WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Event co-leaders:	Charles Besancon, Paula Bueno and James Hardcastle
Time and date:	14 November 2014, 15:30-17:00
Rapporteurs:	Kandole Annet Balewa and Archi Rastogi
Presenters:	Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Dave de Vera, Humberto Cabrera, Michael Lockwood, Annet Kandole Balewa, Erika Stanciu and Karine Nuulimba

Governance is critical to the success of protected areas, and the parties to CBD have agreed to report on it. The session provided a description of the IUCN/ CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) methodology to assess, evaluate and plan to improve the governance of protected area systems and individual sites. The methodology is included as Part II of Volume 20 in the Best Practices in Protected Areas Guidelines Series, and is available in English, Spanish and French. The guidelines provide a framework for understanding and analyzing the exercise of authority, responsibility and accountability for a PA system or site (assessment) and drawing conclusions and recommendations (evaluation) in light of the protected areas' mission and objectives and the shared values of the wider society. The methodology outlined in Part II of the guidelines incorporates a consideration of historical and cultural factors, an analysis of the legal and institutional framework (rightsholders and stakeholders) as grounds for the spatial analysis of the status of ecosystems within and outside protected areas. Innovative tools such as the IUCN Protected Areas Matrix and considerations of quality of governance (e.g. *how* are decisions taken and implemented?) are also included. Particular emphasis is placed upon the spatial analysis of governance— linking the status of ecosystems with governance diversity, quality and vitality—and drawing recommendations from what is found. This is how, in places such as the Philippines and Iran, innovative governance types have come to be recognised as very useful for conservation. Governance champions—individuals and organisations with awareness, integrity, credibility and the capacity to inspire can help to build the capacity of various actors in society and engage them in processes of understanding and improving how decisions about nature are taken and implemented.

The IUCN/CBD methodology was outlined by Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend and a panel of discussants including Dave De Vera, Humberto Cabrera, Michael Lockwood, Annet Kandole, Erika Stanciu and Karine Nuulimba provided observations and comments. This was followed by general discussion.

Key emerging lessons:

There were several strengths of the guidelines: 1) the four process steps outlined in the guidelines are logical, and yet versatile and flexible. The structure is internally consistent; 2) the guidelines are historically grounded, as opposed to other instruments which may be guided by generic ideals; 3) the guidelines are not too prescriptive. It is possible for users to build on them further; 4) they have framework elements, and supporting guiding material.

Opportunities for improvement and recommendations were identified by the presenters and the audience. These included: challenges of measuring transparency and accountability; use of Information and communications technology (ICT); challenging transferability to biodiversity hotspots; time based constraints impacting thoroughness of project/analysis; representatives of indigenous communities not be able to fully engage; the need for in-depth assessment of governance **quality** and **vitality** (vitality is a relatively new concept, developed after the launching of the guidelines and still in need of guidance); incorporating issues such as climate change adaptation/mitigation; monitoring flows between rights/stakeholders; strengthening options for enhancing community mobilization and participation; promoting forums that are multi-sectoral; the importance of integrity and accountability in expert assessment (especially in areas of political or economic instability); incorporating indicators into document, not annex; engagement and participation at a micro level within and between stakeholder/rightholder groups; incorporating more reference to marine issues; and guidelines lacking the discussion of integration and partnerships (administrative level over/between governments). There are challenges in the guidelines pertaining to free and prior informed consent (including within the community), and increase focus on vitality. Successful long term example from Namibia stressed importance of adapting to context and commitment over long time frames (leading to continued devolution of rights to communities in that case – eg. hunting in national parks).

Exemplary case/s and other useful links:

Specific case examples and comments on use of the guidelines were provided from the Philippines, Peru, Uganda, Lithuania and Namibia. The Philippines, in particular, is a leader in identifying and responding to governance issues in conservation. The country is currently preparing a National PA System Master Plan and incorporating governance issues there at all level. Themes in positive outcomes and feedback included: sense of ownership of results; process provides great opportunity to enhance governance awareness and opportunities to identify new threats; guidelines speak a common language which can be adapted to local context (e.g., include governance systems analysis, community based monitoring, good governance tracking tool). However, the Philippines' IP were not able to fully participate in the assessment, evaluation and action process, pointing at the need to conduct IP-specific exercises. There was a need for in-depth analyses of governance quality and vitality, and identifying de-facto governance gaps. The process needs to be expanded to cover other regions and territories.

Original presentations and report are available in the event's folder (see link in annexed "Repository of original Powerpoint presentations and Rapporteur reports").

Key recommendations:

1. There is a need to assess, evaluate and improve governance of protected areas and conserved areas and the CBD secretariat is consolidating a number of tools and disseminating them to countries. The IUCN/CBD guidelines on governance of protected areas can be used as an example, to be adapted and used by different countries.
2. There is a need to compile the results of the process and share the lessons. Countries who have used and will use the guidelines need to send in their reports to IUCN and the CBD secretariat.
3. We need to deepen thinking on assessing, evaluating and thereby strengthening governance. We need to focus on governance vitality.
4. Post-WPC we need to concentrate on regional contexts, and build communities of practice and thinkers. We need to support shared learning in networks .
5. We can build a common language. We need to keep in sight what we wish to achieve: protected areas that are diversely governed, better governed and more vital and resilient-- able to respond to change in positive ways.

The above points were instrumental in shaping the following final recommendation:

Rec#	Title
18	Governance data and analyses
11	CBD Guidance
1	Enhancing governance
2	Standards and guidance