



Cyril Kormos IUCN-WCPA Vice-Chair for World Heritage
Vice President for Policy, The WILD Foundation

World Heritage, Wilderness and Large Landscapes Towards IUCN Thematic Guidance

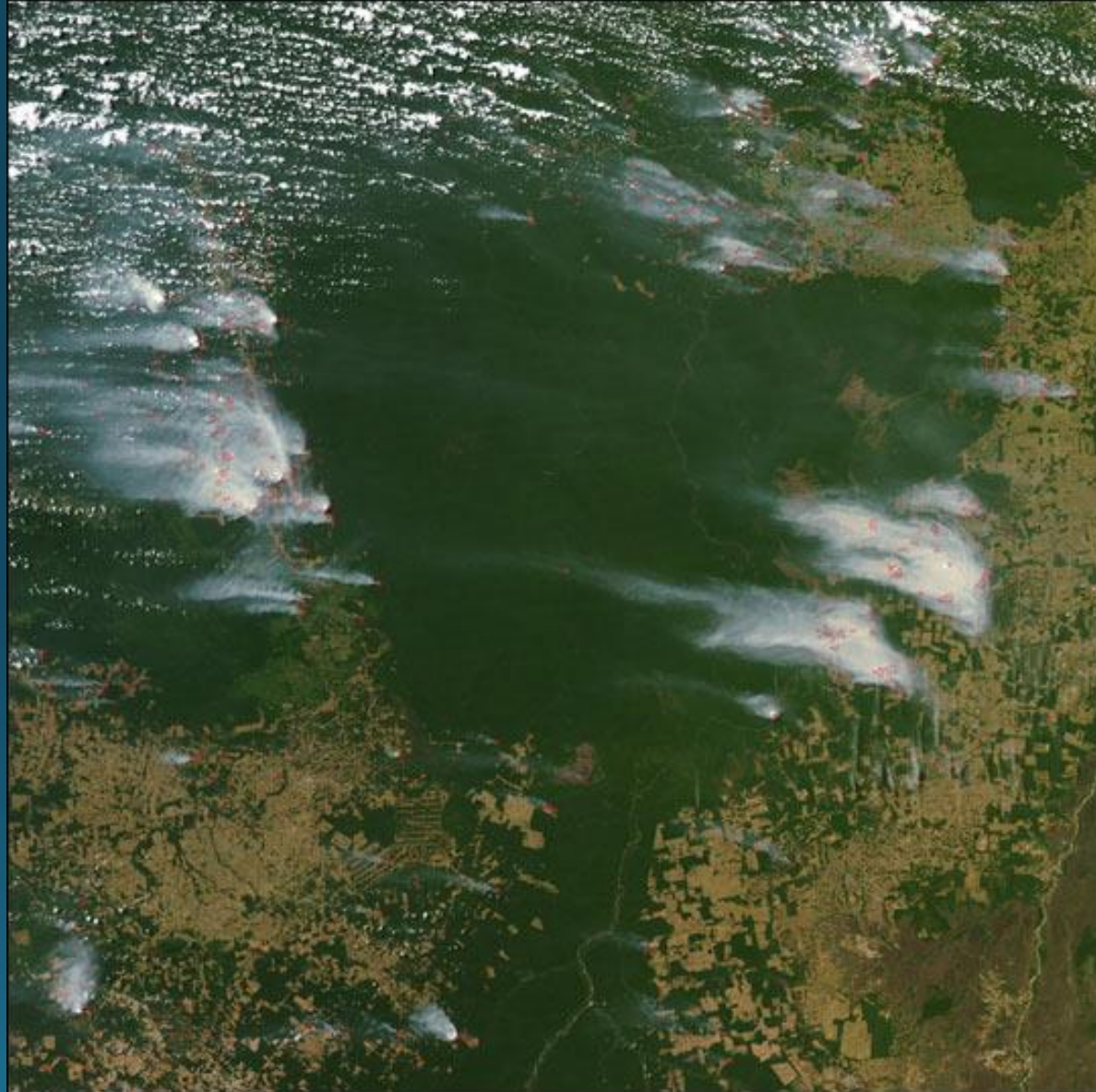
Photo: IUCN

Wilderness defined:

- Broadly speaking: “the most intact, undisturbed wild natural areas left on the planet”.
- Wilderness includes people: many areas remain intact *because of* not in spite of human habitation.



Indigenous and community management
is essential:



Why do we need a wilderness and large landscapes approach under the Convention?

- To ensure the World Heritage List has good wilderness and large landscape coverage.
- To ensure the integrity of existing sites.



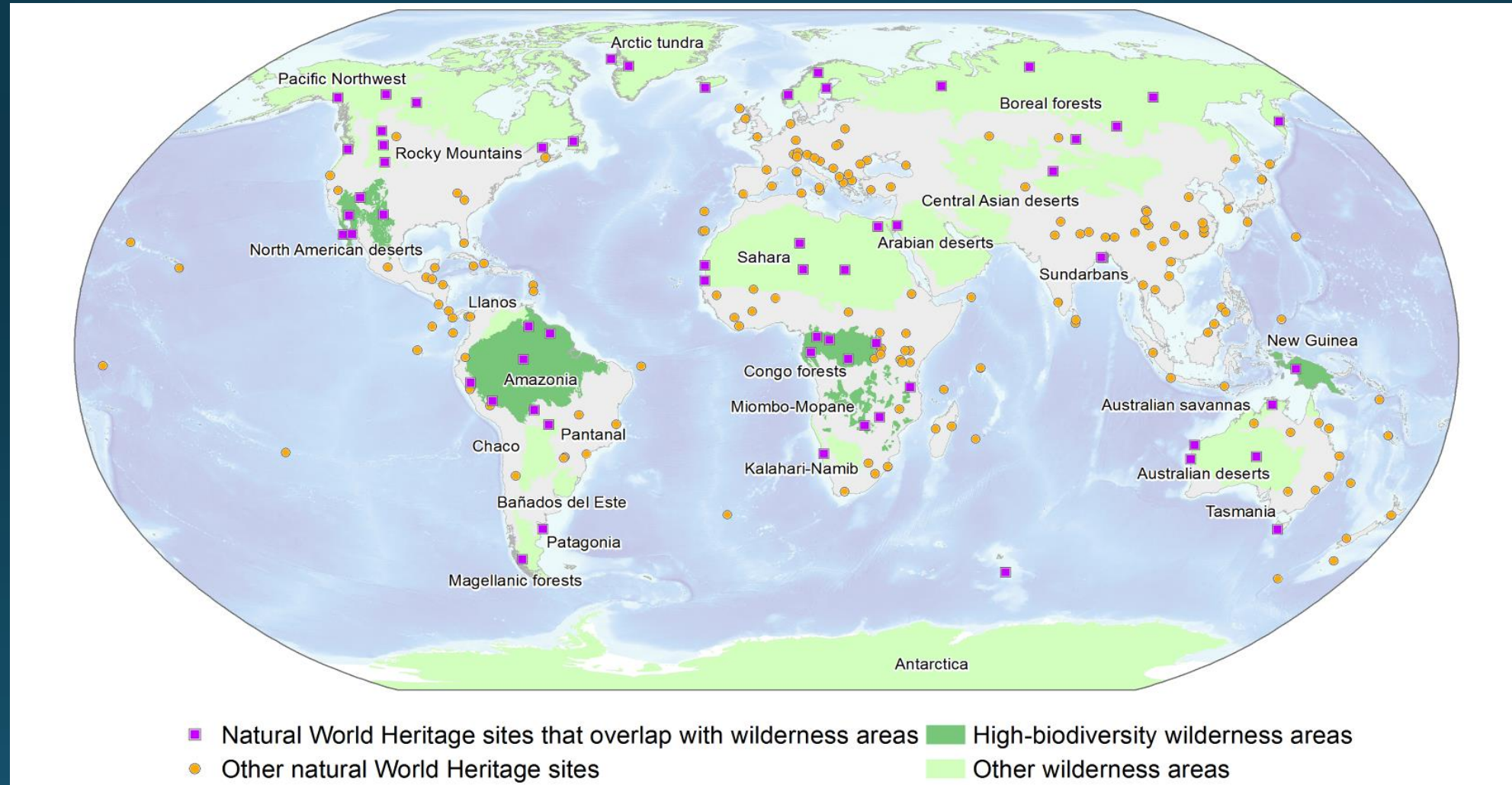
Integrity

- Climate Change.
- Wide-ranging species that are an integral part of the Outstanding Universal Value of many World Heritage sites need “room to roam” (e.g. grizzlies in Yellowstone), often beyond boundaries.
- To protect wildlife migrations.

Building a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List

How are we doing in terms of ensuring wilderness coverage on the World Heritage List?

Current wilderness representation on the World Heritage List (from Bertzky et al. 2013)



What about large World Heritage sites?

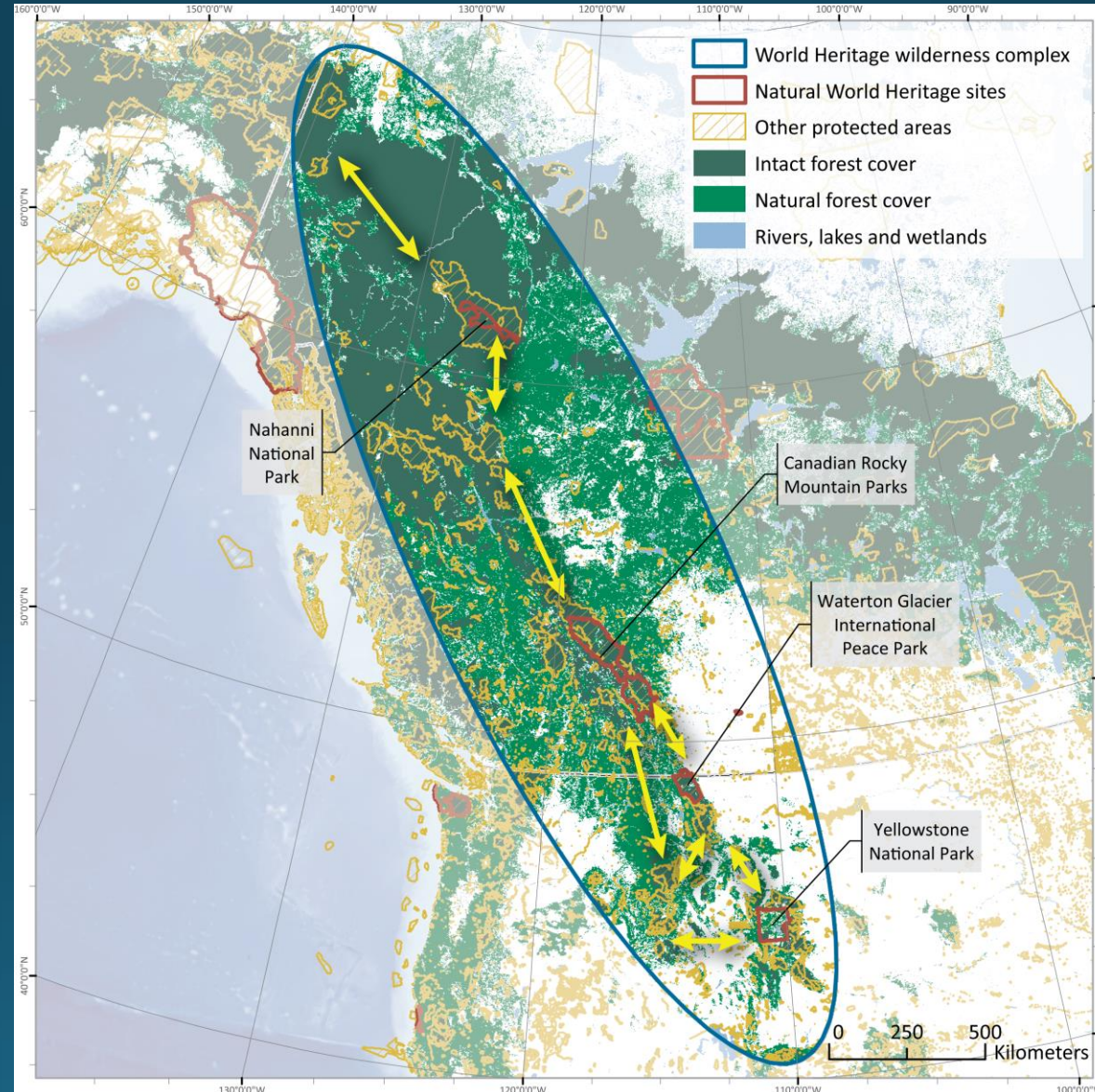
(from Bertzky et al.2013)

| Site | Country | Criteria | Wilderness area (km ²) |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek | United States and Canada | (vii)(viii)(ix)(x) | 82,951 |
| Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves | Niger | (vii)(ix)(x) | 78,696 |
| Tassili n'Ajjer | Algeria | (i)(iii)(vii)(viii) | 75,713 |
| Central Amazon Conservation Complex | Brazil | (ix)(x) | 51,313 |
| Wood Buffalo National Park | Canada | (vii)(ix)(x) | 44,607 |
| Lake Baikal | Russian Federation | (vii)(viii)(ix)(x) | 41,852 |
| Volcanoes of Kamchatka | Russian Federation | (vii)(viii)(ix)(x) | 37,979 |
| Selous Game Reserve | Tanzania | (ix)(x) | 37,380 |
| Salonga National Park | DR Congo | (vii)(ix) | 35,322 |
| Virgin Komi Forests | Russian Federation | (vii)(ix) | 28,703 |

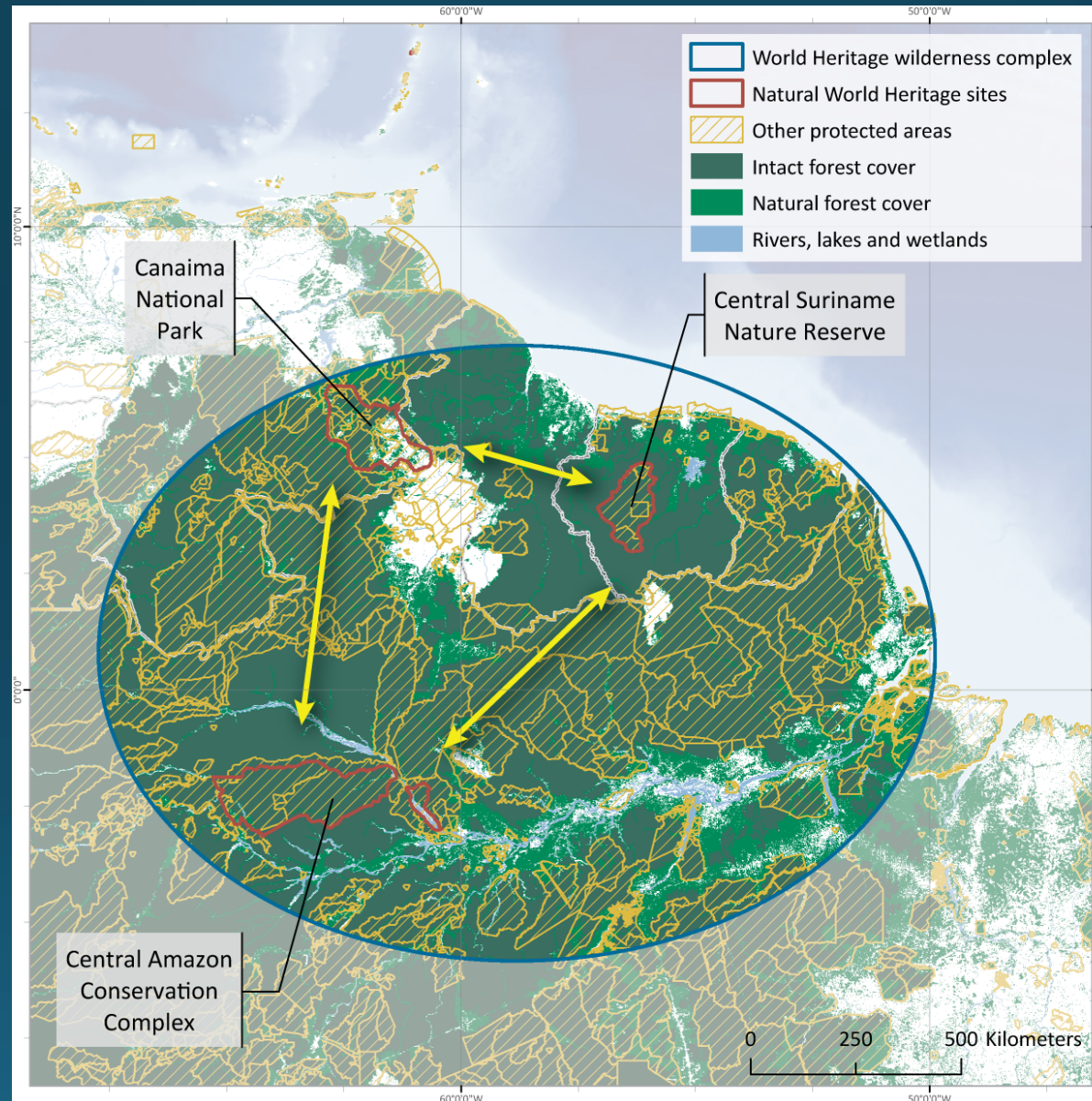
How are we doing in terms of ensuring integrity?

- There are a number of large sites, and more being added.
- However – we should also be thinking systematically about maintaining connectivity between World Heritage sites, between components of a World Heritage serial site and between World Heritage Sites and other protected areas.

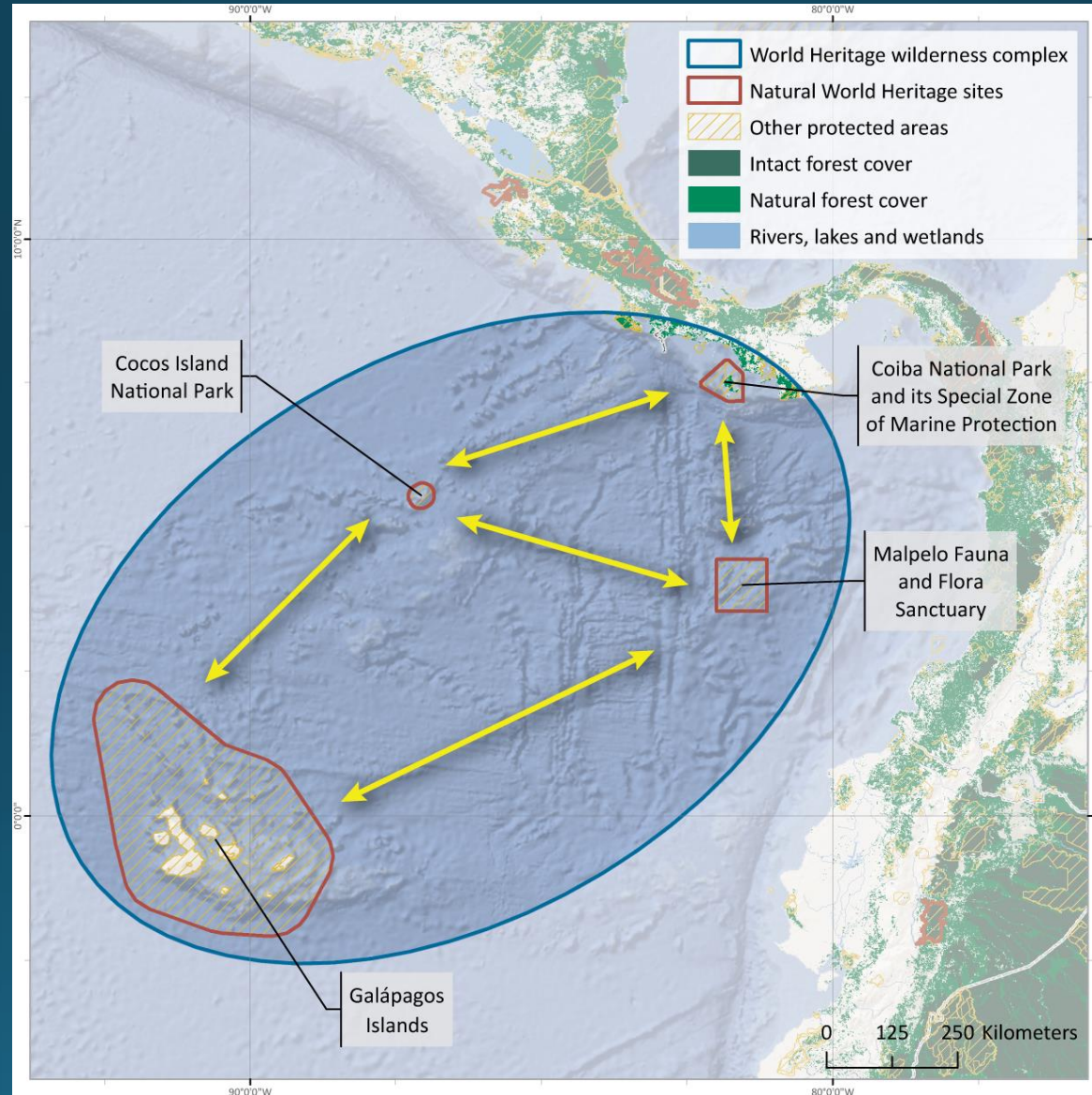
The Convention is moving in this direction already:



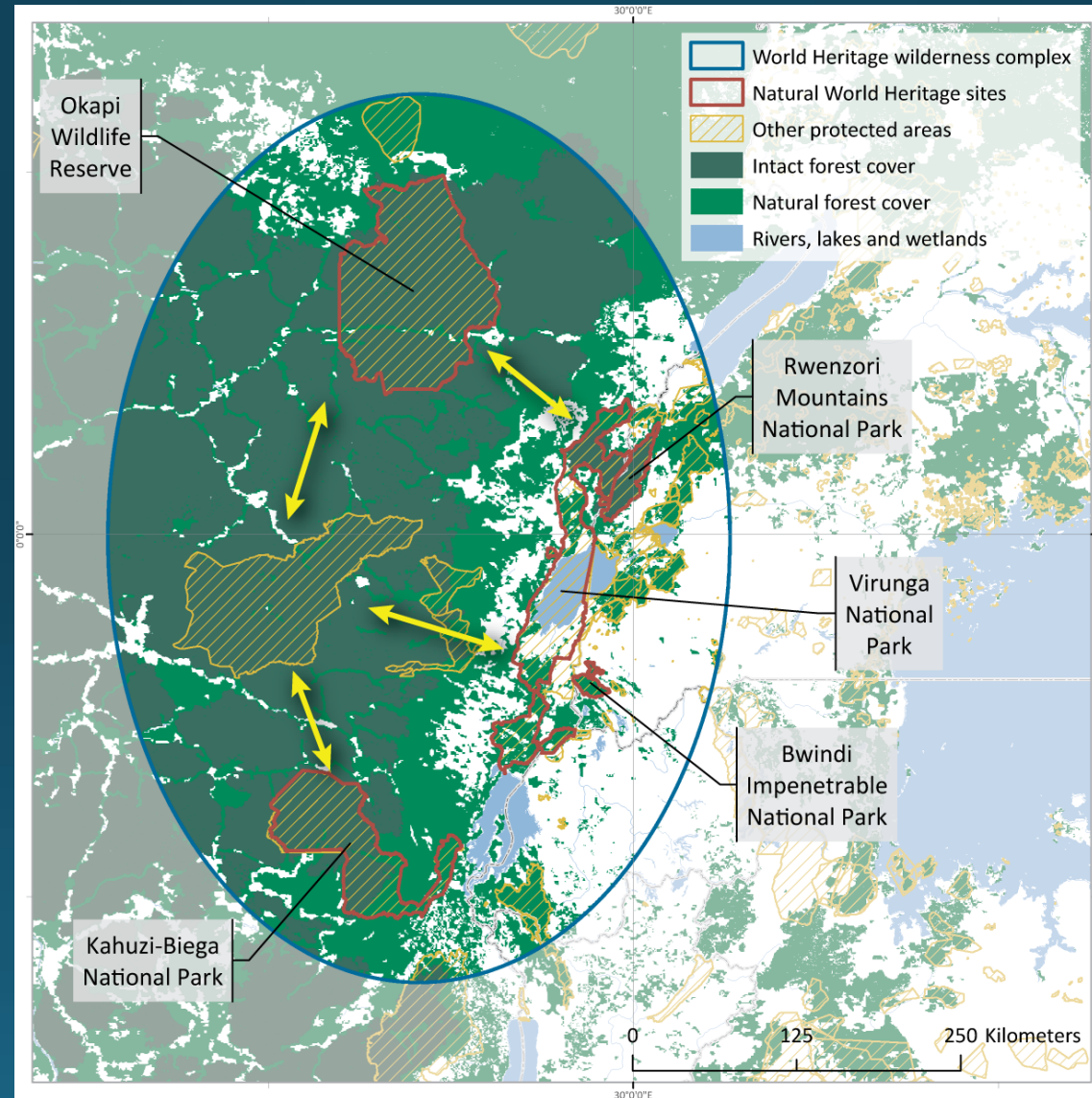
Guiana Shield



Eastern Pacific Tropical Seascape



Central Africa



We are making progress, but we need a more systematic approach.

- A new designation under the Convention to help incentivize a wilderness approach?

“World Heritage Wilderness Complex”

Next steps

- 2014: Research / publication .
- 2015: Development of IUCN thematic guidance on World Heritage and Wilderness.
- 2015-2016 :
 - Workshops with communities/indigenous groups?
 - Tentative list workshops?
 - Workshops to assess need for buffering, expanding, connecting World Heritage sites?



Thank You