

## **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Report 2017–2021**

**Chair: Kathy MacKinnon**

### **1. Mission**

To develop and provide scientific and technical advice and policy that promotes a representative, effectively managed and equitably governed global system of marine and terrestrial protected areas, including especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

### **2. Vision**

Protected areas are recognised and valued as natural solutions for addressing the planet's challenges for conserving nature, and for providing benefits to human health, livelihoods and well-being.

### **3. Goal**

Increased awareness of the role of well-managed systems of protected areas in underpinning human welfare and livelihoods to make the case for increased level of investments in protected areas, expansion and strengthened management effectiveness.

### **4. Objectives**

The objectives of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for 2017–2020, aligned with the Promise of Sydney, are to:

- 1) Catalyse and support global efforts to expand and effectively manage systems of protected areas to achieve the Aichi Targets for halting biodiversity loss, in particular through meeting Aichi Target 11;
- 2) Recognise and mainstream protected areas as natural solutions to global challenges, such as climate change, land degradation, food and water security, health and well-being;
- 3) Make the case for investment in protected area systems, supported by public policy, incentives, capacity development and sustainable funding;
- 4) Inspire all people, across generations, geography and cultures to experience and value the wonder of nature through protected areas and to promote more support for conservation of natural ecosystems; and
- 5) Use our acknowledged role as a key global knowledge-broker and standard setter for protected areas to support efforts to raise the standards and practices of protected area governance and management globally.

### **5. Priorities and achievements**

WCPA is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 and has proven to be an effective mechanism for promoting good practice for protected area planning and management. Over the last four years, the Commission has contributed to knowledge generation and the implementation of IUCN's three Programme Areas, through a joint work programme with the Global Protected Area Programme (GPAP), Global Marine and Polar Programme and World

Heritage Programme. This report details progress against the joint work programme, plus reporting on additional major WCPA activities and products, including WCPA contributions to implementation of international conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

## **IUCN Programme Area: Valuing and conserving nature**

### **Expanding protected area coverage**

WCPA has worked with national and international partners to expand protected area coverage to include important areas for marine, terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity. Aichi Target 11 of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity sets a target of 10% protected area coverage for marine and 17% for terrestrial ecosystems and inland waters by 2020. WCPA is a member of the Global Partnership on Aichi Target 11 organised by the CBD Secretariat and has assisted with regional workshops and assessments to mobilise national action to achieve the targets.

WCPA has worked with the IUCN Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC to provide accurate and up-to-date information on protected and conserved areas and progress towards achieving Aichi Target 11. The Protected Planet platform, underpinned by the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), provides decision makers and the community of practice with the best possible global information, knowledge and tools for the planning and management of conservation areas. A Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (GDPAME), is also maintained and developed in parallel with the WDPA. Since 2012, a *Protected Planet Report* has been produced every two years summarising the status of protected area coverage and ecological representation globally and issues such as governance and financing. WCPA has collaborated with UNEP-WCMC to produce the biennial *Protected Planet Reports* for CBD COP13 (Mexico), COP14 (Egypt) and is collaborating on the update and synthesis report for COP15. Key WCPA members have committed time to improve data quality in the WDPA and GDPAME and contributed to content and review of the *Protected Planet Reports*.

WCPA has worked with national partners in the design and completion of systems of ecologically representative and well-connected protected areas and their effective management. WCPA is part of the governance structure of the partnership on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and has contributed to the development of the KBA standards, national assessments of KBAs and promotion of better protection for KBAs for greater ecological representation in PA networks. WCPA's work on recognising and reporting 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) will also contribute to expanded coverage of conserved areas and better ecological representation. WCPA has long promoted the principles of connectivity conservation and has recently facilitated a global dialogue on ecological connectivity resulting in a [new guidance document on establishing ecological corridors and conservation networks](#). The Connectivity Specialist Group (SG) also worked with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to facilitate the adoption of ecological connectivity conservation as one of the main pillars of the 2020–2030 CMC Strategic Plan. Regional support networks have also been established to enhance cooperation for transboundary conservation.

### **Effective management**

There is increasing recognition that the "quality" of protected areas is just as important as "quantity". WCPA has worked for many years with national agencies to implement assessments of management effectiveness and during this quadrennial worked with GPAP and national partners to further develop and promote quality of management through the Green List for Protected and Conserved Areas. The Green List standard was formally approved by the Council in 2017 and an expanded and integrated programme has been

rolled out through projects involving GPAP, WCPA and IUCN Regional Offices. The standard can be applied both to government-managed PAs and to protected and conserved areas under other governance arrangements. The Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is now fully operational in more than 50 countries, and is being applied to both terrestrial and marine protected areas. Several countries are using the standard as a basis for improving management across the whole PA network and not just for identifying the best managed PAs. WCPA members are involved in the management, governance, development and implementation of the Green List Initiative. The Chair of WCPA serves as the Chair of the oversight Green List Committee and the WCPA Green List Specialist Group is represented on the IUCN Green List Management Committee. At a country level WCPA members are engaged in the national Expert Assessment Groups, providing expert advice for the nomination and assessment of candidate sites.

### **Marine protected areas**

By August 2020, coverage of terrestrial protected areas had increased to 15.2% of the Earth's surface. But the biggest conservation gains since the Hawai'i World Conservation Congress in 2016 have been in the expansion of ocean protected areas, with marine protected areas (MPAs) now covering 7.4% of the ocean. The substantial increase in marine protected areas can be attributed to establishment of some very large MPAs during the quadrennial e.g. by Mexico, Brazil, USA and others. WCPA has helped to identify areas of important marine biodiversity. For example, the Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force has organised six regional workshops to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) across most of the Southern Hemisphere and these IMMAs have contributed to the CBD work of identification of ecologically or biologically significant area (EBSAs). WCPA Marine has worked with WCMC to achieve access to 'on demand' up to date figures on MPA progress; the launch of <https://www.protectedplanet.net/marine> has revolutionised data provisions by enabling users to generate a snap-shot of current progress in real time.

WCPA Marine works closely with the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme (GMMP). It has worked with other partners, including Pew, to develop MPA standards for effective protection and management and the underlying [MPA Guidelines](#) have been revised to reflect current motions and other developments contained in the standards. [Guidelines for design and management of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas](#) were also published. The Marine Task Force also continues to play a major role as part of the High Seas Alliance in successfully influencing strategy and policy on the High Seas.

Numerous key events were held with members on marine issues during the quadrennial, many of them providing input to international policy work e.g. WCPA engagement in the International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC4) in Chile. Since 2018, much effort has been directed towards the development of marine targets for the post-2020 framework under the CBD. This builds on the World Parks Congress (WPC) call to protect 30% of the ocean, enshrined in a 2016 IUCN Resolution. Increasing emphasis has been placed on the need to focus not just on at least 30% strict protection but on engagement across 100% of the ocean to ensure more sustainable management and use to reverse the decline in ocean health. Social media work around marine issues has expanded and new videos were released by WCPA Marine including 'Making Waves' from IMPAC4 and most recently a campaign film to promote at least 30% of the ocean protected, narrated by Sting and funded by the UK government.

### **World Heritage**

WCPA works closely with the World Heritage Programme, with a dedicated Vice Chair (VC) for World Heritage (WH) and a World Heritage Specialist Group. Over the quadrennial various WCPA members have contributed to assessments of World Heritage sites, including

new nominations and sites where remedial action is required. WCPA was represented on the IUCN World Heritage Panel and present at every World Heritage Committee meeting as part of IUCN's delegation, helping to deliver IUCN's role as official Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention for natural and mixed sites. WCPA members contributed heavily to the development of the [2017 World Heritage Outlook Report](#). WCPA co-sponsored a thematic guidance on [World Heritage, Wilderness and Large Land and Seascapes](#). WCPA members initiated (via a Congress Resolution) and then participated in developing the new [IUCN Primary Forest Policy](#). The Geoheritage Specialist Group also contributed to the publication [World Heritage Volcanoes](#), which was published in 2019.

### **Implementation of biodiversity-related conventions**

WCPA and GPAP have worked closely with national governments and the CBD Secretariat to implement the objectives of Aichi Target 11. WCPA has contributed to IUCN position papers and has been part of the IUCN delegation to CBD scientific and technical meetings and ad hoc working groups and organised side events on key topics at SBSTTA and COP meetings. Over the last four years WCPA has provided valuable input to international policy related to OECMs as referenced in Aichi Target 11 – see below. WCPA members are also engaging with other biodiversity-related conventions such as the Convention on Migratory Species and providing input on ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **Communicating the value of protected areas and nature**

WCPA is continuing to advocate the value of well-managed systems of protected areas to build awareness of their multiple biological, social and economic values and make the case for increased levels of investment in protected areas, expansion and management effectiveness. In 2015, WCPA established a joint task force with the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) to develop the [#NatureForAll](#) initiative, which was launched at the 2016 World Conservation Congress and hosted a series of events at the #NatureForAll Pavilion. #NatureForAll remains a joint commission effort and has grown from a fledgling group of 30 partners in 2016 to a network of over 400 organisations in 2020, who are sharing their [stories](#) and [resources](#) to inspire and inform others about the diverse benefits of nature connection for protected areas, people and planet. The #NatureForAll partnership has organised a series of events to engage young people, urban dwellers and a broader constituency for conservation, including a range of events at pavilions at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in 2019 and the Latin American Parks Congress in Peru. #NatureForAll is consolidating research and knowledge linked to positive human relationships with nature and protected areas through the [#NatureForAll Discovery Zone](#). The Discovery Zone features a diverse and robust collection of educational and informational resources in diverse media organised around the [#NatureForAll Strategies](#) to engage broader audiences.

### **Capacity development**

A key element of all WCPA activities is capacity development. WCPA has worked with GPAP and other partners to build institutional capacity and practitioners' skills to enhance protected area system design, management and governance, including development of training modules and good practice guidelines. Major progress has been made towards implementing the IUCN WCPA Strategic Framework for Capacity Development in Protected and Conserved Areas that resulted from the World Parks Congress. As part of the Capacity Development Initiative WCPA has published a Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners with standards for site and system level protected area professionals. These have been widely used and are now translated and available in [Burmese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Nepalese](#), and [Spanish](#). The WCPA capacity development leadership has also worked with GPAP to provide input for appropriate capacity



development under the new IUCN BIOPAMA2 project which started in early 2017 and focuses on building capacity for protected area management in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Pacific and Caribbean. In the West and Central Africa region, the WCPA Vice Chair has also worked with the Programme on African Protected Areas and Conservation (PAPACO) to deliver the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in protected area management in French. WCPA has also worked with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and National Geographic on pilot curricula for protected area professionals.

WCPA has established a very popular (nearly 6,000 members) PA and Conservation Learning News Facebook site, posting daily opportunities for training and learning almost every day. It is also part of a global coalition with other NGOs and the International Ranger Foundation to support improvements in the working and employment conditions, performance, conduct and accountability of all rangers. The Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA), which will deliver a “new deal” for wildlife rangers including Global Welfare Standards and Code of Conduct, was launched on International Ranger Day July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. In addition, WCPA is working with indigenous people to build capacity and engagement with protected and conserved areas. The group has also established a [Global Action Group on Knowledge Systems](#) and Indicators of Well-being.

[Best Practice Guidelines \(BPGs\)](#) are key WCPA knowledge products, widely used around the globe by protected area professionals. WCPA has appointed a volunteer Publications Committee and a Series Editor to oversee development of all WCPA publications, including guidelines and technical reports. During this quadrennial Specialist Groups (SGs) and Task Forces (TFs) have developed and published BPGs on design and management of marine protected areas, privately protected areas, tourism and visitor management, wilderness management, connectivity and ecological networks, guidance on geoheritage, and technical reports on PA competences, OECMs, tourism concessions, and tools to monitor and value ecosystem services. All BPGs are published in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat in line with the CBD request for IUCN/WCPA assistance with developing guidance on protected area management. Many BPGs have been translated into multiple languages; the tourism BPG, for instance, is now available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Mongolian](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#) while a Chinese version is being developed by IUCN. Other BPGs in the pipeline include Cultural and spiritual values of PAs.

In 2014, WCPA produced a flagship e-book on *Protected Areas Governance and Management* as a legacy product from the World Parks Congress. The book includes all the latest information on protected area planning, management and governance and was written by a large cast of WCPA contributors on an unpaid basis. This book is published by Australia National University Press and is [available free as downloadable pdfs as a whole or as individual chapters](#). To date there have been more than 100,000 downloads from 155 countries. Individual chapters provide background reading and guidance for training and curricula for protected area professionals. WCPA supported translation of the book into Spanish in collaboration with El Bosque University of Colombia. The Spanish translation was launched at the CAPLACIII Congress in Peru in October 2019 and is also available free online. A French version is also under preparation with several modules already completed.

WCPA SGs have also developed online courses and case studies on protected area management, sustainable tourism, OECMs, and Green List. Together with GPAP WCPA has supported the development of the PANORAMA Solutions for Healthy Planet Initiative that now includes more than 500 peer-reviewed case studies that illustrate good practice and innovation in protected area and other successful solutions in conservation and development. In addition to online MOOCs, WCPA members are involved in regular workshops and training for PA professionals, including at the European Parks Academy, in Klagenfurt, Germany and annual capacity-building workshops for young professionals at the University of Tsukuba in Japan (in partnership with IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS)

on *Nature-Culture Linkages in Conservation*. In the run up to the World Conservation Congress GPAP and WCPA are collaborating on delivering webinars on key PA themes and issues as part of a virtual journey *Vital Sites: The Journey to Marseille* which will culminate with events at the Protected Planet Pavilion at the Congress.

In addition to these knowledge products and capacity building efforts, WCPA members have published a substantial body of scientific literature. The Commission's free online journal *PARKS* is published twice a year, providing informative articles on good practice and innovations in protected areas and conservation, with many authors from developing countries. The Special Issue on OECMs in 2018 has had over 9,000 downloads. A Special Issue on the impacts of COVID-19 and role of protected areas in recovery from the pandemic will be released in time for the World Conservation Congress in Marseilles.

Individual WCPA members and SGs have also contributed to a broad range of reports and articles on key protected area and conservation topics to a number of scientific books, and scientific and online journals and special issues, including *Nature*, *Oryx*, *PLOS1*, *Science* and *Aquatic Conservation*. Several major reports have also been published to coincide with major events, including key dm reports by the Marine group on Ocean Warming (IUCN Congress 2016) and Ocean Deoxygenation (UNFCCC COP22 in 2019).

### **IUCN Programme Area: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources**

WCPA is committed to promoting the full range of governance types for protected areas and to increased participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in governance and management of protected and other conserved areas. These ambitions will contribute to implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and of Aichi Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

#### **Governance and equity**

WCPA has a dedicated VC for Governance and a Governance SG. Working with GPAP and other partners, including UNDP and the Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) Consortium, WCPA members have been testing the Governance toolkit and governance methodologies in different regions. Many of these areas are being mapped and, with consent from the communities, data is being entered into the ICCA registry at UNEP-WCMC. Several regional workshops and trainings have been delivered on governance and equity in protected and conserved areas. A new tool for Site Assessment on Governance and Equity (SAGE) is under development, including field testing in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

#### **Privately protected areas**

WCPA responded to the members' mandate (IUCN Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-036: Supporting privately protected areas](#)) by providing [guidance on privately protected areas](#) (in all three statutory IUCN languages), clarifying distinctions with privately conserved areas, elevating and promoting voluntary conservation, and further studying the extent, configuration and contribution of PPAs to Aichi Target 11. WCPA members have developed policy guidance on access and benefit-sharing for protected areas and developed and piloted the Protected Area Benefit Assessment Tool + (PA-BAT+) which assesses benefits accruing to different stakeholders. During this quadrennial, the tool has been used to assess a number of protected areas in the Dinaric Arc, SE Europe, and Colombia.

## **Other effective area-based conservation measures**

Over the last four years WCPA has collaborated extensively with the Secretariat and Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding the definition, identification and support of “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) as referenced in Aichi Target 11. A WCPA Task Force coordinated several workshops to develop technical guidelines for OECMs. The draft guidance was used extensively in CBD discussions and provided substantial input to CBD decision 14/8 adopted in 2018 on definition and criteria for OECMs. The CBD decision also called on IUCN and WCPA to support implementation. The WCPA Task Force has published a [technical report on recognising and reporting OECMs](#) and a dedicated [Special Issue of PARKS](#) publishing case studies of areas under different governance arrangements that contribute effective longterm biodiversity outcomes and are likely candidate OECMs contributing to Aichi Target 11.

OECMs may include areas that meet the IUCN protected area definition but also require consideration of voluntary and ancillary conservation efforts that can contribute to greater resilience and better connectivity between conservation areas. The Task Force is now developing site-level methodologies for identifying OECMs and testing these at pilot terrestrial and marine sites. WCPA is also working with UNEP-WCMC to develop an OECM database on the Protected Planet platform and reporting and verification procedures.

## **IUCN Programme Area: Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges**

WCPA has continued to work with GPAP, other IUCN global programmes and the three Rio Conventions to advocate mainstreaming protected areas into national policies, plans and strategies to address global challenges. Over the last decade the role of protected areas as natural solutions to global challenges has gained important official recognition within key partners: in explicit wording from the CBD and UNCCD, Ramsar, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in links to IUCN’s Nature-based Solutions work and other sectors. Since WPC in 2014, WCPA has continued to promote the relevance of protected areas to social and economic issues such as food and water security, disaster risk reduction, health and human welfare and well-being. Emphasis work has shifted from advocating the benefits to capacity building. WCPA has also promoted increased emphasis on the role of ecosystem services in post-2020 targets, and development of measurable indicators.

## **Climate change**

WCPA has worked with Parties to the UNFCCC to position protected areas as a fundamental contribution to the ecosystem-based approaches and the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and especially to replicate regional initiatives to incorporate protected areas into climate change and disaster risk strategies and national commitments. The Climate Change Specialist Group published [Best Practice Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Change](#) in 2016 and is now working on a BPG on the role of effective protected area management as part of mitigation strategy. They also provide guidance on mainstreaming protected areas in climate change response and national strategies. All of this work will contribute towards national efforts to meet SDG 13 and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

## **Health**

An active Health and Well-being SG has focused on promoting the health and well-being benefits of nature across the conservation, health and other sectors to influence policy, build the evidence and facilitate partnerships. Engagement with the health sector included delivery of a world leadership dialogue entitled ‘Nature is Good Medicine’ featuring IUCN President Zhang and the WHO Director for Public Health at the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Public Health

in Melbourne, Australia, in 2017. WCPA has continued its outreach to other sectors, especially health, urban and education through a successful partnership and key seminars with Salzburg Global as part of the *Parks for the Planet* series. WCPA is represented on the steering committee of the IUCN Urban Alliance and has entered into a collaborative agreement with World Urban Parks Organisation to advance a shared vision for inspiring and empowering people from all walks of life around the world to nurture and connect with nature, parks, and protected areas in and around urban areas.

### **COVID-19 and PAs**

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts have illustrated the clear linkages between healthy ecosystems and healthy people and the need for more responsible stewardship of nature. As part of its collaboration with World Urban Parks, WCPA members and other partners have organised a series of panels and global dialogues on the impact of COVID-19, especially on urban communities, and the role that protected areas and access to nature can play in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and contributing to physical and mental health. COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns have had a major impact on protected areas, particularly because of loss of revenues associated with restrictions on tourism ([https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hockings-et-al-10.2305-IUCN.CH\\_2020.PARKS-26-1MH.en\\_-1.pdf](https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Hockings-et-al-10.2305-IUCN.CH_2020.PARKS-26-1MH.en_-1.pdf)). WCPA has established a special Task Force to coordinate with other groups across the Commission and other partners to assess the regional impacts of the pandemic on protected areas and develop principles and good practice for mitigating risk and promoting recovery, including strengthened support for PAs and nature conservation in 'green' economic stimulus packages.

### **Addendum 2020-2021 – WCPA Activity in the time of COVID-19**

Commission travel and physical meetings have been constrained during the pandemic but specialist groups and thematic events have successfully moved online, particularly to the *Vital Sites Road to Marseille* web platform supported by GPAP and WCPA. The online platform has been used to good effect for workshops, trainings, publication launches, a WCPA steering committee and three well-attended award ceremonies to honour recipients of the Kenton Miller and Packard awards and a new International Ranger award. WCPA also supported the very successful online Global Youth Summit. Online activities allow us to be even more inclusive and expand our geographical reach; we will continue to support the *Vital Sites* platform to WCC and beyond until at least the end of 2021.

WCPA has continued with its capacity building initiatives through the launch of new best practice guidelines on Geoheritage, Cultural and spiritual significance of nature as well as a new initiative to professionalise training for rangers with partners under the new *Universal Ranger Support Alliance*. Specifically In relation to the coronavirus pandemic WCPA has a dedicated task force investigating the impacts of the pandemic on protected areas, wildlife tourism and community livelihoods, and has produced a special issue of the journal *PARKS* devoted to COVID-19 as a knowledge base for future action – see <https://parksjournal.com/parks-27-si-march-2021/> It is promoting investment in protected areas as part of post-pandemic economic recovery packages as a means to prevent future pandemics, create jobs and contribute to national and local public health strategies. Furthermore, a new WCPA report in collaboration with partners, including the World Bank and UNDP, *Building on nature: Area-based conservation as a key tool for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals*, stresses the role of protected and conserved areas as cost-effective Nature-based Solutions contributing to delivery of multiple SDGs.



## International meetings and congresses

**Convention on Biological Diversity.** WCPA has engaged in CBD COPs and technical meetings and provided important input to the decision on OECMs adopted in 2018. WCPA has also been actively involved in developing science and policy promoting ambitious conservation goals for area-based conservation measures in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This has involved attending thematic consultations convened by the CBD Secretariat, establishing a Beyond Aichi Task Force in accordance with IUCN Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-096](#), convening workshops in conjunction with IUCN Members organisations (including the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation), presenting side-events at CBD meetings, and participating in IUCN delegations to CBD COPs and subsidiary bodies. WCPA members are also participating in CBD working group discussions and webinars of the High Ambition Coalition, leading up to CBD COP15 where the post-2020 agenda will be agreed. The award of the prestigious Midori Prize, cosponsored by AEON Foundation and the CBD, to the WCPA Chair in 2018 allowed her to highlight IUCN and WCPA's priorities and achievements, including at the CBD COP14 in Egypt in November 2018.

**IMPAC4.** WCPA Marine helped to organise the Fourth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4) in Chile in 2017 and is part of the organising panel for IMPAC5 planned for Vancouver, Canada in 2022. A Special Issue of Aquatic Conservation for IMPAC4 has now garnered over 16,000 full paper downloads.

**Regional PA Congresses.** WCPA supported the delivery, coordination and key events of the 3rd Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas (CAPLAC3) hosted by Peru in 2019 and is following up with RedParques and other partners to implement the Lima Declaration. WCPA made a particular effort to fund participation of 14 young professionals and 13 people from indigenous and local communities from 9 countries in the region. The LAC Congress emphasised the relevance of PAs under the theme "Solutions for well-being and sustainable development". It led to declaration of Latin America PA Day, October 17<sup>th</sup> and the development of a regional Protected Planet report for Latin America and the Caribbean. WCPA is currently involved in preparations for an Africa Protected Area Congress in 2022 and a second Asia Parks Congress in 2022.

**WILD11.** The Wilderness SG put considerable effort into organising the 11<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress (WILD11) initially proposed for China then moved to India, to be co-hosted by the Government of Rajasthan in March 2020. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Partnerships

All WCPA work is carried out through partnerships. Within IUCN primary partners are GPAP, World Heritage and the GMPP, but WCPA groups also engage extensively with other thematic (e.g. Dryland) and regional programmes (e.g. with the Asia Regional Office (ARO) on the Asia Protected Area Partnership). WCPA also collaborates closely with other Commissions on areas of common interest and concern, including joint specialist groups and task forces as appropriate.

WCPA has engaged with a wide range of other organisations including national park and other government agencies, national and international NGOs, UNEP-WCMC (Protected Planet and the WDPA), and multilateral organisations such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO and FAO. Relationships with national PA agencies are reinforced through interactions with regional vice-chairs and meetings of the World Protected Area Leadership Forum (PALF). The Commission has developed a strong relationship with the CBD Secretariat, providing support for implementation of the CBD programme to deliver Aichi Target 11, and input to international policy and guidance on OECMs and PA management.

## 6. Structure and governance

WCPA has continued to develop a globally active WCPA network of more than 3,000 expert volunteers, of whom 65% are male, 35% female and approximately 13% are Young Professionals under 35 years of age. During the quadrennial WCPA has made a particular effort to support broader engagement of YPs through mentorship and financial support to attend key meetings.

WCPA is led by the Commission Chair, Dr Kathy MacKinnon supported by a Deputy Chair Julia Miranda Londono. WCPA has an active Steering Committee (SC) comprising 13 regional Vice-Chairs (VCs) and 11 thematic VCs (see Annex A) and an operational structure including 22 specialist groups (SGs) and 6 task forces (TFs). Task forces are established to complete a specific time-bound task whereas SGs are more permanent. During this quadrennial TFs have worked on key topics including OECMs, post-2020 targets (Beyond Aichi TF) and COVID-19 and protected areas.

The SC meets annually, usually in a protected area, and invitations are extended to both the core SC and a group of SG leaders to explore regional and thematic priorities and strengthen collaboration across the network. A small subgroup drawn from the SC, the Executive Committee (ExCo), consults more regularly through monthly teleconferences to provide advice to the Chair and Deputy Chair. All VCs, task forces and specialist groups, as well as the leadership, submit technical reports annually, providing details of their activities and any funds received or raised. These reports illustrate the breadth and commitment of Commission activities – see [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/wcpa\\_technical\\_reports\\_2019may.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/wcpa_technical_reports_2019may.pdf). Information about all WCPA activities and publications is available on the IUCN/WCPA website.

During the quadrennial WCPA has devoted a considerable effort to its internal governance. There are now clear Terms of Reference (ToR) for Vice Chairs, for SG and TF leaders and a specific ToR for Regional Vice Chairs. There is also guidance for the participation of members who are young professionals. In addition, a comprehensive updated guide to membership has been produced along with documents on membership activation. All governance documents aim to assist active involvement, while complying with IUCN Statutes and norms.

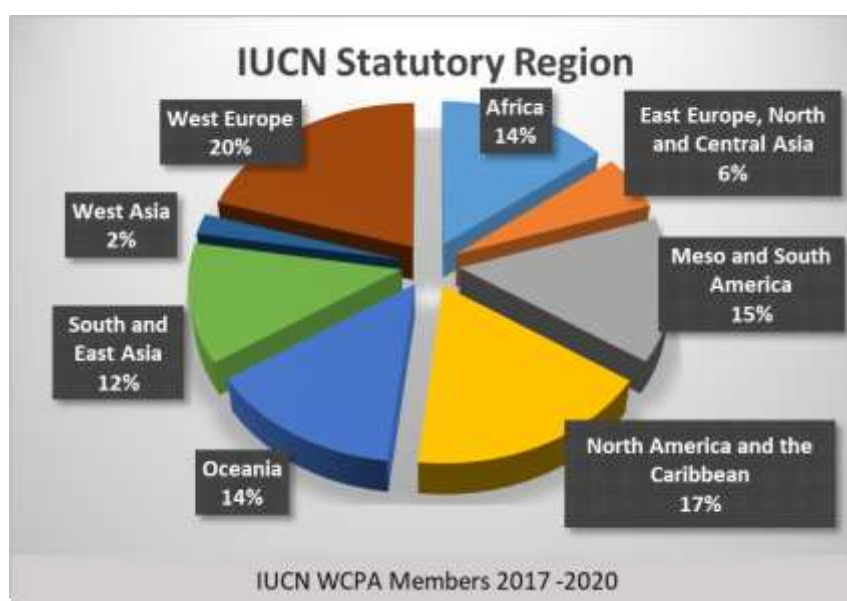
## 7. Finances

WCPA receives an annual Commission Operation Fund (COF) allocation from IUCN core funds. In the previous quadrennial period this was around CHF 240,000 per year; during this quadrennial the amount has been reduced to CHF 218,000 per year to balance out allocations across all Commissions. This reduction comes at the same time as reorganisation in the Secretariat has resulted in reduced logistical support, with one small central Commission Support Unit (CSU) now servicing all six Commissions.

The COF is used as seed funding to support key activities led by the Steering Committee and specialist groups, with recipients submitting annual financial reports and receipts. All office bearers, including SG leaders, submit an annual report which lists additional funds and projects raised by the group. Commission activities and products are financed through a broad range of initiatives, projects and direct support from IUCN Members and other organisations through both in-kind and cash support. A conservative estimate suggests that every CHF1 from the WCPA COF leverages at least CHF10 in other support, suggesting that Commission activities are a highly efficient and effective way to extend the work of the Union. Some examples of support include:

- In-kind staff. Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Parks Victoria – have assigned staff to work on specific WCPA initiatives, e.g. [#NatureForAll](#), support to Health and Climate Change SGs.
- In-kind support for workshops and publications, including CBD and bilateral funding for regional and thematic meetings, and support to individual SGs and TFs e.g. through BfN International Academy for Nature Conservation, Pew Trust.
- Support for regional congresses and initiatives from government agencies, foundations and private donations e.g. Governments of Japan and Republic of Korea, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, WWF and Africa Wildlife Foundation.
- Limited support through IUCN projects, e.g. EU-BIOPAMA, Green List workshops, publications and collaborations with other partners, e.g. UNEP-WCMC.
- WCPA-generated funds from donors managed through the Secretariat, e.g. funds for WCPA marine activities and major publications, e.g. Sweden and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Specialist groups and task forces generate most of their own funds for WCPA activities, from a broad range of institutions and organisations including national and international NGOs; universities; national park and environmental agencies. WCPA provides these financial details annually, but the current IUCN financial system only records expenditures against categories such as travel, administration costs, etc. so the full financial value of Commission activities are not recognised in IUCN accounts. Looking forward, WCPA is seeking additional outside funding for the Chair's Office to supplement the limited logistical support now provided by the CSU.



## Appendix A – List of WCPA Leadership, Steering Committee 2016–2020

Leadership	CHAIR	Kathy MacKinnon (UK)	IUCN Council 2016–2020
Leadership	Deputy Chair	Julia Miranda Londono (Colombia)	Deputy Chair, Executive Committee (ExCo)
Europe	Regional Vice Chair	Andrej Sovinc (Slovenia)	WCPA Steering Committee (SC), ExCo
North Eurasia	Regional Vice Chair	Sergey Shirokiy (Russia)	WCPA SC
West and Central Africa	Regional Vice Chair	Charlotte Karibuhoye (Senegal), Florence Palla (Cameroon)	WCPA SC, ExCo WCPA SC
Eastern & Southern Africa	Regional Vice Chair	John Waitthaka (Kenya)	WCPA SC
South Asia	Regional Vice Chair	Vinod Mathur (India)	WCPA SC
Southeast Asia	Regional Vice Chair	Agus Budi Utomo (Indonesia)	WCPA SC
East Asia	Regional Vice Chair	Yoshi Kumagai (Japan)	WCPA SC
Oceania	Regional Vice Chair	Penny Figgis (Australia)	WCPA SC, ExCo
Central America and Caribbean	Regional Vice Chair	Allan Valverde (Costa Rica)	WCPA SC
North America	Regional Vice Chair	Mike Wong (Canada)	WCPA SC, ExCo
South America	Regional Vice Chair	Claudio Maretti (Brazil)	WCPA SC, ExCo
West Asia and N Africa	Regional Vice Chair	Imen Meliane (Tunisia)	WCPA SC
Capacity Development	Thematic Vice Chair	Mike Appleton (U.K.), Eleanor Sterling (USA)	WCPA SC
Governance	Thematic Vice Chair	Thora Amend (Germany)	WCPA SC
Marine	Thematic Vice Chair	Dan Laffoley (UK)	WCPA SC
Science and Biodiversity	Thematic Vice Chair	Stephen Woodley (Canada)	WCPA SC,
Science and Management	Thematic Vice Chair	Marc Hockings (Australia)	WCPA SC, ExCo, Editor PARKS Journal
World Heritage	Thematic Vice Chair	Cyril Kormos (U.S.A.)	WCPA SC
Natural Solutions	Thematic Vice Chair	Nigel Dudley (UK)	WCPA SC
People and Parks	Thematic Vice Chair	Karen Keenleyside (Canada)	WCPA SC, #NatureForAll
Young Professionals	Thematic Vice Chair	Mariasole Bianco (Italy)	WCPA SC
Publications	Publications Editor	Craig Groves (USA)	WCPA SC

For more information on Task Forces and Specialist Groups and TF and SG Leaders, see [www.iucn/wcpa](http://www.iucn/wcpa).