



# Update to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas – A Perspective

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IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

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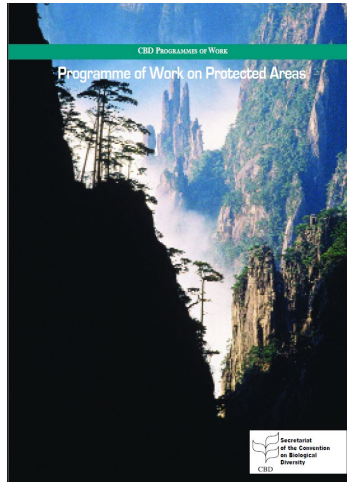
*Tlalocohyla  
celestes*



# Protected areas

Cornerstones of biodiversity conservation

2004



## Goal 1.1: To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals

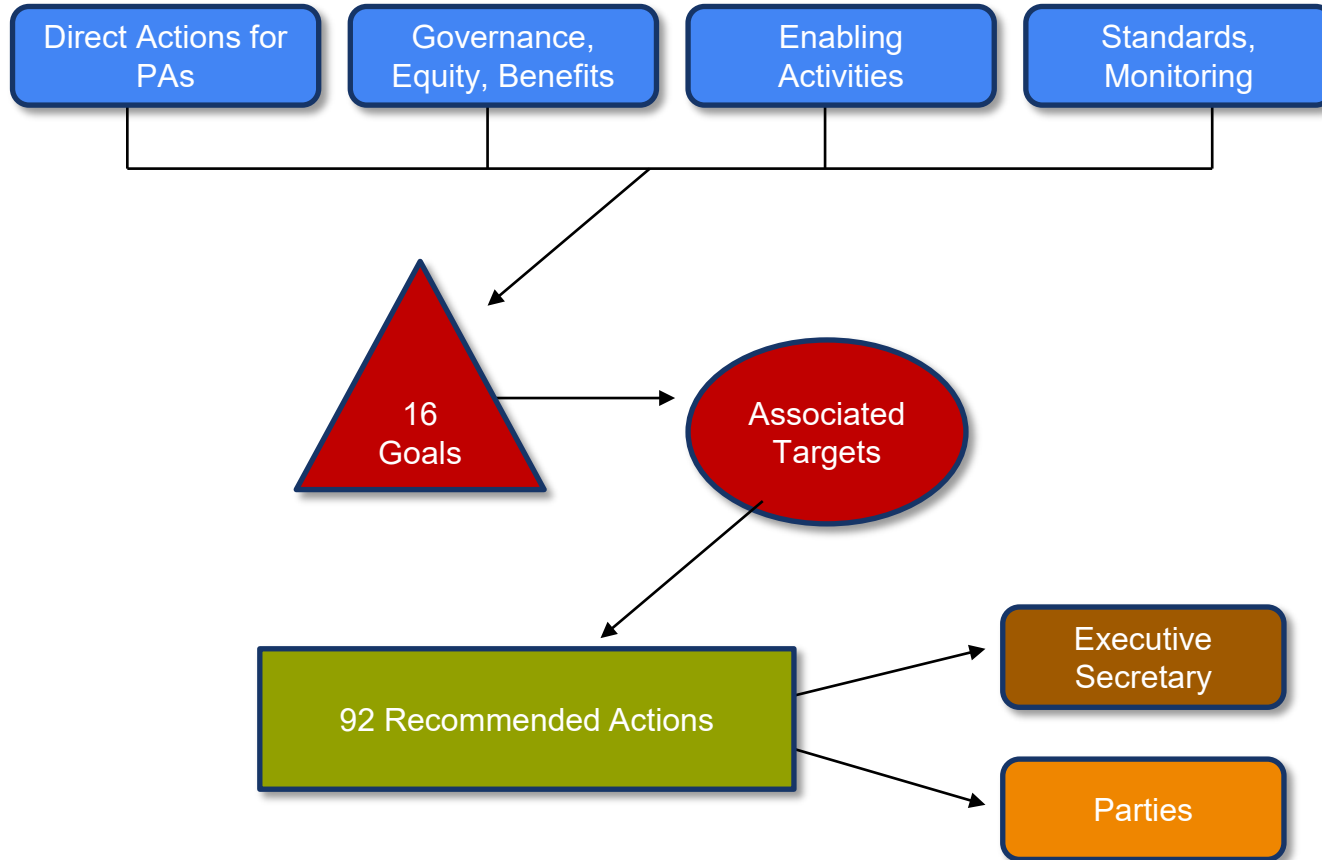
**Target:** By 2010, terrestrially<sup>1</sup> / and 2012 in the marine area, a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected area system is established as a contribution to (i) the goal of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the World Summit on Sustainable Development of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; (ii) the Millennium Development Goals - particularly goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability; and (iii) the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

### Suggested activities of the Parties

1.1.1 By 2006, establish suitable time-bound and measurable national and regional level protected area targets and indicators.

1.1.2 As a matter of urgency, by 2006, take action to establish or expand protected areas in any large, intact or relatively unfragmented or highly irreplaceable natural areas, or areas under high threat, as well as areas securing the most threatened species in the context of national priorities<sup>2</sup> and taking into consideration the conservation needs of migratory species

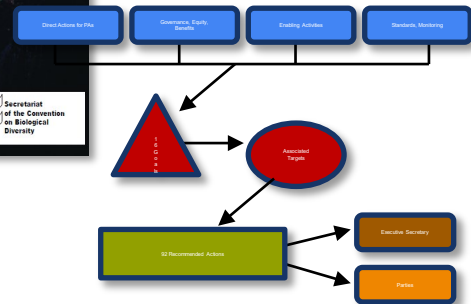
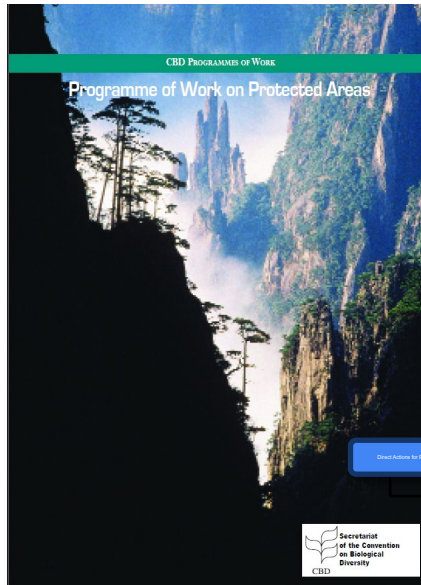
# Structure of the PoWPA



# Update vs. Append

Goal/ Target/ Action #	2004 PoWPA	Suggested 2026 revision
<b>Goal 1.5</b>	To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas	To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to conservation areas (protected areas and OECMs) and their ecological networks, ecological corridors, and/or buffer zones.
<b>Target 1.5</b>	By 2008, effective mechanisms for identifying and preventing, and/or mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas are in place.	By 2028, effective mechanisms for identifying, understanding through problem analysis, preventing, and/or mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to conservation areas are institutionalized as part of the adaptive management system; with progress demonstrated towards achieving KMGBF Targets 4, 6, 7 and 8.
<b><i>Suggested activities of the Parties</i></b>		
<b>1.5.1</b>	Apply, as appropriate, timely environmental impact assessments to any plan or project with the potential to have effects on protected areas, and ensure timely information flow among all concerned parties to that end, taking into account decision VI/7 A of the Conference of the Parties on guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessments.	Apply, as appropriate, timely environmental impact assessments to any plan or project with the potential to have effects on conservation areas and their ecological networks, ecological corridors, and/or buffer zones, and ensure timely information flow among all concerned parties to that end, taking into account decision VI/7 A on guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessments; and Decision VIII/28 on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment.
<b>1.5.2</b>	Develop by 2010 national approaches to liability and redress measures, incorporating the polluter pays principle or other appropriate mechanisms in relation to damages to protected areas.	Develop by 2030 national approaches to liability and redress measures, incorporating the polluter pays principle or other appropriate mechanisms in relation to damages to conservation areas and their ecological networks, ecological corridors, and/or buffer zones.
<b>1.5.3</b>	Establish and implement measures for the rehabilitation and restoration of the ecological integrity of protected areas	Establish and implement measures for the rehabilitation and restoration of the ecological integrity and connectivity of conservation areas, in accordance with Target 2.
<b>1.5.4</b>	Take measures to control risks associated with invasive alien species in protected areas.	unchanged
<b>1.5.5</b>	Assess key threats to protected areas and develop and implement strategies to prevent and/or mitigate such threats.	Assess and understand the mechanisms behind key threats to conservation areas and their ecological networks, ecological corridors, and/or buffer zones, and develop and implement strategies to prevent and/or mitigate such threats, including species extinction, loss of genetic diversity and human-wildlife conflict (Target 4); alien species invasion (Target 6); pollution (Target 7); and impacts of climate change (Target 8).
<b>1.5.6</b>	Develop policies, improve governance, and	Develop policies, improve governance, and ensure

# Implementation



“Invites Parties and other Governments to take into account the updated [PoWPA] in the development and implementation of actions to meet the targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3”

**Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on protected and conserved areas and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Complementary activities	Category
Target 1	1. Integrate protected and conserved areas into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve ecological connectivity, through participatory, human rights-based and inclusive spatial planning processes that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.	Priority actions
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems within and beyond protected and conserved areas, including buffer zones and ecological corridors, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring a socially inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts, as appropriate.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by reflecting the concept of protected and conserved areas as an umbrella term encompassing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and, where applicable, indigenous and traditional territories, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. 4. Enhance guidance related to the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. 5. Facilitate the compilation and dissemination, through the clearing-house mechanism and relevant platforms, including the Target 3 Community of Practice and the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, of practical frameworks, guidance, tools, case studies and best practices to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance	Priority actions

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Complementary activities	Category
	for biodiversity, ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 6. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable governance and a human rights-based approach in the planning, governance and management of protected and conserved areas, including by: shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; strengthening free, prior and informed consent, while applying differentiated approaches, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. 7. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of new technologies to better assess management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes, including through the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators. 8. Strengthen the application of contemporary approaches to ecological integrity and ecological connectivity in the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, including through the development and implementation of ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, and connectivity across large-scale terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems. 9. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, to (a) minimize the impacts of climate change and climate response measures, including through adaptive management and resilience-building approaches; and (b) integrate protected and conserved areas as part of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.	
Target 4	10. Integrate systematic human-wildlife risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, including through the application of strategic environmental assessment and environmental and social impact assessment processes, in order to anticipate, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. 11. Strengthen capacities for planning and management in protected and conserved areas, including through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms and inclusive community engagement approaches to address human-wildlife conflict.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 5	12. Provide guidance on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected and conserved areas, where such use occurs, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health, is consistent with site-specific conservation	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)




## VI. Recommendation

33. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision<sup>14</sup> along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions [VII/28](#) of 20 February 2004, [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/18](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/31](#) of 29 October 2010, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018 and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024,

*Acknowledging* that the programme of work on protected areas<sup>15</sup> and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>16</sup> continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>17</sup> in particular Target 3, while noting that complementary guidance is needed to enhance alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

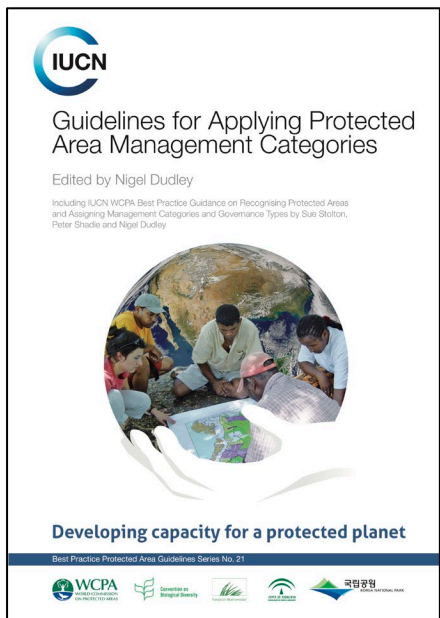


1. *Decides* to revise the name of the programme of work on protected areas to “programme of work on protected and conserved areas” in order to reflect the broader scope of “protected and conserved areas” in a manner consistent with the Framework and enhance clarity and coherence;

2. *Endorses* the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision, as an update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, in order to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into account the updated

# “Protected and Conserved Areas”



- “Incorporate...the concept of protected and conserved areas as an umbrella term encompassing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and, where applicable, indigenous and traditional territories...”

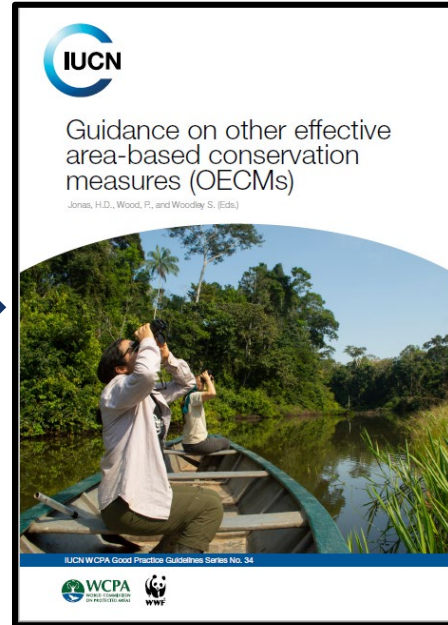
OECMs = conserved areas ???

# IUCN-WCPA Guidance on OECMs

2019



2024



2023



# “Indigenous and Traditional Territories”

- Any mechanism for the recognition of “indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable” – how and by whom—is far from settled.
- Introduced in 2022, the term as yet lacks any conservation criteria, let alone definition. These depend on progress in the 8(j) process, and are not likely to come forward by COP 17.

[26. The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories should,[ as appropriate,] [be considered a distinct system that contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, complementary to and different from protected areas and other affective area-based conservation measures] and, therefore, it does not require a classification under the category of protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures] [where indigenous and traditional territories are already classified as protected areas or other effective area-based conservation, measures zoning should apply with clear identification of zones with access for indigenous peoples and local communities to practice their traditional sustainable use and cultural practices].

SB8J-01-non-paper-item5ab



# Protected and Conserved Areas and Indigenous and Traditional Territories

# “Conservation Areas”

- A more inclusive term that can encompass a diversity of approaches for achieving the KMGBF goal of “living in harmony with nature.”
- Dispels the notion that all OECMs or ITTs are fully and finally “conserved.” Conservation must be continually pursued, reinforced and defended. The term conservation area implies living action.
- Avoids the negative connotation that some (but not all) people assign to PAs.
- Shifts the focus from *intent* or *objective* for conservation implied in “protected and conserved areas” to one on *outcomes* in conservation areas.
- The latter term is both more elegant and more specific than “area-based conservation,” and translates better, at least to French (*aires de conservation*) and Spanish (*áreas de conservación* vs. *conservación basada en áreas*).

# IUCN WCPA role

IUCN WCPA remains fully committed to assist in implementing the PoWPA, including but not limited to specific mentions:

- Target 3 Community of Practice
- Capacity-building with CBD Secretariat and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

# Two closing comments



# Vth IUCN World Parks Congress Durban, South Africa, 2003



**“we must break with traditional thinking, catalyze a new vision, and join hands in new partnerships”**



### **RES 3.047 Durban Action Plan and CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas**

RECALLING the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC), generously hosted by South Africa in Durban, 8–17 September 2003, which adopted the *Durban Accord*, and the *Message to the Convention on Biological Diversity* on the importance of protected areas and noted the *Durban Action Plan* and the 32 Workshop Recommendations;

WELCOMING the achievements of the WPC and in particular its success in influencing the decisions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (Kuala Lumpur, 2004);

NOTING in particular the welcome adoption of a Decision and *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* (CBD Decision VII/28), which strongly reflects guidance from the WPC, and includes an important set of tasks specifically addressed to IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas;

ALSO NOTING the joint non-governmental organization (NGO) commitment on protected areas

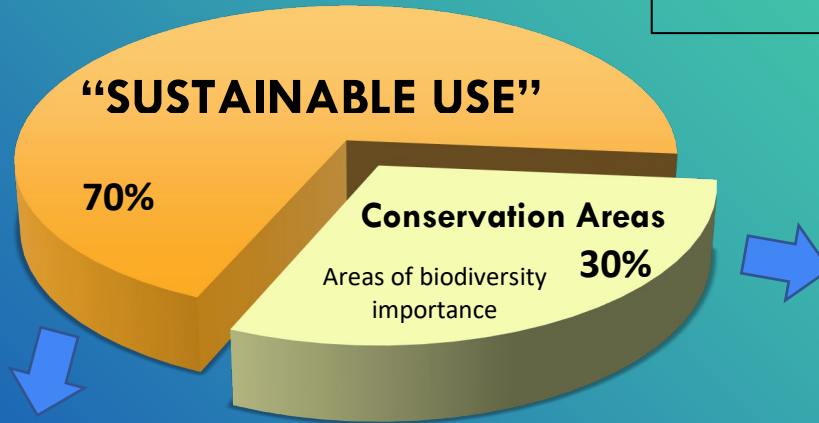


**The IUCN World Protected and Conserved Area  
Congress 2027 – Panama City, Republic of Panamá  
4-10 September 2027**



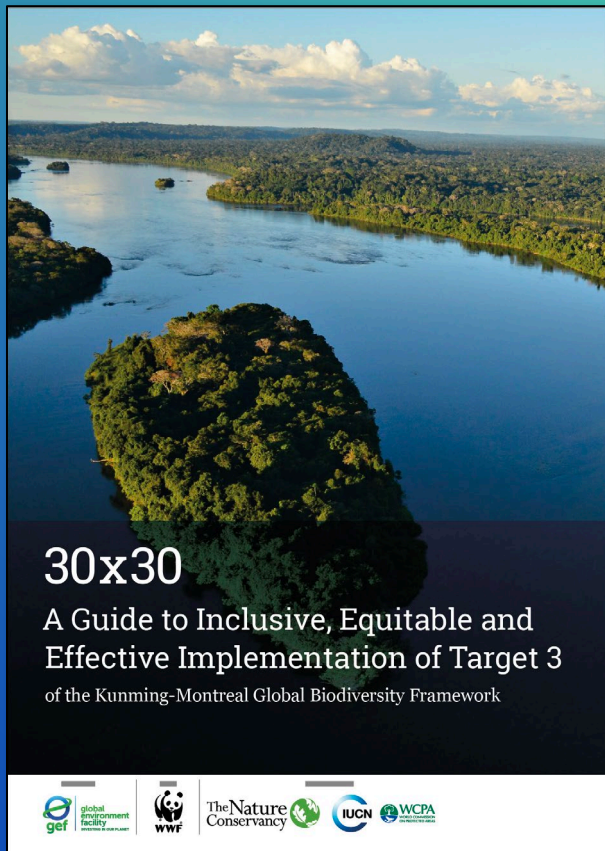
“...while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes...”

**GBF = 23 Targets**  
**Target 1 - Spatial Planning**  
**Target 2 - Restoration**  
**Target 5 – Sustainable Harvest Wild Species**  
**Target 10 – Sustainable Ag, Aquaculture, Fisheries, Forestry**



**Production landscapes**  
**Commercial Fisheries**  
**Commercial logging areas**  
**Agricultural plantations**

**Government PAs**  
**Territories of Life**  
**ITTs / ICCAs**  
**Privately Protected Areas**  
**Shared governance**



# Thank you

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