is what we called **sound governance**, which is based on the sharing of knowledge, on good will and on individual responsibility. Without being naive, but with the hope that by acting together people can become better than individuals. Success is not certain, but failure is not guaranteed. Let us dare.

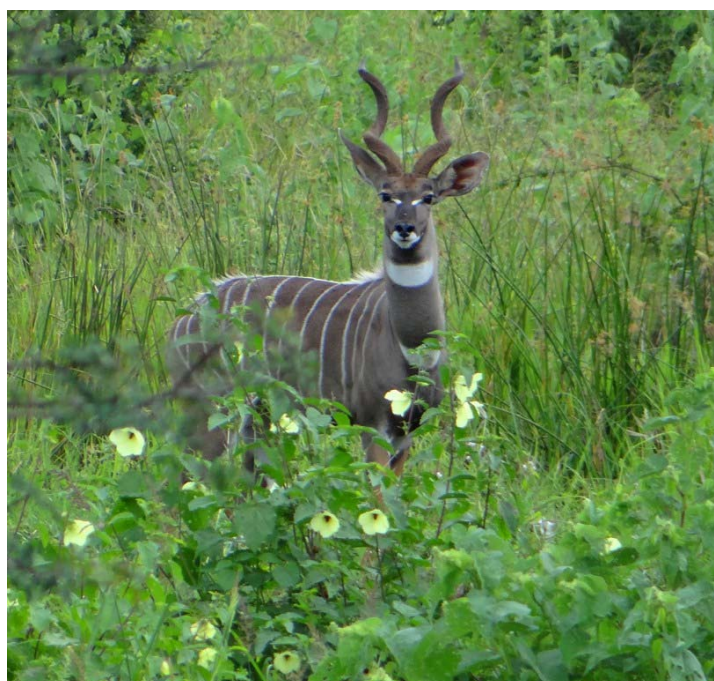
Next, let us work again and always on management. It is a never-ending story, there are certainly better and more things to do, and always young people to train. This is a less controversial area than governance, which makes those people who believe they lose power as soon as one talks about it so afraid. But it is an essential line of work. There are still too many places where we work routinely with stale techniques with no real purpose, without ambition, without evaluation, without results and without impact (except a slow deterioration in the situation ...). Our assessments in recent years have clearly shown this, unfortunately. But it can change very quickly. Clarify approaches, explain standards, optimize methods, adapt techniques to places, abilities, and needs. Identify the values that we are preserving, strengthen monitoring of them, assess the results of our actions, measure the impacts. Understand our failures, identify successes, explain the dangers. Recognize good actors, reward them, improve others, compel and punish those who fail. In a word, professionalize "the pipeline", whoever those responsible may be. Thanks to the work of the entire conservation community, notably CMAP, all the tools (or almost all) are now available. They are available online and no-one now has an excuse for not knowing them or not using them. Adapted or adaptable, theoretical or practical, targeted or general, they cover all the fields of PA "management" and their adoption and implementation will make us forget amateurism. It is the responsibility of each individual to progress, of every manager to motivate his staff, of every "minister" to ensure that this happens. Finish with "because I am where I am, that is what I deserve" and move to "to get there, I have to earn it": this is what the roadmap calls **efficient protected areas**. Take an interest in what is published, in new developments, experiments conducted elsewhere, remain curious, engage in conservation and do everything to be its best advocate. Is it asking too much?

Finally, let's build the future. Not in theory, not on paper, but just make sure that what we sow today

will sprout tomorrow and flower the day after. We have to work on governance and management with the aim of building robust, sustainable systems that are resistant to pressure, capable of adaptation and flexible changes too. We need to change our clock and give this some time because nothing good is built too quickly and it is no use creating new projects when those in progress have not even had time to blossom, and from which we have learned nothing. Give our systems more resilience (a buzzword). Less dependence on the vagaries of national budgets, less influenced by the whims of public aid, less waste in the use of resources, less time and energy lost in paperwork. Innovate, diversify funding sources, multiply partnerships, open the doors of the private sector, and invent other ways. And let us recognize successes, not those of one day, but those that are mature, produced results, thoughtful, and let's inscribe them in the Green List of well managed protected areas. This is what the roadmap lists under the name **"sustainable protected areas"**, those that will survive difficult times and serve as examples for the future.

Governance, management and sustainability: these are the three axes of our roadmap. Prepared in 2011 (see the report of the Weotenga meeting www.papaco.org, under the heading *studies*), edited in 2012 (see NAPA newsletters 53 to 56) and that has been implemented in all our actions. So let's be bold in 2013 ... let us continue!

Best wishes!



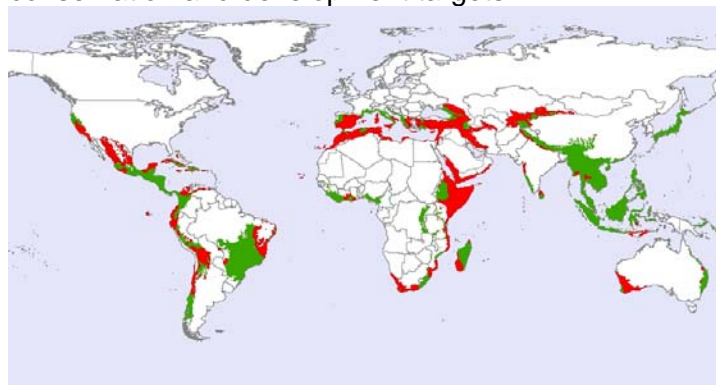
Lesser Koudou – Meru National Park – Kenya

Conserving Dryland Biodiversity

Book Review

By Jonathan Davies, Coordinator, Global Dryland Initiative – IUCN

Dryland biodiversity is of tremendous global importance, being central to the well-being and development of millions of people in developing countries. In June 2012, at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (or “Rio+20”), global leaders from governments and civil society reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity and recognised the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems. Although drylands were implicitly recognised, there continues to be inadequate attention to this major biome that covers such a vast part of our world’s terrestrial surface. Yet, as this book conveys, conservation and sustainable management of drylands biodiversity offers a viable pathway to deliver international conservation and development targets.



Global 200 list of ecoregions identified as priorities for conservation, with drylands in red

This book provides the first comprehensive analysis of dryland biodiversity that is of global importance and significance. Many people in the drylands pursue livelihoods that conserve biological diversity in innovative ways, and often with little recognition. Farmers in the Sahel for instance practice cultivation and agro-forestry techniques that not only improve productivity and strengthen resilience, but also provide family income and numerous environmental benefits. Mobile pastoralists in many dryland regions maintain herding strategies that mimic nature, thereby promoting ecosystem functions that not only underpin their livelihood but also provide global environmental benefits like carbon sequestration and species conservation.

The publication *Conserving Dryland Biodiversity* is intended to raise awareness amongst all stakeholders and galvanise wider action to boost

drylands conservation and development. It is a call to action as well as a guide to how dryland conservation and development can be equitably pursued. The book is designed to inform and remind us of the beauty of dryland biodiversity and its intrinsic and instrumental value. It demonstrates the mutual dependency of dryland biological and cultural diversity. The book includes new analyses of drylands biodiversity and an overview of approaches that promote sustainable development as well as conservation goals. It strongly underlines the importance of indigenous knowledge and culture to dryland conservation, and demonstrates an unrivalled opportunity for sustainable growth and biodiversity protection. The commitment of global leaders cannot be translated into reality if the drylands are neglected or continue to be misunderstood. If historic underinvestment in the drylands is addressed and knowledge gaps are closed then dryland conservation will enable us to greatly exceed our global expectations.

The Richness of Dryland Biodiversity

Water is an essential ingredient for life on Earth and its scarcity drives extraordinary biological, and often cultural, diversification. Drylands are defined by water scarcity and characterised by seasonal climatic extremes and unpredictable rainfall patterns. Yet despite their relative levels of aridity, drylands contain a great variety of biodiversity, much of which is highly adapted to dryland ecology. As a result there are many animal and plant species and habitats found only in drylands: some semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas are among the most biodiverse regions in the world.

Diversity is also great within drylands, for example between areas of different aridity, temperature or altitude. Species have adapted to these factors in many unique ways creating a variety of habitats that are essential to the survival of species as well as to the livelihoods of people. Wetlands, forests, mountains and other habitat types provide vital resource patches within the drylands. Species richness is generally lower in the drylands than in tropical forests but within-species diversity may be higher due to this diversity of habitats and the isolation of populations. Some drylands, however, such as North America’s tall grass prairie, are among the most productive vegetation types in the world.

Biodiversity is vital to the livelihoods of many dryland inhabitants playing a central role in traditional risk management strategies, supporting food production and providing a multitude of other services. Dryland

biodiversity also provides significant global economic values through the provision of ecosystem services and biodiversity products. Many cultivated plants and livestock breeds originate in drylands, providing a genetic reservoir whose importance is increasing as climate change drives the demand for new adaptations and extinctions of wild breeds. However, many dryland ecosystem services cannot be quantified or valued in monetary terms, despite providing some of the most important motives for conservation. These services such as cultural identity and spirituality are central to dryland cultures and can be integral to the protection of dryland ecosystems. There has been an observable correlation between land degradation and cultural degradation in drylands demonstrating their interconnectedness.

Managing and Conserving Dryland Biodiversity

Although the conservation status of dryland biodiversity is not well monitored, many known drivers of biodiversity loss are present in the drylands. These drivers include rapid demographic shifts and urbanisation, agricultural expansion, land use change, weakening of governance arrangements and the introduction and spread of alien invasive species. Accelerating dryland development is anticipated to increase the rate of biodiversity loss. The combination of habitat loss and fragmentation will reduce the opportunities for dryland biodiversity to adapt and survive, with the additional impacts of climate change further exacerbating the problem. Despite approximately 9% of drylands receiving formal protection, the protected areas are not representative of all the dryland subtypes. For example, deserts are disproportionately represented whilst temperate grasslands have amongst the lowest level of protection of all biomes at 4-5%. To some extent this is because traditionally, areas with the lowest economic value were the ones designated as protected areas. Nevertheless, large areas of drylands are protected informally by the communities that inhabit the area, either consciously (for example as sacred sites) or as a by-product of sustainable management practices that evolved through generations (for example as seasonal grazing reserves). This indigenous protection is seldom recognised by government and is often undermined by government policies.



Namaqualand, Southern Africa: © Eco Print

Many traditional land management practices have proven to be more economically viable than more 'modern' alternatives, whilst simultaneously providing conservation benefits. The ecological rationale of these traditional strategies developed through a deep understanding by the indigenous communities of their surrounding natural environment ensures both economic and environmental sustainability. The drylands perhaps more than any other biome offer opportunities for achieving both conservation and development objectives simultaneously and in many cases have shown to do so. The Aichi targets on protected areas could be more easily achieved, or even surpassed, in drylands by legitimising and supporting Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, and traditional natural resource management strategies.

Conserving Dryland Biodiversity and Sustaining Life

The relationship between poverty and biodiversity loss can be easily misconstrued in dryland settings because of the higher proportion of drylands that appear to be in peril in developing rather than developed countries. However, it is important to avoid simply equating dryland biodiversity loss with poverty without first scrutinising the causal factors behind the poverty. Where the causes of poverty are social and political marginalisation, poorly planned conservation and development efforts can entrench poverty and generate conflict and this has implications for biodiversity.



Oasis in Umm Al' maa Lake, Libya: © Patrick Poendl

A major factor in environmental degradation in drylands is weak or weakening governance, and particularly the undermining of customary institutions without replacing them with effective alternatives. Drylands may be particularly prone to weakening of governance due to political marginalisation and also the importance of common property regimes. Nevertheless, in many countries customary governance remains intact and can be rebuilt or reformed with appropriate support and sensitivity.

The drylands are different in a number of important ways from humid lands. However, development pathways for the drylands are often driven by a distorted idea of how drylands should or could exist, often modelled on more humid areas. Notions of “greening the desert” are developed on a misunderstanding of dryland ecology and have led to many harmful policies and investments. Furthermore, misrepresentation of drought and water scarcity in the drylands diverts attention away from sustainable and adaptive management, capable of being supported by limited resources, towards unsustainable practices that are ecologically harmful. Rather than adapting development strategies to fit the drylands, considerable effort is expended on trying to adapt drylands to fit development strategies.

A Future Vision for Drylands

A more nuanced vision of sustainably developed drylands is needed: one that reflects social and ecological realities and provides a framework against which policies and investments can be assessed. Such a vision should include at least four components based on the intersection between sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation:

1. Adapting green economic growth to the drylands;
2. Conservation and sustainable management of dryland biodiversity;
3. Land health as the basis for secure food and water provision; and

4. Resilience and risk management in uncertain environments.

Green Economic Growth in the drylands can play a prominent role in ensuring that ecosystems are protected as the foundation of life and prosperity, but Green growth strategies need to be tailored to the environmental conditions of drylands. In particular, strategies must reflect the uncertainty of dryland climate, the high levels of risk that this implies and the strategies of local resource managers to maintain resilient livelihoods. Government policies that encourage land use changes need to be better informed of the wider ecosystem and economic costs of such changes and a great effort is needed to evaluate existing land use strategies in terms of productivity, resilience and wider ecosystem benefits. Conservation strategies in drylands should reflect the important role that drylands play for agricultural development. They should promote ecologically-sensitive farming practices, such as agroforestry, pastoralism or conservation agriculture as an alternative to intensive farming practices. Indigenous knowledge and local institutions could support the effective implementing of such practices. Landscape scale biodiversity management in the drylands is only possible if farming systems are treated as tools for conservation and conservation becomes a tool for sustainable agricultural development.

Land health is an established concept in a few countries but lacks adequate government support in many others, particularly in the developing world. Improved integration of land and water planning at the level of government can provide the basis for dryland ecosystem management and protect the soil on which indigenous vegetation and agricultural development depends. It can also play a significant role in protecting ecosystem services and thereby mitigating the risks of drought. With greater respect for the value of soil, more sustainable farming practices can be widely incentivised, promoted or protected, which will in return lead to development and conservation benefits.

Resilience is at the heart of dryland livelihoods but is poorly reflected in public decision making or development investment. A greater understanding of resilience in dryland social-ecosystems is needed to inform policy making and institutions need to be strengthened to provide the foundation for resilience. Institutions are needed at multiple levels, to integrate planning and governance at a local level but also at the international level to enable negotiations, for example over transboundary resources. Improved

coherence in planning will also help to reduce the harmful effects of emergency interventions.



Termite Mound: © Simon Greig

Strategies for dryland biodiversity conservation

To realise such an ambitious vision in the drylands requires a strategic and broad suite of actions. Many drylands have received low investment for decades and often basic investment is needed to build infrastructure and strengthen human capital. Investment is needed to strengthen innovation, science and knowledge, including greater attention to local and indigenous knowledge and more collaborative research to allow mutual validation of different knowledge systems. Local innovations should be more strongly encouraged, through improvements in education, greater access to finance and other services and increased support for entrepreneurialism around new biodiversity-based business opportunities. Stronger science and knowledge are needed to make the case for green economic growth in dryland and there is a strong case for conducting a “State of the World’s Dryland Biodiversity” assessment.

Innovation, knowledge and science

Research and investment need to be more responsive to new and evolving understanding of dryland ecology and there is need for greater consensus on how to protect and regenerate soil through land management. Greater investment is needed in extension services that provide relevant technical advice to land users in the drylands. An improved understanding of what constitutes land health in the drylands is also needed and should underpin improved monitoring systems. Similarly, monitoring of dryland biodiversity needs greater investment, including red-listing of species and ecosystems to provide better support to decision

makers. Improved monitoring must also go hand in hand with improved communication and there is need for improved packaging and dissemination of information to be of greater value to land managers and other decision makers in the drylands.

Incentives and investment

Incentives and investment are required to promote sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation in the drylands, and this includes significant multi-sectoral investments to establish conditions for sustainable growth. Policies that favour less sustainable land use options need to be revised in many countries and incentives can be better oriented towards promoting environmentally-friendly land use options. Investments can also be better designed to capitalise sustainably on biodiversity, for example through tourism. Payments for ecosystem services and other incentives for environmental custodianship have an important role to play in conserving dryland biodiversity, but are often undermined by the lack of relevant institutions or capacities. Investment and incentive strategies should be developed that reflect the importance of diversity to dryland resilience and ensure broad-based investment in multi-functionality across ecosystems rather than narrow sectoral investments in a few isolated pockets of high value resources.

Governance and empowerment

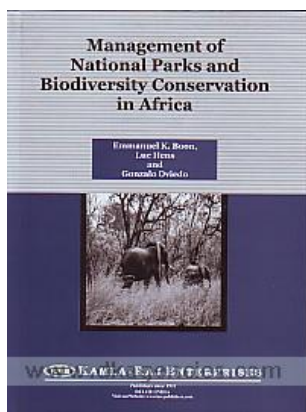
Governance, from local to international levels, needs strengthening in many drylands in order to enable sustainable growth and conservation. The principle of subsidiarity should be better applied in drylands in order to strengthen governance, but should also reflect the large scale of ecosystems. Greater attention is needed to legitimizing customary and local institutions and addressing inequities in governance. Many dryland communities are undergoing profound demographic and social changes that have important implications for governance and equity and efforts to strengthen governance must take such changes into consideration. Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) have a particularly important role to play in dryland biodiversity conservation, since they recognise and build on traditional practices and capitalise on proven local governance arrangements that enable the use of indigenous knowledge. Conservation strategies are needed that combine a variety of protected area approaches so that exclusionary forms of protection are complemented by widespread community-conserved areas (e.g. ICCAs).

Mainstreaming dryland biodiversity

A concerted effort is required to mainstream dryland biodiversity and coordinate actions between all government sectors, and this poses particular challenges of scale in the drylands. Government institutions need to be tailored towards supporting and augmenting the skills of land managers and government staff often require new skills to conduct more participatory planning. Governments should increasingly look to champion the role of land managers as environmental stewards in “Green Community Landscapes” whilst the role of environmental authorities should be adjusted to ensure they have the mandate and capacity to play a mainstreaming role. As the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Millennium Development Goals have underlined, a disaggregated approach to conservation and development in drylands serves the interests of neither.

Where to find the book online?

https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/conserving_drylands_biodiversity_iucn_uncdd_book.pdf



A new publication

Management of national parks and biodiversity conservation in Africa
 Author: Emmanuel K. Boon, Luc Hens and Gonzalo Oviedo, editors.
 Year: 2012 Price: USD 83.30

<http://www.dkagencies.com/doc/from/1123/to/1123/bkId/DKB351716276321770144655154010371/details.html>



Université Senghor
 DÉPARTEMENT ENVIRONNEMENT

PA management training

IUCN-PAPACO, in partnership with the Senghor University (Egypt, Alexandria) will implement **the 6th edition of the University Diploma on PA management**

in West Africa. This training course lasts 8 weeks and targets PA managers and PA partners (scientists, NGOs, private sector...).

The training will be organized in **Ouagadougou from 8 April to 31 May 2013.**

Inscriptions will be open on the Senghor University's website <http://continue.senghor.refer.org> from the 20th of January.

Deadline for inscription is 15th of February 2013

December 2012 Protected Areas, Tourism and the Aichi Targets

In 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity developed a new strategic plan to enhance international efforts at stopping degradation and promoting sustainable use of the world's biological heritage. These twenty 'Aichi Targets' on biodiversity have been set for attainment by 2020.

Domestic and international tourism and visitation to protected areas is significant, growing, and can generate both positive and negative impacts for biodiversity in reaching the Aichi Targets, especially Target 11, which focuses on protected areas. This issue of PARKS looks at the potential contributions to achieving the Aichi Targets from tourism and visitation. Tourism is highly relevant to biodiversity conservation and protected area management and planning, and in addition to Target 11, can contribute to several other Aichi Targets. Authors in this issue explore how, for example, tourism can help achieve public awareness of biodiversity values and opportunities for conservation, keep impacts within safe ecological limits, increase global coverage of protected areas, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from tourism and biodiversity.

PARKS

The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation



Developing capacity for a protected planet

Issue 14.2, December 2012

See on www.iucn.org



NEWS FROM THE GROUND, COMING FROM ADAGASCAR...

With more than 600 hundreds kilometers of reef, South West of Madagascar is one of the richest Indian Ocean's ecosystems. Its southern edge is formed by reefs of *Belo sur Mer* which extend over 55 km and are the best preserved and most productive environments of the coast. There, corals have shown quite unusual resilience and strength facing the bleaching episodes of 1998 and 2002.

Blue Ventures (BV) began to work in the region about 10 years ago. It was first to promote ecotourism activities and to install a diving club, the area being particularly interesting in terms of aquatic environment. But soon, the organization realized that the marine environment, despite being the main support for 90% of the local economy, suffered from a total lack of protection and controlled natural resources management.

This situation is also worsening because of the huge population growth rate recorded in the *Vezo* communities (South-West ethnic group). Also, we note the arrival of migrant fishermen who settle for several months on islands offshore and do practice fishing activities, intensive shrimp practices to supply large cities of Madagascar or to export, and increasing conflicts between groups of fishermen recorded more and more often as resources are diminishing around.

In collaboration with WCS, BV then began to work for the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in *Andavadoaka* (*Velondriake*). Supported by a French GEF funding (PPI), the originality of this initiative lies in the fact that the MPA will be managed exclusively by fishing communities and representatives of local communities.

Officially recognized by the Malagasy Government in October 2006, *Velondriake* is a 110,000 ha MPA of category VI, according to IUCN management categorization (protected area with sustainable use of natural resources). 25 villages, nearly 6,500 people, are directly concerned by the creation of this MPA and the choice to create a category VI MPA was made to ensure that *Vezo* fishermen could continue to fish while establishing specifications to ensure the sustainability of fishing activities.

Thanks to its ability to understand socio-economic situations and their interactions with ecological dynamics, the organization managed to mobilize traditional fishing communities and to develop a

consensual management plan that takes into account both the concerns of these communities and the necessity of fish stocks regeneration.

Noticing the success of this approach, Madagascar National Parks (MNP) has asked to BV, in 2008, to ensure the consultation processes and ecological studies necessary to promote the marine extension of *Kirindy Mite National Park*, a PA on which BV was already involved. Supported by another PPI grant in 2010, the first stage of the project lies in the creation of a research center in *Belo* for monitoring mangroves, corals, dune ecosystems, fisheries, and socio-economic activities.

Fishermen and MNP staff are directly associated in these monitoring activities as they will have to manage jointly in the future, in order to allow MPA's management plans to evolve, taking into account ecological dynamics.

The results of two years of monitoring have been useful to highlight major issues and identify key recommendations for the management of the future MPA such as the prohibition of *Laro* (poison), used for fishing in mangroves and which leads to the sea grass destruction and to the herbivorous fish stocks collapse, the prohibition of settlement of migrant fishermen in some islands, some of them becoming non fishing areas (NTZ: No Take Zone), to allow reconstruction of reef populations (including large predators).

In some islands, fishing activities are still allowed, in order not to impact too much fishermen's economic revenues. NTZ rotations have been defined and temporary reserves have been created to ensure the renewal of octopus stocks.



In parallel, BV is working on the development of

alternative activities to reduce the heavy dependence of households on fishing. The organization helped households to gradually diversify income sources and concluded that seaweed farming activity seems to be the most realistic and relevant option in the local context.

These recommendations are now included in the draft of management plan submitted to the Management System of Protected Areas of Madagascar, and came into effect with the implementation of temporary protection in the Kirindy-Mite MPA. The process supported by BV should lead to a final gazettelement as a new protected area within one or two years¹.

The Kirindy- Mite MPA will be composed of a core zone of Category II (National Park) directly managed by MNP, and an area of category V (Protected Landscape or Seascape), managed by a management committee representing communities and other local stakeholders. In this area, small temporary reserves will be managed by fishermen.

The first results of actions already taken seem interesting and BV has published, in partnership with the University of Tulear, a study showing an important increase in octopus population (*Octopus cyanea*) in areas located close to a hundred of temporary reserves established along the Southwest Coast and where the exploitation of this specie is banned for a month per year. Fishermen also confirmed an increase in catches and therefore have seen economic benefits through rationalization of catches².

BV, which won several awards, including the Ecuador Price of United Nations in 2006 and the Buckminster Fuller Prize in 2011, now extends its activities to fisheries certification from the Marine Stewardship Council label. The goal is to promote sustainable management of this sector and activities done until now have shown that conservation and development are largely consistent in MPAs.

For more information : www.blueventures.org

¹ In Durban summit in 2005, the previous Malagasy government had taken particularly strong commitments in the preservation of its natural heritage by announcing future creation of New Protected Areas (NPA) on a surface of 6,000,000 hectares.

²For more information about scientific publications of BV : <http://blueventures.org/publications/research-reports.html>



WCPA CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

Based on the twin objectives of the IUCN-WCPA Capacity building program which are to

- 1) deliver Technical Support to National Governments to meet their Protected Area Objectives and
- 2) support Governments to meet their commitments under CBD PoWPA and Aichi Target 11; WCPA members in Sub-Saharan Africa have been urged by their respective regional vice-chairs (Western and Central Africa; and Eastern and Southern Africa) to play a more active role in supporting the capacity building program.

This has several components which include sharing of knowledge products (such as books, journals, best practice guidelines, technical briefs and e-book on managing Protected Areas); education and training where emphasis is on competency based training and learning and sharing/access to expertise within the WCPA but also the other IUCN commissions. Regarding competency based training and learning, a draft curricula based on competencies has already been developed for the 3 levels of PA management namely field, managers and systems/strategic/policy managers.

One of the projects implementing the capacity building program in Africa is BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Area Management). The WCPA members in the region have been called upon to actively participate in the implementation of this four year project, which aims to address threats to biodiversity in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) countries, while enhancing livelihoods in communities in and around protected areas. This project combines improving data availability with capacity development to strengthen decision making for better protected area management. Decision-making is a process that requires knowledge, skills and abilities; it also requires understanding of related or relevant issues to the subject matter and does require consultation with key/relevant stakeholders. Decision-making for Protected Area management does take place at several levels namely: Policy (which could be at regional, national or district level), management (PA agency level), field (PA/site level) and community.



« On the ground training » is an essential component of new staff training

Already WCPA members have contributed to capacity needs assessments in the 2 regions. BIOPAMA regional workshops are being implemented/planned in East and Southern Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa in December 2012) and in West and Central Africa (Dakar, Senegal, February 2013), in order to identify information needs, gaps and products for better decision making on PAs in the region, as well as priority capacity building needs linked to better decision making. In assessing gaps in capacity building for decision makers, emphasis has been placed on areas or needs that are crucial in addressing current critical threats to PA management and achievement of the Target 11 of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020. The current critical threats to PA management identified included climate change, budget cuts and constraints in challenging economic times, increasing human populations and developments adjacent to PAs resulting in continued conflicts, extractive industries, including mining, oil and gas, land claims and encroachment by local communities making landscape connectivity more difficult and unsustainable harvest of resources including poaching and overfishing.

Effective governance cuts across all efforts to address most of the critical threats to PA management. In spite of a few existing training initiatives for protected areas managers in the region, the governance high level (Senior Management and Policy making organs) often receives less attention in capacity building programs and should be a priority. Indeed at the International Rangers Federation Congress in Arusha, Tanzania in November 2012 and at the BIOPAMA regional workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa in December 2012, where the regional chair for Eastern and Southern Africa facilitated a workshop session on capacity building, a number of participants strongly

recommended that capacity building efforts should focus on PA CEOs and Directors; Directors and Permanent Secretaries of the line ministries.



Decision-makers and high-level staff must also be trained

WCPA members in the region are therefore being called upon to play an active role in implementation of the capacity building program by participating in curriculum review for training institutions for PA managers and field staff, availing time for mentorship programs, on-the-job training through exchange visits and study tours and contributing to training tools. Furthermore, they may contribute to extending the WCPA network in their countries and region, by identifying engaged high profile PA experts for the commission. WCPA members can do this by expressing interest and sharing ideas with respective WCPA regional vice-chairs.

Our best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and rewarding New Year 2013 !



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Request for proposals for consultancy services

In the framework of the Small-Scale Initiatives program (PPI - 3) funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), the IUCN - Papaco is seeking a **qualified consultant specialized in financial management and accounting** to lead a training course targeting local NGOs in Central Africa (CAMEROON-Yaoundé).

Terms of references are available on www.papaco.org or can be asked to Thomas BACHA (thomas.bacha@iucn.org).

Technical and financial bids should be sent to Thomas BACHA **by the 27th of January, 2013.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered electronically by **31st January 2013** to: cepfguineanforests@conservation.org.

Please make the Subject line of your e-mail, "**EOI: Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspot.**"

2014 WORLD PARK CONGRESS

IUCN is advertising 2 positions

1 - Executive officer – World Park Congress

The IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC) is a once in 10 year event with several thousand participants that brings together the global constituency of governments and non-governmental organisations, professionals and managers to define the agenda and to achieve breakthroughs for funding and implementation of protected area mandates globally. The 2014 WPC will take place in Sydney, Australia in November 2014.

Reporting to the Director, Global Protected Areas Programme, the Executive Officer manages IUCN's Secretariat involvement in the WPC, is principal point of liaison with the Host Country, and with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and oversees the day-to-day planning and development of the WPC. S/he ensures that the contributions from the different Secretariat Units are coordinated.

The Executive Officer supports the International Steering Committee and supports the Director of the Global Protected Areas Programme in giving effect to IUCN's roles and responsibilities in terms of the MoU between IUCN and the Host Country.

More on:

<https://hrms.iucn.org/iresy/index.cfm?event=vac.show&vacId=470>

2 – Fundraising officer – World Park Congress

The Fundraising Officer will play a lead role in fundraising for the WPC, including the development of selected partnerships and financial support from the private sector, charitable Foundations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, IUCN Member organizations, as well as private individuals. The Fundraising Officer will report to the Director, Global Protected Areas Programme and work closely with the IUCN WPC management team, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Heads of IUCN Programmes to develop and execute a fundraising strategy that aims at raising funds both for the WPC event and for IUCN's programmatic



Request for Expressions of Interest for developing the CEPF ecosystem profile for Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

CEPF intends to develop an Ecosystem Profile and included investment strategy for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot as a guide to future grant making to civil society groups working in the region. An Ecosystem Profile consists of both a stakeholder-driven priority-setting process and a document based on current applied conservation science. The CEPF Secretariat will select an organization or consortium of organizations to lead the process and prepare the document over the coming six to 12 months. Selection will be based on a competitive procurement process.

Scope of Work can be download on:

http://www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/guinean_forests/SOW_Guinean_Forests_ecosystem_profile.pdf

Request for Expressions of Interest can be downloaded on:

http://www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/guinean_forests/REOI_Guinean_Forests_ecosystem_profile.pdf

Expressions of interest will consist of written materials expressly prepared for this request as detailed in the Request for Expressions of Interest.

work.

The incumbent has a functional reporting line to the Head, Strategic Partnerships and will work closely with the Strategic Partnerships Team on all aspects of fundraising as well as with the Business and Biodiversity Programme for selected private sector partnerships. A minimum fundraising target has been set at CHF 3 million to be raised to cover direct Congress organizational costs and programme development and participation in the WPC.

More on:

<https://hrms.iucn.org/iresy/index.cfm?event=vac.show&vaclid=471>

Applicants are requested to apply online through the HR Management System, by opening the vacancy announcement and pressing the "Apply" button. Deadline for application is 21st January 2013

Other job opportunities are published in the IUCN website: <http://www.iucn.org/involved/jobs/>



Reminder: call for projects

The French Global Environment Facility- Small Grants Programme third phase (Programme de Petites Initiatives) is ongoing until the end of 2013.

A second selection committee took place in Paris the 31th of October and 22 new projects have been selected and will be implemented in the next months. 13 of these projects will be implemented in priority countries (Cameroon (4 new projects), DRC (3 new projects)), Burkina Faso (1 new project), Ghana (3 new projects) and Togo (2 new projects). In addition to projects selected at the beginning of 2012, it is a total of 20 projects which will be implemented in these priority countries, representing more or less 60% of the total number of projects selected on this third phase.

A new selection committee will take place during the first semester of 2013 and civil society which is interested to apply for a grant will have to fill the PPI pre-proposal form (which can be downloaded on the FFEM website www.ffem.fr, with the PPI rules and criteria) and to send it to the French committee of IUCN, in charge of projects selection (ppi@iucn.fr) **before the 15th of January, 2013.**

IUCN-PAPACO is involved in the "Capacity Building" component of the PPI, including technical support to NGOs located in the 5 priority countries, before, during and after the projects selection, through organization of trainings on different subjects related to conservation projects and networking activities.

For more information:

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NAPA – CONTACTS

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN