Managing protected areas to benefit water services



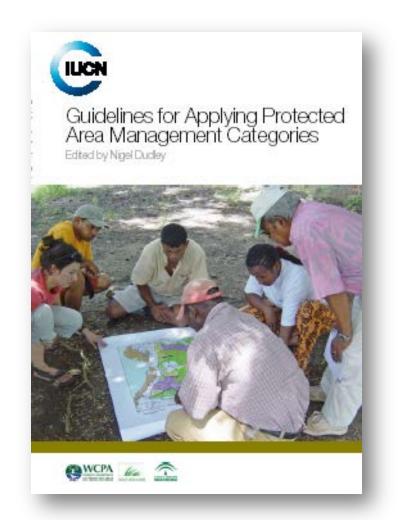
Managing protected areas to benefit water services



Managing protected areas to benefit water services

An introduction to the water theme of the 6th IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014





Since the fifth World Parks Congress
IUCN has a new definition of a
protected area. IUCN published a new
edition of guidelines to the IUCN
protected area categories at the World
Conservation Congress in October 2008

Now available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Croatian and German, in draft in Chinese; summaries prepared in more languages











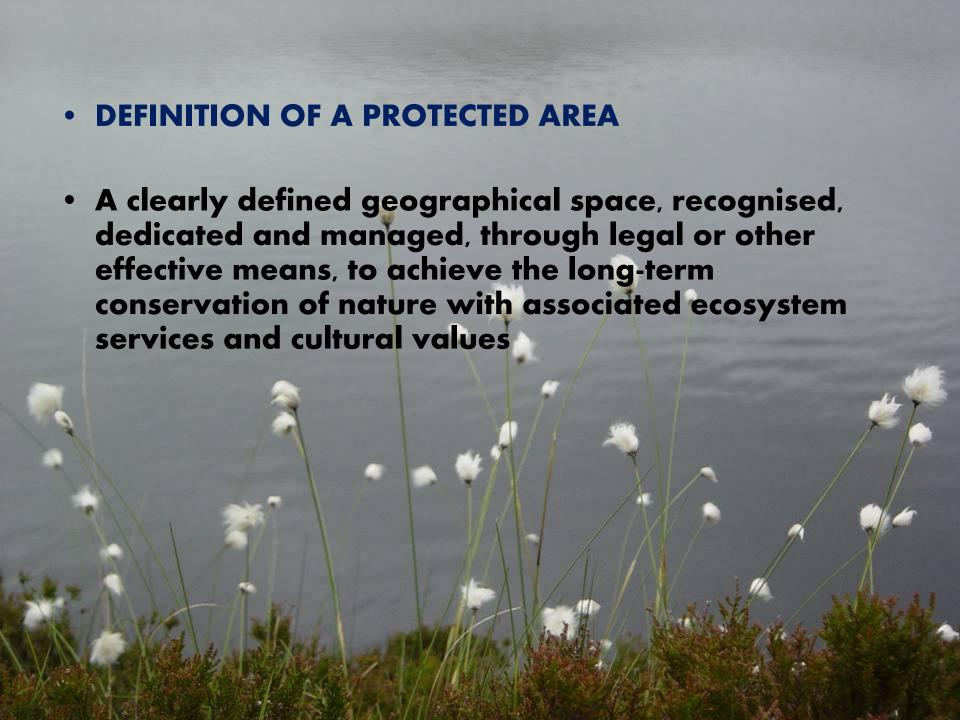


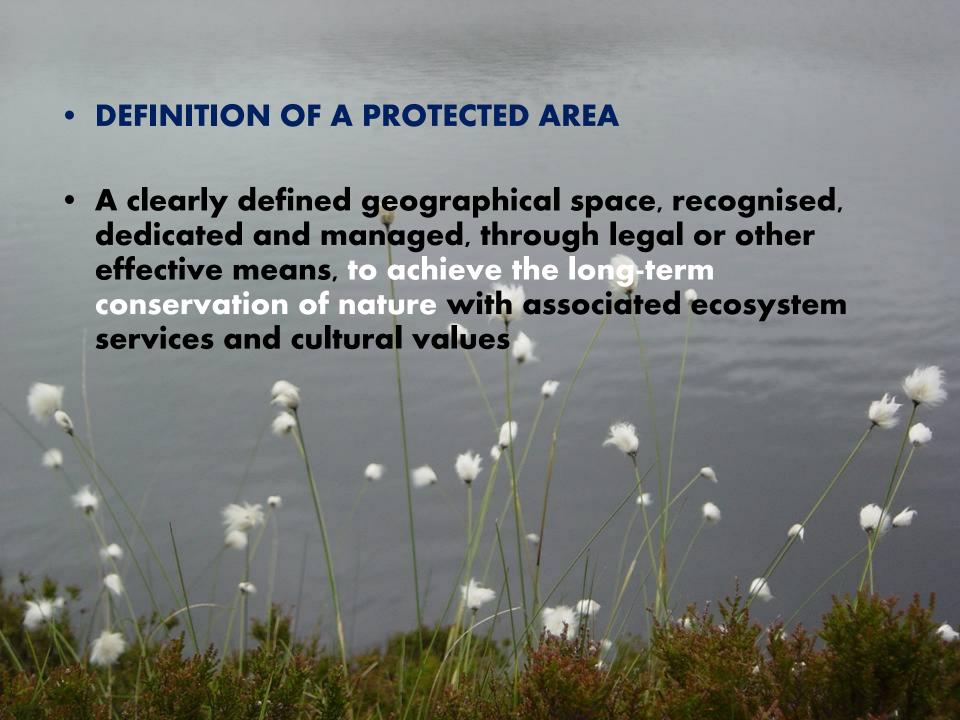


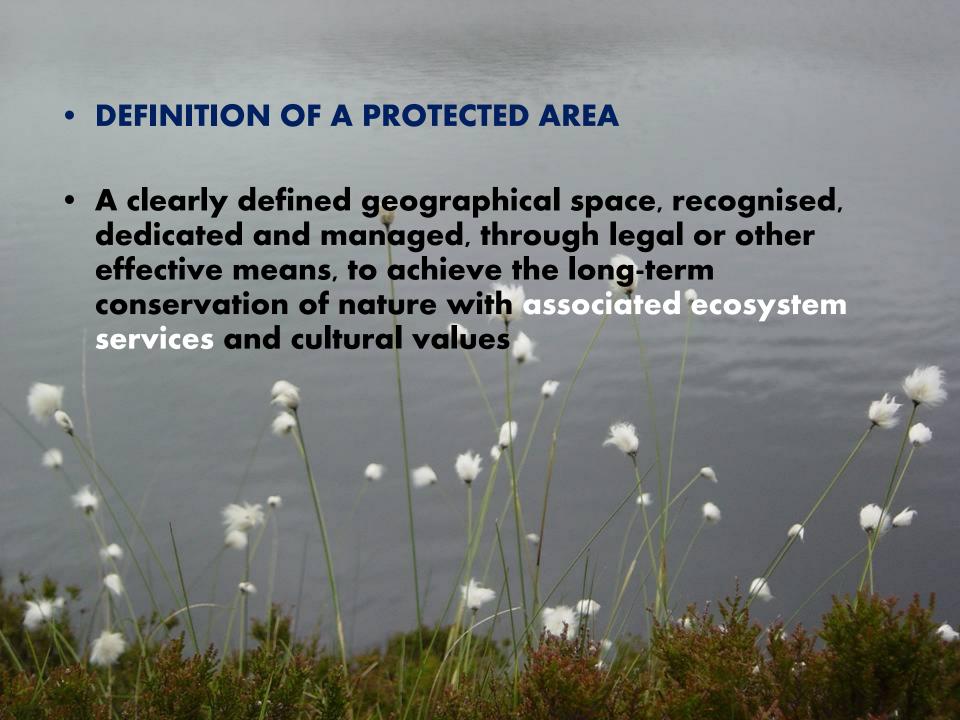
Face to face discussions took place at regional meetings around the world – from governments to villagers – and at a "summit" in Almeria, Spain in 2007, with over 100 protected area practitioners



WORLD PARKS CONGRESS Sydney 2014





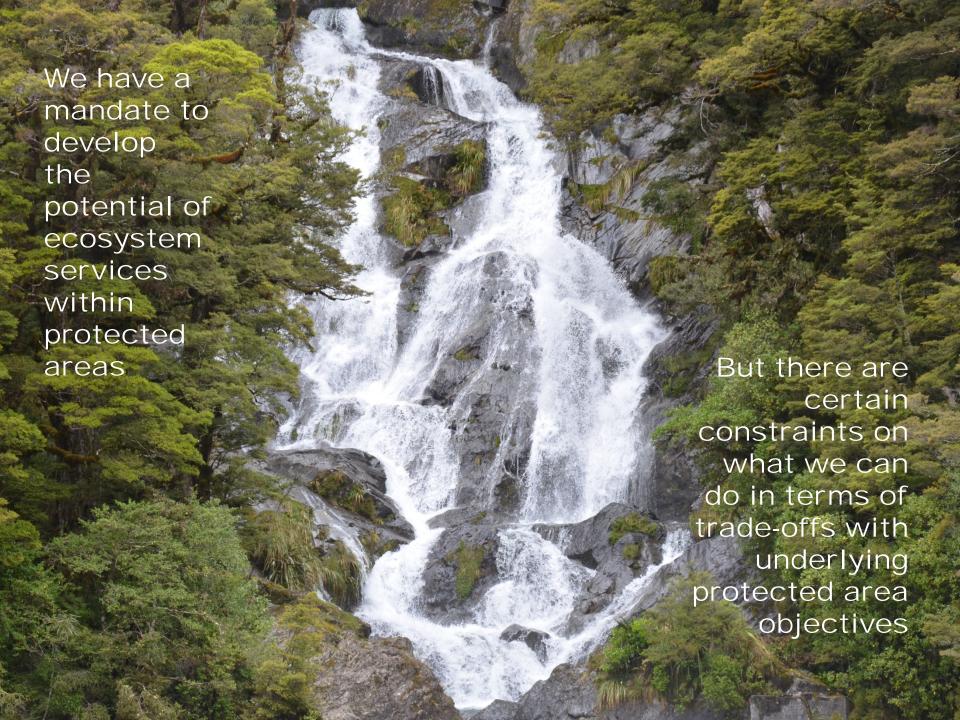


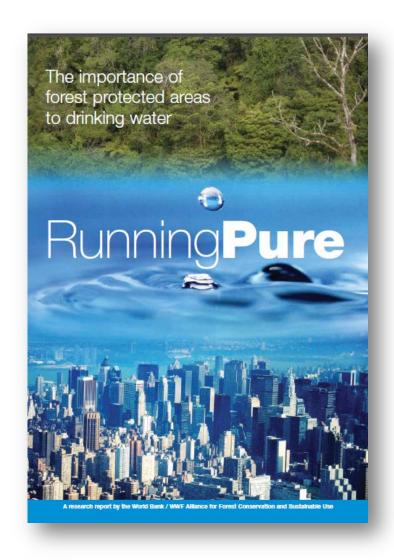


The definition is explained word by word in the guidelines and is also accompanied by a series of principles, the most significant here being...

"For IUCN, only those areas where the main objective is conserving nature can be considered protected areas; this can include many areas with other goals as well, at the same level, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation will be the priority"





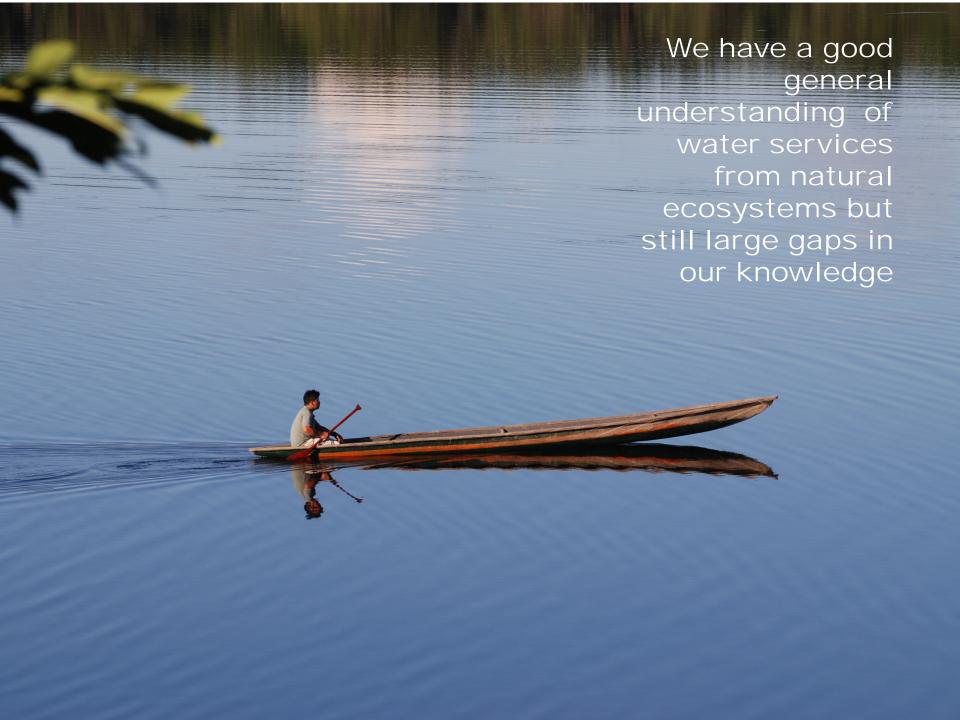


Over a third of the world's hundred largest cities draw a substantial proportion of their drinking water from forest protected areas



- Watersheds with natural ecosystems generally produce cleaner water than those with agricultural, industrial or urban landscapes...
- ...although they don't remove every contaminant
- Forests are particularly effective at producing high quality water, but vegetation such as grassland and paramos is also good
- Freshwater ecosystems also help to purify water e.g., some aquatic plants can remove pollutants
- Some forests such as mountain cloud forests can also increase net water flow; other forest types decrease net flow from the watershed
- Ecosystems provide other water services such as flood mitigation, soil stabilisation and reduction in run-off, and supply for freshwater fisheries





Many water users are trusting their judgement rather than relying on hard science





Although any natural ecosystem can provide ecosystem services, those contained in protected areas offer a number of advantages. Good protected areas offer the following benefits

- They are protected, legally or through traditional / private agreements
- With agreed boundaries, mapped and delimited
- Management plans, capacity and trained staff
- Ongoing dialogue and agreements with local communities
- A framework for Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) schemes and similar financial mechanisms









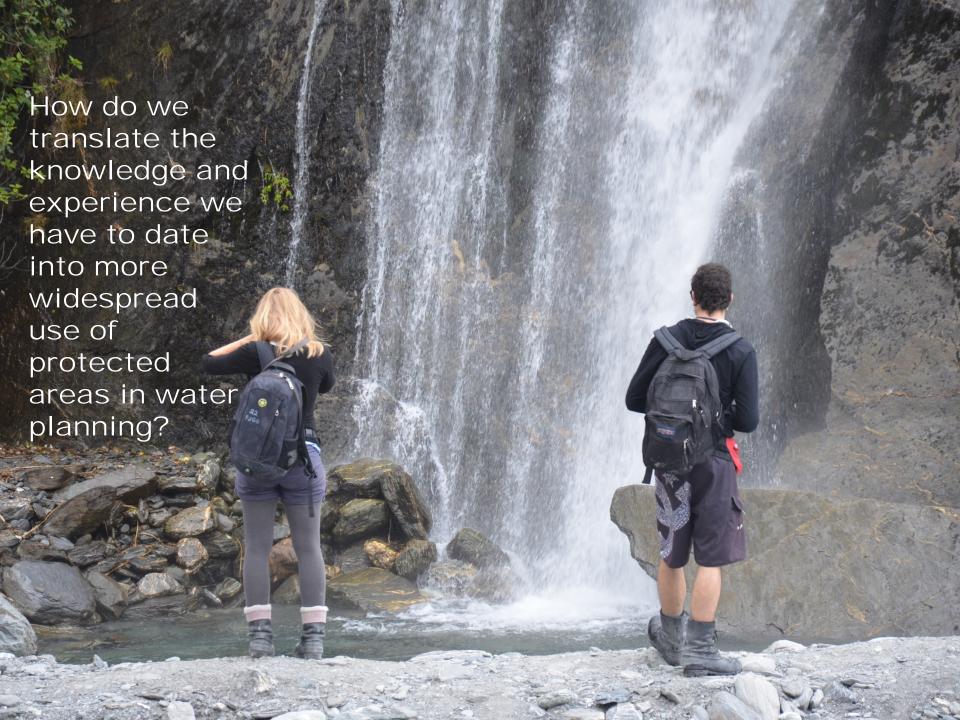






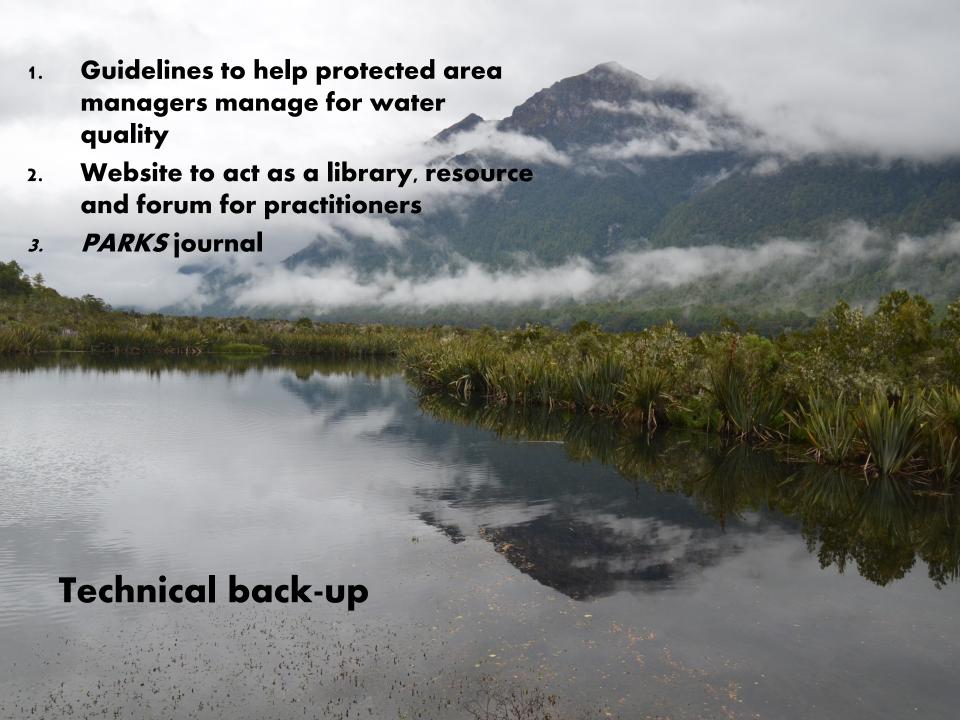
IUCN World Parks Congress Sydney 2014

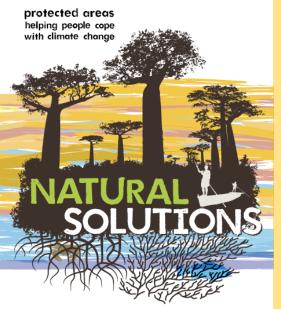




- 1. Technical back-up
- 2. Broader range of proponents
- 3. Legal and policy changes
- 4. Better understanding of processes
- 5. Private-community-public partnerships
- 6. Valuation
- 7. Global network







Protected areas provide workable, efficient, cost effective tools to deliver ecosystem services to supply pure water, food security, disaster risk reduction. health benefits, soil conservation, protection of fragile human communities, cultural survival and poverty reduction in rural communities. This website has resources, case studies and tools to maximise benefits

Protected areas offer a range of services well beyond biodiversity conservation



General: global studies, Payment for Ecosystem Services



Food security: fish, crop wild relatives, NTFPs



Water: water quality, cloud forests, maintaining flow



Disaster risk reduction



Health: medicines, exercise, control of disease vectors



Climate change: mitigation and adaptation





Poverty reduction

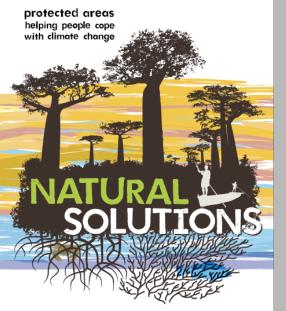




Cultural and spiritual survival

Search

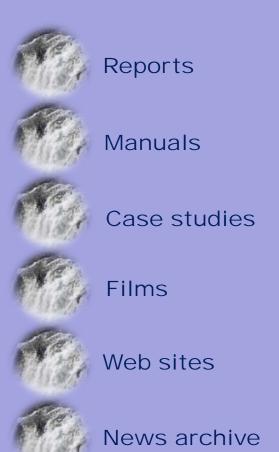




Protected forests and wetlands and vegetation such as paramos provide high quality water. Some ecosystems, such as montane cloud forests and some old eucalyptus forests, also increase net water flow. A third of the world's largest cities draw water from protected areas. Managing protected areas for water supply is big business

Protected areas and water services

Latest news:



Broader range of proponents





Private-community-public partnerships







