

World Commission on Protected Areas

2005-2008

European Programme



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

WCPA European Programme

Our programme 'Protected Areas in Europe: for People and Nature' focuses on the practical projects and advice that WCPA aims to undertake between 2005 and 2008. We believe that people and nature are inseparable in such a well-trodden and densely peopled continent and we work to ensure that conflict is lessened and good practice is promoted. We provide an Advisory Service to those who wish an objective, experienced based and expert input on any issues about the establishment, management and use of Europe's protected areas. Our members are selected for their knowledge and experience and for their objectivity. Over the next few years we shall be focussing our attention on some key issues.

1. **Natura 2000** concerning the finalization of the site designation process, management and monitoring mechanisms, financing and negotiation with stakeholders.
2. Establishment and management of **marine protected areas** on the seas around Europe, with a particular emphasis on the Mediterranean.
3. Defining objectives and setting standards for protected areas through the use of the **IUCN Protected Areas category system**.
4. Practical methods of **connecting protected areas** to each other and linking them into the surrounding landscape.
5. **Training** for protected areas staff and all others involved in and with protected areas.
6. Linking protected areas **across international boundaries** especially in central and eastern Europe.

You can find out more about our programme and our activities in the documents attached, and about our global programme and activities by visiting our web site at www.wcpa.org.

Protected Areas in Europe for People and Nature

Europe's special natural and cultural places: protecting our heritage

Europe has a rich tapestry of areas that reflect the continent's natural and cultural history. These sites represent our shared heritage and are protected in each country as national parks, regional parks, nature parks, nature reserves, protected landscapes and countless other designations suited to the circumstances of the nation and its constituent parts. There are tens of thousands of these designated areas around Europe representing the very best places for the plants and animals that live there, the habitats and ecosystems which provide them with their natural home, and for the landscapes representing Europe's long and often tortuous earth history and the interaction of human society with it since it was first settled a few thousand years ago.

These special places are all styled 'protected areas' essentially because specific efforts are needed to protect them for the benefit of current and future generations. Many governments at national, provincial and local levels, many charitable organisations and many private owners are involved in this protection effort as owners and as guardians. Citizens are proud of their heritage and have high expectations that all of these special places will be properly cared for to safeguard their integrity and to restore those elements which have become degraded or damaged. These special places are also for civil society to enjoy for recreation, and for owners to produce food and fibre and other resources which society needs. They are also important in their own right as cultural icons, as the natural sources and reservoirs for our water supplies, and as the stores of great genetic diversity.

A network of expert volunteers

The importance of these natural spaces has been recognised for many centuries, but the twentieth century saw the development of dedicated legislation, the establishment of management bodies, new funding mechanisms, and novel management schemes to protect them. Over this period, a great

body of knowledge and experience has been accumulated by all the people working in and around protected areas. To harness this expertise, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) established a group of experts called the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Its members are volunteers acting in their free time. They have gained their experience and expertise by working for governments and their agencies, non-governmental organisations, consultancies or other organisations. This network primarily works by offering advice to state and non-state organisations and taking part in projects. The European Region of WCPA, covers 36 countries and has around 250 members, and is part of a network of some 1400 volunteer experts worldwide.

What is happening to Protected Areas in Europe?

Profound changes have affected natural habitats, species and cultural landscapes in recent decades. Most significant has been the growth of coastal resort complexes, particularly along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, the continuing intensification of agriculture arising from the financial incentives provided for food production, development of transport infrastructure to speed public and private transit over long distances, the continuing high exploitation of marine fish stocks and, sadly, the effect of armed conflict in certain parts of the region.

The single most significant change in the distribution of population is the growth of major urban areas through infilling within the



urban space, expansion on the periphery and amalgamation of settlements. The space for green areas has been reduced with consequent diminution in landscape quality and species niches.

Climate change will have significant effects on protected areas and especially on the species and habitats within them, irrespective of what concerted global action is taken. Species are likely to be lost from some protected areas and not be able to migrate successfully because of the fragmentation of habitats that has occurred and the lack of ecological corridors and networks to facilitate such transfers. Developing landscape scale approaches and implementing more extensively the ecological networks and corridors will be necessary.

Global frameworks for European action

At the global level a number of key events have taken place to ensure the continuing protection of Earth's natural places and it is vitally important that Europe makes its contribution.

In 2003 3,000 of world's leading experts on protected areas attended the World Parks Congress (WPC) in Durban, South Africa. They agreed the Durban Accord setting out the challenges for protected areas and people and inviting action from parties throughout the world. The Durban Action Plan developed at the WPC provides a detailed plan of work needed to implement the Durban Accord. These documents identified that protected areas had formed the main vehicles for *in situ* conservation and had achieved

great progress, but that significant gaps remained. An increase in financial investment is urgently needed to ensure that the management of protected areas is made more effective and that they are linked more with their surrounding communities.

"Innovative methods are needed to diversify the financial support for protected areas."

This financing is unlikely to come from traditional government sources, therefore new and innovative methods are needed to diversify the financial support for protected areas.

The results of this Congress fed into the efforts made within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity for protected areas. In 2004, at the 8th Conference of the Parties in Kuala Lumpur, a Programme of Work on Protected Areas was adopted. This Programme provides a series of targets and guidelines for the development, management and monitoring of protected areas and the equitable sharing of the benefits that derive from them. Europe's protected areas can make key contributions to the commitments made globally to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. It is essential that we use all the means at our disposal to implement the Durban Accord and Action Plan, and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and these documents form the framework for WPCA's activities in Europe.

Protected Areas connecting with wider landscapes and human communities

Traditionally designating protecting areas meant limiting their use and access by humans. This was seen as the most effective way of ensuring the continued survival of the important ecological features within. Furthermore these 'islands' of protection had to, in many cases, conform to national or regional boundaries. The role of protected areas has now expanded to ensure that they function as a component of their wider ecosystems and surrounding landscapes, and their integration with local communities and civil society more generally.

There are a number of mechanisms now being employed to improve connectivity between protected areas and their surrounding landscapes. Corridors are generally used to connect separate protected areas or specific habitats, national ecological networks have been established, and a pan-European ecological network is being implemented. New approaches to the engagement of local communities in the identification and management of protected areas have brought many gains and removed unnecessary barriers. New governance structures and initiatives to build the capacity of key stakeholders are expanding. An important approach that has recently been ratified is the European Landscape Convention. This agreement sets out to promote European landscape protection, management and planning through activities undertaken at the national level. WCPA will support the extension of these approaches throughout the region.

Natura 2000

The Natura 2000 network of protected areas provides a great opportunity for securing greater protection of Europe's diversity of species and habitats and to ensure that they are ecologically connected. Since the EU Habitats and Species Directive came into force over a decade ago, the EU Member States have concentrated their efforts on establishing the sites and ensuring that a sufficiently representative sample of areas within each country was identified. The emphasis is now moving from implementation to management, but a greater focus must be put on connectivity measures. There is extensive experience within the WCPA network on Natura 2000, including implementing connectivity measures and the management of protected areas. In the Programme period, WCPA will seek to develop firm links with the European Commission and active stakeholders concerning the effective management of Natura 2000.



The European Programme

This document sets out the IUCN Programme for Protected Areas in Europe for 2005-2008 led and coordinated by WCPA and the IUCN Regional Office for Europe. The Programme reflects the global and European issues facing protected areas, and the role of WCPA and other parts of IUCN in progressing the Durban Accord and Action Plan from the 2003 World Parks Congress, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas approved by the CBD COP in 2004, and the Global Programme of IUCN.

The Programme is based on existing volunteer efforts of WCPA members. But additional resources and volunteer efforts are needed to implement all of our aspirations. **We invite WCPA members to engage in the delivery of the Protected Areas Programme in Europe and in individual countries as well as to make a contribution to the Global Programme of WCPA. This document is the starting point for participation and engagement. It is not a closed list so your ideas and proposals are very much welcomed. Let us know please:**

Roger Crofts WCPA Regional Vice-Chair roger@dodin.idps.co.uk

Andrew Terry IUCN Regional Office for Europe, WCPA Europe Coordinator andrew.terry@iucn.org

We look forward to hearing from you and we look forward to your active participation!

WCPA Advisory Service

A number of requests have been made from governments, government organisations and IUCN Members for expert advice and evaluation on protected areas. This is a growing area of activity. A Protocol for such activities has already been drawn by the WCPA Europe Executive Committee as a basis for agreeing the terms of engagement with bodies making a formal request for advice.

There are many areas of specialist knowledge and expertise within the WCPA Europe membership, including: transboundary protected areas establishment, cooperation and mechanisms on joint projects; evaluation of protected areas and protected areas systems against Categories; cultural landscapes; networks and corridors and bioregional planning; governance models in practice; regional protected areas systems: science, consultation, site identification, financial mechanisms; zoning in practice; establishment of coastal and shallow water marine protected areas; mountain protected areas; management effectiveness and management planning.

Specific areas of expert advice that can be offered to Governments, State Agencies and regional and provincial authorities and other stakeholders include:

- Specific requests concerning policy, regulation, new protected areas systems, application of the Categories system and management effectiveness;
- Assessments of sites on national Tentative Lists, evaluation of status of inscribed World Heritage Sites, and wider regional and biome evaluations of gaps and other issues;
- the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- targeted input into specific projects at the European level, e.g. EU DG Research projects.
- The European Green Belt Initiative and the Dinaric Arc Initiative.

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

The Programme for WCPA, as developed by the Global Steering Committee, to reflect the all of the above programmes has been grouped under 4 themes:

1. Conserving biodiversity and landscape diversity
2. Strengthening protected area management
3. Developing capacity for protected areas
4. Improving governance, equity and livelihoods.

The European Programme on Protected Areas uses this framework. It focuses on what is achievable rather than aspirations which are unlikely to be achieved. A series of specific Items plus generic activity as Expert Advisory Services are identified and help to achieve one or more of the themes. ✓ indicates the principle link between the programme item and the theme.

	Programme Item	1	2	3	4
1	Important Plant Areas in Europe	✓			
2	Mediterranean Marine PAs	✓			
3	MPAs beyond territorial limits	✓			
4	Bioregional approaches, corridors and networks	✓	✓		
5	IUCN Management Categories guidance		✓	✓	✓
6	Raising awareness of IUCN Category system		✓	✓	✓
7	Certification and verification of protected areas	✓	✓	✓	
8	Develop series of best practice guides	✓	✓	✓	
9	Training needs and strategy		✓	✓	✓
10	UN Decade for Education on Sustainable Development		✓	✓	✓
11	Centres of Excellence in Education and Training		✓	✓	✓
12	Value and benefits of protected areas	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Improved financial mechanisms		✓	✓	✓
14	NATURA 2000 Managers and Practitioners	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Transboundary protected areas guidance	✓	✓		
16	Cultural and Spiritual Areas in Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓

THEME 1: CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

Item 1: Implementing Important Plant Areas

Task:	To provide expert advice in support of the implementation of IPAs in Western Europe and the completion of implementation in central and eastern Europe.
Rationale:	The European Plant Conservation Strategy provides the framework for the implementation of protected areas for plants - IPAs - to ensure that the diversity of plants species and their habitats are identified and protected.
Lead:	Plantlife International, an IUCN member. Liz Radford liz.radford@plantlife.org.uk
Participants:	The Planta Europa network of almost 50 organisations around Europe with expert input from WCPA and SSC experts.
Resources:	To develop and implement the work in west and north European countries will require commitment and additional resources from the national governments and state agencies. Funding being sought, especially from The Netherlands Ministry of Environment.
Expected outcomes:	IPA inventories completed or underway in all European states by 2010.

Item 2: Developing Mediterranean marine protected areas

Task:	To provide expert advice and guidance to Mediterranean States in the identification and implementation of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.
Rationale:	EU Member States are required to implement Natura 2000 in their waters. Also the Barcelona Convention places responsibilities on the signatory states to develop Special Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI). Finally all the world's nations are required to reach the WSSD target of establishing representative networks of marine protected areas (MPA) by 2012. The commitments require new concepts and the application of lessons learnt from experience on MPAs in other parts of the world, particularly if Mediterranean MPAs are to be organised into networks that are ecologically representative.
Lead:	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara. disciara@tin.it
Participants:	WCPA MMED Group, IUCN Global Marine Programme and IUCN Office for Mediterranean Cooperation. Funds to be sought from concerned agencies and donors.
Resources:	WCPA MMED Group, IUCN Global Marine Programme and IUCN Office for Mediterranean Cooperation.
Expected outcomes:	Gaps in MPAs identified; means for assessing the effectiveness of the existing MPAs developed; best practice advice on fishing activity and the role of fisherman in MPAs.

Item 3: Advising on marine protected areas beyond territorial limits

Task:	To provide expert advice to the European Commission and Member States on establishing MPAs beyond territorial limits.
Rationale:	The next stage in the implementation of Natura 2000 is the establishment of MPAs beyond territorial limits. This will require new approaches and ideas. There is a considerable body of experience being built up in other regions of the world. The IUCN network is well placed to feed this advice into the relevant sections of the European Commission.
Lead:	To be identified from Marine experts in consultation with the WCPA Marine Chair Dan Laffoly
Participants:	WCPA Marine Mediterranean Group, IUCN Global Marine Programme, relevant WCPA experts.
Resources:	Donor required.
Expected outcomes:	Adopted and timetabled programme of work to establish MPAs beyond territorial limits.

Item 4: Implementation of bioregional approaches, corridors and networks

Task:	To summarise and disseminate the cutting edge and best practice concerning bio-regional approaches corridors and networks in Europe.
Rationale:	Protected areas are most effective where they are part of a bioregion and linked into the landscape through networks and corridors allowing migration of species, and visual continuity. Also the EU Habitats and Species Directive requires action under Article 10 on wider countryside measures to ensure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. Considerable experience can also be gathered from specific initiatives such as the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions. Furthermore this work would draw and provide input into efforts to establish the pan-European Ecological Network.
Lead:	Graham Bennett bennett@syzygy.nl
Participants:	WCPA and CEM expert volunteers and IUCN ROFE.
Resources:	Funds to be sought from European Commission and national governments
Expected outcomes:	Summary materials produced and disseminated. WCPA Good Practice Guidelines on Linkages and Networks disseminated to WCPA and CEM members. Active WCPA participation in networking of Natura 2000.

THEME 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Item 5: IUCN Management Categories guidance

Task: To support the further elaboration of the IUCN Guidelines on Management Categories for Protected Areas, with particular attention to issues relevant to Europe.

Rationale: The IUCN Guidelines do not provide sufficiently detailed guidance on activities within protected areas which could be detrimental to the management objectives or which could help to achieve those objectives. Protected areas managers are seeking more specific advice on critical issues. A task force has been assembled at the global level to review the guidance for the use of the Categories. It is very important that the European context is fully represented. Priority topics are likely to be hunting and game management; grazing; and forestry operations.

Lead: WCPA Europe Executive Committee to decide on topics to be pursued following consultation with WCPA members and other partners, specifically EUROPARC Federation and Eurosite.

Participants: Relevant WCPA and IUCN Secretariat experts in relation to the topics reviewed.

Resources: Need to be raised in relation to each project as part of global programme on IUCN Categories.

Expected outcomes: Management guidance on activities permitted and restricted in relation to IUCN Categories for the agreed subjects approved and disseminated as annexes to the IUCN Categories Guidelines.

Item 6: Awareness-raising of the Category system

Task: To raise awareness of the value and utility of the IUCN Category system to governments, state agencies and to the European Commission

Rationale: Following its inclusion in the CBD Programme of Work on PAs, the IUCN Category system is the accepted international standard for classifying protected areas in terms of management objectives, statutory basis, and governance arrangements. Although adopted legally in some European countries, its value is not as widely appreciated as the system merits. The 'Speaking a Common Language' report provides a basis.

Lead: Nigel Dudley, WCPA Task Force on Categories. Contact Equilibrium@compuserve.com

Participants: Identify WCPA member in each Country to take lead in association with the IUCN National Committee. Appoint WCPA European representatives to the Global Task Force on Categories.

Resources: Donors required and support needed from global Protected Areas Programme

Expected outcomes: Increased use of the Category system in European countries and by the EC. New guidelines disseminated to all: WCPA Members and to partners and governmental bodies. Possible inclusion of PA Category into Natura 2000 data sheets. Dissemination of information and expert seminars for EC DG Environment and Topic Centre for Biodiversity.

Item 7: Certification and verification of protected areas

Task: To pilot test and disseminate a Protocol for the verification and certification of protected areas systems in relation to the IUCN Guidelines on Protected Areas Management Categories.

Rationale: The Durban Action Plan recommended action on the verification and certification of protected areas systems. It identified that a systematic procedure for assessment was needed both in relation to improving the quality of entries for individual PAs and PA systems against the IUCN Categories in the UN List of Protected Areas and in providing a basis for improving the management effectiveness of PA systems and specific sites.

Lead: Marija Zupancic-Vicar marija.vicar@telemach.net

Participants: WCPA Europe Working Group on Verification and Certification.

Resources: Donors required - resources totalling 30,000 euros needed.

Expected outcomes: Tested and agreed protocol for verifying PA systems against the IUCN Category system and procedure for verifying individual PA against the Categories.

Item 8: Develop series of best practice guides

Task: To produce series of best practice guides on key conservation and management issues.

Rationale: The WCPA membership collectively has a depth and breadth of experience on many issues and this should be tapped to aid others in the region and beyond. The development of a series of best practice guides would also assist their work.

Lead: WCPA globally oversees process of identifying issues and inviting members to contribute.

Participants: To be selected on the basis of knowledge of issue where there is a demand for best practice advice. Collaboration with Eurosite, Europarc Federation, and UNESCO when possible.

Resources: Donors required – from European national governments or institutions.

Expected outcomes: Accessible best practice guides on key issues, which might include zoning, governance, consultation, connectivity and management incentives published as part of the WCPA Best Practice series.

THEME 3: DEVELOPING CAPACITY

Item 9: Training needs and strategy

Task:	To develop a training needs assessment and implement a strategy for training of PA administrators and stakeholders in Europe.
Rationale:	There is great demand for training as part of capacity building for all stakeholders involved in protected areas and this is best done on a country and regional basis. Furthermore from 2005-2014, the UN is running a decade for Education in Sustainable Development.
Lead:	Maurilio Cipparone, Chair WCPA Europe Education and Training Task Force.
Participants:	Members of the WCPA Europe Education and Training Task Force And institutions such as Alfred Toepfer Akademie fur Naturschutz and UNESCO.
Resources:	Financial support in place for initial work.
Expected outcomes:	Development of education and training opportunities to meet needs of all PA stakeholders.

Item 10: Integrating WCPA into the UN Decade for Education on Sustainable Development

Task:	To develop a project within the scope of the UN Decade for Education on Sustainable Development.
Rationale:	From 2005-2014, UNESCO is implementing the UN's decade for Education in Sustainable Development. The overall goal of the DESD is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. There is scope for WCPA to develop training concerning the use and values of biodiversity and protected areas.
Lead:	WCPA global secretariat and WCPA European Education and Training Task Force.
Participants:	WCPA members and Institutions such as Alfred Toepfer Akademie fur Naturschutz and UNESCO
Resources:	Donor required
Expected outcomes:	Development of project proposals and successful applications.

Item 11: Network of Centres of Excellence in Education and Training

Task:	To develop programmes of education and training for Protected Area administrators and stakeholders on a repayment basis in a coordinated manner between established Centres.
Rationale:	A Network of European Environmental Training Centres of Excellence (NEETCE) has been established to build the capacity of people involved in protected areas.
Lead:	Hans Schreiner, Johann.Schreiner@NNA.Niedersachsen.de , Alfred Toepfer Akademie fur Naturschutz, Germany
Participants:	Network members are: Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz (the former NNA, Norddeutsche Naturschutzakademie, Germany); Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (France); Istituto Pangea-ONLUS (Italy) – a European Institute for Environmental Education and Professional Training; Losehill Hall, the Peak District National Park Study Centre (England); Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (France).
Resources:	To be derived from course participation and marketing budgets of Centres.
Expected outcomes:	The extension of education and training opportunities available to PA stakeholders.

Item 12: Raising awareness of the value and benefits of protected areas

Task:	To promote the values and benefits of protected areas to environmental, social and economic components of sustainable development, providing examples of best practice.
Rationale:	One of the main outcomes of the WPC set out in the Durban Action Plan was to mainstream PAs into the sustainable development agenda. This is especially important in Europe, where the role of PAs within regional development needs further investigation and communication. Information materials are needed to discuss the options for integrating PAs into development agendas and topics would include: valuation of environmental, social and economic benefits and the different novel financial opportunities open to PAs. Furthermore a review of PAs and the way they interact with regional development projects is required, especially in Europe.
Lead:	WCPA Europe Regional Vice-Chair, and IUCN ROE
Participants:	All WCPA members, especially National Committee Focal Points and those working in government and state agencies. Also collaboration with large European networks, such as the Europarc Federation and WWF.
Resources:	This is a core function of the leading organisations working with PAs and their management in Europe. WCPA global programme to lead on production of brochure and WCPA Regions to modify material to suit regional circumstances
Expected outcomes:	A greater understanding and awareness among social and economic interest groups of the role and benefits of protected areas and support for their proper management. Also a greater understanding among NGOs and PA managers concerning options to integrate nature conservation and regional development.

Item 13: Improved financial mechanisms for protected areas

Task:	To demonstrate the need for and benefits from the proper financing of protected areas.
Rationale:	Few activities are able to function and deliver results without adequate finance. Protected areas are no exception. Their under funding assures that not only do they fail to achieve their goals, but they are also unable to deliver benefits to surrounding communities.
Lead:	Alistair Gammell, RSPB alistair.gammell@rspb.org.uk and IUCN European Regional Counsellor.
Participants:	All WCPA members, especially National Committee Focal Points and those working in government and state agencies. WWF, PAN Parks and Europarc Federation
Resources:	This is a core activity of WCPA members and therefore part of their normal activities. Should there be a need to carry out specific projects within the framework of WCPA, specific financial resources will be required.
Expected outcomes:	Increased financial support for protected areas in Europe.

Item 14: NATURA 2000 Managers and Practitioners

Task:	To establish an advisory group within the Framework of the European Habitats Forum to assist the development and implementation of Natura 2000 from the perspective of PA managers.
Rationale:	Currently most of the advice given to the European Commission concerning Natura 2000 is based on the establishment of the sites within the network. However as the networks are becoming increasingly established in Member States, attention is moving from site identification to management. There is now a great deal of practical experience within the WCPA Europe membership concerning NATURA 2000. Sharing of experience on the challenges and solutions would help the process of effective management of the network.
Lead:	WCPA European Vice Chair
Participants:	WCPA Members managing Natura 2000 sites, IUCN ROFE, and appropriate members organisations, such as Europarc Federation, Eurosite and WWF.
Resources:	To be negotiated with DG Environment, and participation to be discussed with the European Habitats Forum.
Expected outcomes:	Expert advice provided in agreed form and to agreed timescales. Lessons of Natura 2000 distilled to benefit other parts of the world and users in Europe.

THEME 4: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE, EQUITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Item 15: Transboundary protected areas guidance

Task:	To identify and promote best practice in transboundary protected areas in Europe.
Rationale:	A number of initiatives are under way concerning the networking of sites in Europe. IUCN and WCPA have developed materials in the past concerning transboundary cooperation, however there is a need to revisit this work in light of recent developments. The aim will be to compile and disseminate best practice for others in Europe and beyond to learn from.
Lead:	Roland Stein r.stein.nothweiler@t-online.de . Chair WCPA Europe Transboundary Working Group
Participants:	Members of the WCPA Europe Transboundary Working Group and The Transboundary Collaboration Working Group of the Ramsar Convention
Resources:	Provided by Rhineland Palatinate.
Expected outcomes:	Promotion of best practice through a network of transboundary protected areas in Europe.

Item 16: Cultural and Spiritual Areas in Europe

Task:	Develop recommendations concerning the building of synergies between protected areas and the culturally and spiritually important protected sites in Europe.
Rationale:	As part of the Delos Initiative, the currently identified important sites are all within Europe. Furthermore there is considerable potential for work to take place within the Framework of the Green Belt initiative and also European research projects.
Lead:	The Delos Initiative, The Green Belt initiative
Participants:	IUCN ROFE, WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas
Resources:	To be secured
Expected outcomes:	A WCPA report concerning the synergies between protected natural and cultural sites.

Implementing the Programme

The ability to successfully meet the targets set out in this programme relies on the partners WCPA works with. We have identified a number of key processes, institutions and organisations, that WCPA should work with to deliver its programme in Europe:

1. **The European Union** – primarily the European Commission DG Environment. Important topics will include Biodiversity Action Plans, Rural Development Programme, Common Agriculture Policy, Common Fisheries Policy, the continuing implementation of Natura 2000.
2. **The Council of Europe** – the main entry points include the Bern Convention, The Emerald Network, The European Landscape Convention, European Diploma, CEMAT, the Pan-European Ecological Network and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS).
3. **UNESCO** – through advice to the World Heritage Convention and initiatives run through the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.
4. **UNEP** – primarily through joint collaboration on the Pan-European Ecological Network and PEBLDS.
5. **Regional Conventions** – primarily in relation to marine protected areas and OSPAR, HELCOM, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBAMS and the Barcelona Convention.

Key Partners

EUROPARC Federation – through MoU signed in 2003, President as member of WCPA Europe Steering Committee, cooperation on transboundary issues, explicit WCPA Europe support for EUROPARC initiatives on European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, Transboundary Cooperation Charter, and Junior Ranger Programme.

WWF – through the Dinaric Arc Initiative, the ongoing current work related with the implementation of the Habitats Directive;

European Habitats Forum—through the Europarc Federation and WWF.

PANParks - collaboration with the PANParks initiative, PANParks Director as member of WCPA Europe Steering Committee, WCPA member on PANParks Advisory Committee; WCPA members as Verifiers for PANParks.

IUCN Commissions – focal points for CEESP: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend; CEM: Roger Crofts; CEC Maurilio Cipparone; CEL: Veit Koester. SSC focal point to be identified at later date.

IUCN National Committees – focal points will be identified for IUCN European National Committees together with IUCN Regional Office for Europe.

IUCN Regional Councilors – Five of six European Regional Councilors are WCPA Members and one (Alistair Gammell) is a member of WCPA Europe Executive Committee. Also Swiss government representative is WCPA member.

Communications and Outreach

- **Regional meetings** - Usually held once each quadrennium for all WCPA members, with specialist and sub-regional meetings and joint meetings with key partners on more frequent basis. A meeting is planned for Autumn 2006.
- **WCPA members** - in addition to the global WCPA web site, newsletter, 'Parks' journal and PALNET, a list server for all European members is to be further developed. Members views will be requested on development of e-news bulletin .
- **European Union and European Commission** – main method of input will be through IUCN ROfe.
- **National governments** - Should be done through National Committees or in response to requests from governments and state agencies.

Governance

The governance of WCPA Europe is through a Steering Committee and an Executive Committee.

Executive Committee: 6 members selected on basis of commitment, geography, representational role and knowledge/experience of protected areas. Current members are; Robert Brunner, Roger Crofts, Maurilio Cipparone, Pierre Galland, Alistair Gammell and Stig Johansson.

Steering Committee: comprises the following: Regional Vice-Chair, members of Executive Committee, representatives of key partners: EUROPARC Federation, WWF, PanParks, Birdlife International, UNESCO ROSTE; plus Task Force and Working Group leaders.

WCPA Membership: Already reviewed by Executive Committee: new members recruited and those not participating deleted. Around 270 members in Europe including officials in IUCN and other international organisations. IUCN WCPA Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland leading on inviting members. Will review mid term with particular emphasis on young, women, subject expertise gaps, and geographical spread.

Funding

Funds available are currently inadequate to implement activities outlined in this Quadrennial Plan. Many activities are based on the assumption of continuation, and expansion in some cases, of existing volunteer efforts of WCPA members. Additional resources are required. Accordingly, priority will be given to a funding plan, which will include a number of specific proposals and targets for fundraising, jointly with WCPA global, the Protected Areas Programme, the Regional Office for Europe and the Office for Mediterranean Cooperation.

Resources for meetings in different parts of Europe are generally available. Resources for projects are more difficult to obtain. Resources from potential sponsors are limited, IUCN receives a great deal of government bilateral support especially from The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, but unfortunately this is never made available for work by the Commissions in Europe. Action is required by the IUCN European Regional Councilors.

There is a need to work with WCPA colleagues and IUCN fundraising experts to package work in a way that it is likely to attract funding from sponsors, particularly in relation to delivery of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and in relation to social equity and economic well-being.