

Privately Protected Areas Futures: Realising the Opportunity

Friday 14th: 13.30 –15.00, Stream 1 Session, Southee North Room

Monday 17th: 17.30 – 19.00, Report Launch, Hall 2 Pod North

Plus – Friday 14th: 11.00 –11.30, WDPA clinic, Protected Planet Pavilion

Saturday 15th: 8.30 – 12.00, Stream 6 Session, Dome Theaterette



Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) are underrepresented in national protected area systems and under reported internationally despite the fact that they are a rapidly growing element of the conservation estate. These events will focus on how PPAs can contribute to conservation, enhancing the quality and diversity of governance and the Aichi Target 11. PPA sessions and events will look at issues such as: governance, status, additionality, definition, contribution to national PA networks and reporting. The sessions will draw on the work of the IUCN WCPA specialist group on privately protected areas and the results of a two-year project and report to be launched at the WPC, *The Futures of Privately Protected Areas*, which has reviewed PPAs globally and worked with expert practitioners to better understand the constraints, opportunities, incentives and disincentives for developing PPAs.



Summary

Privately protected areas (PPAs) will be an essential component in achieving the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on completing ecologically representative protected area networks around the world. A new IUCN Report, *The Futures of Privately Protected Areas*, supports this by creating a framework to allow governments to expand their use and support of PPAs and by raising awareness that PPAs can and should be reported to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the CBD. The report is based on an extensive literature review, discussions with PPA specialists, an expert workshop and 17¹ commissioned country reviews.

Definition and governance: The report proposes a definition of a PPA that is based on the IUCN definition of a protected area: *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.* Thus an area can only become a PPA if it qualifies as a protected area.

To increase support for PPAs, we recommend thus the following definition: **a privately protected area is a protected area, as defined by IUCN, under private governance (i.e. individuals and groups of individuals); non-governmental organizations (NGOs); corporations (both existing commercial companies and sometimes corporations set up by groups of private owners to manage groups of PPAs); for-profit owners; research entities (e.g. universities, field stations) or religious entities.**

Not all private conservation initiatives can or should become PPAs, although some initiatives that are not currently PPAs could become so with minor changes in management and emphasis.

The report provides guidance on applying the IUCN definition of a protected area to PPAs. Two of the

most important elements of this guidance are: 1) PPA managers should be aware of any use rights impacting conservation objectives that are not under their control and ensure these do not reduce the area's conservation effectiveness or undermine the status of the IUCN protected area definition; and 2) due to the challenge PPAs may have in proving 'long-term' conservation, focus should be on demonstrating long-term *intent* to conserve. Long-term here should be at least 25 years, though the intent should be conservation 'in perpetuity', and safeguards should be put in place to ensure conservation objectives persist even if ownership changes.

Motivations: Individuals and groups have been involved in establishing PPAs for well over a century: there are already millions of PPA supporters, including NGO members. Many are driven by philanthropic motives, interest in endangered species or the desire to leave behind a positive conservation legacy. Others want to preserve particular places against development change because they have cultural, religious or spiritual importance. Landowner motivations often include issues relating to quality of life. Corporations set up PPAs as part of development projects or as a condition of resource use (e.g. as part of forest or agricultural certification systems). Incentive schemes are powerful motivations for some landowners.

Advantages and disadvantages: PPAs have a critical role to play when a quick response is needed to rapid changes in land or water use, or where further state-run protected areas are resisted for political or economic reasons. PPAs can be effective in expanding protection into under-represented areas or where most land is in private hands. They provide opportunities for involving more stakeholders in conservation and for using innovative funding mechanisms. Conversely, some of the disadvantages or challenges faced by PPAs have included lack of clarity about definitions and management and sometimes a poor match between areas protected and biodiversity richness. PPA owners complain of limited opportunity to engage with wider conservation policy and limited

¹ Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States of America.



government support. The existence of sometimes ineffective incentive structures have created the risk of ‘temporary’ PPAs being created and have sometimes limited creation of PPAs.

Social issues: Though relatively little represented on the global stage, there are social concerns with PPAs that focus on how land was acquired, and whether it involved ‘land grabbing’, particularly when a PPA owner is a foreigner. IUCN addresses this unequivocally by stressing that protected areas should not be used as an excuse for dispossessing people of their land. A broader question relates to the extent that the state is shifting environmental responsibilities towards civil society and the private sector and neglecting its own responsibilities. PPAs are part of this movement and must be monitored to ensure that their creation is beneficial to both public and private actors.

PPA coverage: The global coverage of PPAs remains unknown due to a variety of factors including a lack of common definitions on what comprises a PPA and the fact that governments do not report on PPAs to the WDPA. There are few established national or subnational PPA databases or attempts at systematic data collection, although this is changing. The country reviews commissioned for this report give important indications of global trends. PPAs are strong in parts of Latin America, including Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Costa Rica; Australia has a growing movement; there is a long tradition in Canada, United States of America and Mexico; western and northern Europe contains many PPAs, while some central and eastern

European countries have few if any; South Africa and Kenya have well-developed PPA systems integrated into national conservation strategies and some other southern and east African countries have mainly commercially run PPAs; while Asia contains few sites but several countries are recognizing the potential and beginning PPA establishment.

Summary of the recommendations

1. Use the IUCN protected area definition as the basis for defining and international reporting of PPAs
2. Review national PPA systems to clarify definition, legal standing and importance of PPAs
3. Develop and implement monitoring and management effectiveness systems for PPAs
4. Create or strengthen national PPA associations to assess performance, provide training and develop data collection systems
5. Improve knowledge sharing and information by development of best practice guidelines and encouraging a focus on company and religious reserves
6. Understand what incentives are needed to support and promote PPAs relating to establishment, management and ensuring long-term security
7. Develop incentives to increase the conservation role of PPAs through expanding their size, ensuring connectivity and focusing on threatened species
8. Create structures and incentives to report on PPAs both nationally and to the WDPA.



The Futures of Privately Protected Areas

Sue Stolton, Kent H. Redford and Nigel Dudley,
with the assistance of: William (Bill) M. Adams, Elisa Corcuera and Brent A. Mitchell



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Check out the Privately Protected Areas sessions:

Stream 1: The futures of privately protected areas: realising the opportunity

(Friday 14th: 13.30 –15.00, Southee North Room)

See: wpc2014.eventranet.com.au/presentations-topics/1

Stream 6: Privately protected areas

(Saturday 15th: 8.30 – 12.00)

See: <http://wpc2014.eventranet.com.au/presentations-topics/6>

Protected Planet Pavilion: WDPA clinic: Privately Protected Areas

(Friday 14th: 11:00 am - 11:30 am)

See: wpc2014.eventranet.com.au/presentations-topics/52

Launch event: The Futures of Privately Protected Areas

(Monday 17th: 17:30 - 19:00)

See: wpc2014.eventranet.com.au/presentations-topics/15

(to be followed by Australian Land Conservation Alliance Cocktail Party in Clydesdale until 21.00)

For more information see: privateconservation.net

The Futures of Privately Protected Areas can be downloaded in English and Spanish from:
www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_capacity2/gpap_techseries/?18399/The-Futures-of-Privately-Protected-Areas