



WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Event co-leaders:	Jose Aylwin, Barbara Lausche and Alexander Paterson
Time and date:	17 November 2014, 08:30-12:00 (double session)
Rapporteurs:	Lorena Arce
Presenters:	Part I (Protected Area System): Hernán Benchaya, Alberto Paniagua, Philip Muruti, Samantha Murray, Theresa Mundita Lim and Mari Koch Part II (Connectivity): Elisa Corcuera, Pedro Gamboa, Alina Ionita, Peter Jacobs and Bartolomeu Soto

Major global treaties (e.g. CBD) and intergovernmental guidance (e.g. Aichi Targets and the CBD PoWPA) call for protected areas as a key tool for achieving biodiversity conservation, ambitious targets for expanded coverage of land and marine areas under conservation, and a protected areas systems approach to the selection and management of existing and new sites. Building effective and equitable protected areas systems to advance these global aims and targets means undertaking systems planning in the context of broader landscapes/seascapes and ensuring integration with other planning processes. It also means addressing governance for its key role in helping ensure effective and equitably-managed systems and sites, with respect both to including diverse governance approaches and ensuring accountability, fairness and related good governance principles in decision-making.

This Workshop, which comprised of a series of presentations and group discussions, sought to:

- Take stock of modern-day protected areas system planning, its nature/human connections, integration into other existing and proposed planning processes, and maintenance of primary conservation objectives and connectivity needs while respecting basic human rights.
- Relate governance as an overarching concept for effective and equitable protected area systems, and promote the vitality of this idea going forward.
- Identify governance, legal, and capacity building messages, and supportive and required international principles and targets, including the CBD Aichi targets that can translate into specific recommendations to the final outputs of the World Parks Congress.

Key emerging lessons:

- *System planning* is a critical strategic tool for protected areas establishment, management, and governance that is important to be grounded in law, where feasible, and integrated with other plans relevant for protected areas, including national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans, climate change action plans, land use plans, economic development plans, and special planning tools such as Strategic Environmental Assessments.
- *Connectivity conservation* is an essential part of protected areas system planning, taking into account surrounding landscapes and seascapes, important natural linkages (ecological processes, species habitats, and other biodiversity-rich areas), and cultural and governance linkages (surrounding community, government, landowner, private sector activities).
- *International law and policy* in conservation and in human rights are supportive tools for ensuring effective and equitable protected areas systems, basic human rights and economic and community well-being. These tools recognize the importance of ensuring connectivity with surrounding landscapes/seascapes, integration of diverse governance approaches, and application of diverse tools and support to ensure vitality and fairness of such approaches.

Exemplary case/s and other useful links:

Each of the cases presented during the workshop highlighted certain exemplary elements.

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:

Regarding PA Systems

- Policymakers seeking to create effective and equitable protected areas systems (including terrestrial and marine protected area systems) need to involve, and consult with, many different stakeholders including: state authorities in all spheres of government, the private sector, local communities and indigenous peoples.
- Domestic law and policymakers need to adopt/reform/implement laws and policies that facilitate and enable to the creation of protected area systems.
- Law and policy frameworks enabling and regulating protected area systems must provide for:
 - Clear and secure ownership/resource use rights.
 - The possibility to recognise a diversity of protected area governance types and management objectives.
 - Procedures for facilitating cooperation across a diverse array of stakeholders.
 - Measures that respect and safeguard basic human rights, including benefit sharing.
 - Mechanisms for generating funding.

- Procedures for resolving conflicts between different stakeholders.
- The IUCN should commission studies to assess the experience of different countries in using the IUCN PA Law Guidelines to implement effective and equitable protected area systems.

Regarding Connectivity:

- Those formulating, initiating and implementing connectivity initiatives need to recognise that when talking about connectivity one is dealing with many different perspectives:
 - Connectivity at different scales - international, regional, domestic and local context.
 - Different forms of connectivity - buffers, stepping stones, corridors, linked landscapes, different forms of protected areas.
 - Connectivity from different senses - ecological, social, cultural, governance and legal.
- Connectivity needs to be promoted through both a state driven (top down approach) and non-state actor driven context (bottom up).
- Domestic policymakers should develop criteria to identify and prioritise connectivity initiatives.
- All stakeholders engaged in connectivity initiatives should develop a common vision in advance to ensure its success, and strategic/systems planning is central in developing this common vision.
- Domestic policymakers should ensure that strategic/systems planning is diverse in its focus and integrated/aligned with other mapping/strategic planning processes - focussing not only on ecology but also issues relating to existing institutions, rights and interests, economics, land use, economic development plans etc.
- Domestic law and policymakers need to tailor the legal system providing for connectivity to each particular context, and ensure that it:
 - Clarifies ownership and rights issues.
 - Entrenches mechanisms aimed at promoting cooperation, coordination and conflict resolution.
 - Promotes systems planning.
 - Promotes a diversity of protected area governance types and management objectives.
 - Define and recognises decentralised forms of natural resource governance and 'other effective area-based conservation measures'.
 - Entrenches a diversity of legal tools for facilitating connectivity such as land use planning, contractual arrangements and land trusts.
 - Creates innovative financing models to support connectivity initiatives.
 - Provides for constant reflection and adaptation - responding to regular performance assessment and review.

The core results of this workshop can be found in all three strategic directions of the Stream, and its recommended holistic approach to systemic planning and governance of protected areas is reflected into most of its specific recommendations.