

## **REVIEW OF 'PROTECTED AREAS IN EUROPE: FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE - IUCN'S PROGRAMME 2005-2008'**

### **Purpose**

This paper is a review of progress in the implementation of the WCPA European Programme for 2005-2008. Note that the original text is in black and the review in blue.

### **Programme structure**

The programme theme was *People and Nature* for two reasons. It was to vitally important to connect civil society and nature through protected areas mechanisms. It was also important to use language reflecting European culture towards nature and reflecting also the integrated approach to protected areas within IUCN in Europe.

The programme was deliberately organised around the 4 Strategic Directions of the WCPA Global Programme developed after the Durban WPC: (1) conserving biodiversity and landscape diversity, (2) strengthening protected area management, (3) developing capacity for protected areas, and (4) improving governance, equity and livelihoods

No attempt was made to act regionally on each aspect of the global programme in the knowledge that we were dependent on voluntary effort and that many WCPA members based in Europe make substantial contributions to the global work.

The linkage between the specific European Programme Items was set out so that members and participants could see the relevance of their contributions to the wider global programme. This element had been missing from the early WCPA European programmes and was a useful addition.

The programme was developed by the WCPA Europe Steering Committee with the Regional Vice-Chair acting as the leader and coordinator. All members were consulted directly and through the web.

The agreed programme was circulated to all IUCN members in Europe (a first) through the IUCN European Newsletter.

The programme was translated into Spanish, French, Italian, and Serbo-Croat by WCPA members and circulated to all within those language groups.

A regional WCPA meeting held in 2006 to review progress, to debate specific issues such as the review of categories, management effectiveness, networks and connectivity: funded by Spanish authorities. B

This meeting was back-to-back with IUCN European members meeting; WCPA was the only IUCN Commission to do this. Funding for a further regional meeting prior to WCC did not materialise.

	PROGRAMME ITEM	THEME			
		1	2	3	4
1	Important Plant Areas	✓			
2	Mediterranean Marine PAs	✓			
3	Marine PAs high seas	✓			
4	Networks and Corridors	✓	✓		
5	Management Categories guidance		✓	✓	✓
6	Awareness Category system		✓	✓	✓
7	Develop verification & certification procedures	✓	✓	✓	
8	Develop best practice guides	✓	✓	✓	
9	Training needs and strategy		✓	✓	✓
10	Education for sustainable development		✓	✓	✓
11	Delivering training		✓	✓	✓
12	Raising awareness of PA benefits	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Finance for protected areas		✓	✓	✓
14	Natura 2000 managers & practitioners	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Transboundary PA guidance	✓	✓		
16	Cultural & spiritual areas	✓	✓	✓	✓

In addition, the development of the WCPA Europe Programme took account of the review of the lessons learned from the preceding programme *Parks for Life: Action for Protected Areas in Europe* led by the Regional Vice-Chair. The key lesson was the need for much greater realism in the identification of activities in relation to the likely resources available, and to take into account new and emerging issues such as bioregional context, fisheries and MPAs, collaborative management, ecosystem function, and effective laws. Even with this more focussed approach, this review reveals that some of the Programme Items were not activated and others did not achieve all of their targets. This was due to a combination of lack of willingness to lead the work, and a lack of financial resources to undertake the work. This is a constant failing in the WCPA and requires greater effort within IUCN as a whole both globally and in the European Region, to ensure that fundraising efforts are coordinated and focussed, and that a more professional approach to fund raising is taken by the specialist trained staff in support of the achievement of Commission programmes.

Progress on each Programme Item over the 4 year period is set out in terms of actual outcomes compared with the expected outcomes defined at the beginning of the programme period.

## THEME 1 CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

### Gaps in the System

#### Item 1 Supporting 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; contact Liz Radford.

**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 possibilities, especially from The Netherlands Ministry of Environment.

**Expected outcomes:** IPA inventories completed or underway in all European states by 2010.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. overall outcome not achieved but very good progress made in some countries as a result the outcome has been revised
2. Important Plant Area projects established in Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Britain (and Belarus, Turkey not in WCPA Europe region): inventories produced and consultation on IPA lists undertaken
3. IPA programmes under active consideration in Belgium, Germany and Italy
4. IPA programme across Europe reviewed in 2007 and new targets established in *A Sustainable Future for Europe: the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014* in relation to national strategies, identification programmes, and legal protection linked to the CBD approved Global Plant Conservation Strategy

## **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). The WSSD target requires establishment of representative networks of MPAs by 2012. These commitments require new concepts and the application of lessons learnt from experience on MPAs in other parts of the world.

**Lead:** Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara.

**Participants:** WCPA MMED Group, IUCN Global Marine Programme and IUCN Office for Mediterranean Cooperation.

**Resources:** WCPA MMED group, IUCN Global Marine Programme and IUCN Office for Mediterranean Cooperation.

**Expected outcomes:** Gaps in MPAs identified; means of assessing effectiveness of existing MPAs developed; best practice advice on fishing activity and the role of fishermen in MPAs.

**Actual outcome:**

1. not all outcomes achieved but good progress made
2. work in the Mediterranean and Black Seas lead by Giuseppe Notarbartolo as part of 18 regional coordination units established by new WCPA Marine Vice-Chair
3. support provided for the region's riparian countries to strive towards the CBD 2012 target, in particular through effective cooperation with the UNEP MAP's Regional Centre in Tunis, IUCN's Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga, and with the MedPAN organisation (animated by WWF)
4. specific initiatives included: identification of priority areas within each Mediterranean eco-region where new MPAs could be established to create a representative regional network (including in the high seas and the deep sea), and the profiling of Mediterranean and Black Seas MPAs in a dedicated layer of Google Earth ([www.protectplanetoccean.org](http://www.protectplanetoccean.org)) which is likely to significantly increase the awareness of the general public concerning marine protection and fruition in the region.

### **Item 3 Advising on marine protected areas beyond territorial limits**

- Task:** to provide expert advice to the EC DG Environment and Member States on establishing Marine PAs 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.
- Lead:** to be identified from the marine experts in consultation with WCPA Marine Vice-Chair
- Participants:** WCPA Mediterranean Group, IUCN Global marine programme and relevant WCPA experts
- Resources:** Donor required
- Expected outcomes:** Adopted and timetabled programme of work to establish MPAs beyond territorial limits.
- Actual outcomes:** Work progressed as part of the new WCPA Marine Strategy and the three relevant regional coordination units (Baltic, NE Atlantic, and Mediterranean and Black Seas) reporting directly to the WCPA Marine Vice-Chair

Also work on filling other gaps in the system undertaken led by Italian WCPA members, especially Turin University European Documentation Centre on Nature Park Planning.

### **Networks**

### **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.
- 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, visual continuity. Also the EU Habitats and Species Directive requires action under Article 10 on wider countryside measures to ensure that the network is effective.
- Lead:** Graham Bennett
- Participants:** WCPA and CEM expert volunteers, and IUCN ROFE.
- Resources:** Funds to be sought from national governments and the European Commission.
- Expected outcomes:** networks implemented in ?? all CEC countries. Web site of experience established. Commitment by EC DG Environment to adopt the approach in EU as part of implementation of Natura 2000 and xxx countries to commit to introduction of the approach. WCPA Good Practice Guidelines on Linkages and Networks disseminated to WCPA and CEM members
- Actual outcome:**
1. IUCN-Central Europe Warsaw office and Syzygy funded by Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality to build online database with detailed information on all the ecological networks in Central and Eastern Europe. The database went online on IUCN-CE's website in 2006. Dutch ministry was satisfied with the results. Following closure of IUCN Warsaw office database is not currently available, and IUCN Regional Office for Europe being pressed to add the database to their own website.
  2. Successful WCPA lobbying of European Commission DG Environment to improve the connectivity of Natura 2000 protected area suite: included in the EC Biodiversity Communication and the Climate Change Options Communication.
  3. Project proposals developed for the EC but did not come to fruition due to lack of support.

4. Preliminary proposals from WCPA Europe for joint work on connectivity CEM Europe, especially examples of best practice, not taken up by the latter.
5. Advocacy work in the UK by WCPA members led to conference for practitioners organised by an IUCN member organisation with WCPA key speakers.
6. Corridor initiatives developed in Pyrenees, Apennines, Alps by WCPA members and local/regional partners
7. Input made to WCPA mountain connectivity programme and book.

## **Ecosystem Approach**

No specific tasks identified for WCPA Europe. Lead rests with IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management.

Actual outcome: Active lobbying of relevant UK Ministry (DEFRA) resulted in new actions on ecosystem services. Preparations underway for seminar on progress in implementing the Ecosystem Approach by the Sibthorp Trust (part of the IUCN UK family chaired by the WCPA Regional Vice-Chair).

## **Contribution to Sustainable Development**

See Item 11 below

## **THEME 2 MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

### **Evaluation**

No specific Items identified for WCPA Europe.

Actual outcomes:

1. Europarc Germany undertaking Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of the German National Parks with input from WCPA
2. WCPA members undertaking development of MEE procedures for Scottish National Nature Reserves

## **Management Categories**

### **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 Area managers are seeking more specific advice on critical issues. The European context needs to be fed into the global Categorise Task Force.

**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 agreed.

**Resources:** Need to be raised in relation to each project's part of global programme

**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.

**Actual outcome:**

1. Guidance on *Hunting and Game Management* issued to all WCPA Europe members
2. Guidance on the application of the '75% rule' provided
3. Guidance provided in relation to individual protected areas as part of assessments, and verifications noted under Items 7 and

4. Desk top Categories review method developed and tested in Spain by Europarc Espana (WCPA members)

## 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 DG Environment.
- 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, governance arrangements. Although adopted legally in some European countries, its value is not as widely appreciated as the system merits. There are also many outstanding issues to be resolved following the 'Speaking a Common Language' project.
- Lead:** Nigel Dudley
- Participants:** Identify WCPA member in each Country to take lead in association with the IUCN National Committee. Also identify WCPA European representatives on the Global Task Force on Categories.
- Resources:** Support needed from WCPA global project.
- Expected outcomes:** Increased use of Category system in European countries and by the EC. New guidelines disseminated to all: WCPA Members and to partners and governmental bodies.
- Actual outcome:**
1. Most effort by WCPA Europe members into review of categories led by WCPA Europe member
  2. Most active input to definition of protected areas, Category II/V distinction, Category V definition, governance, geodiversity, and evaluation processes
  3. Review of use of Categories in Mediterranean region published

## Certification

### Item 7 Certification and verification of protected areas

- Task:** To pilot test and disseminate 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 this task on the basis that a systematic procedure for assessment was needed both in relation to improving the quality of entries for individual PAs and PAs systems against the IUCN Categories in the UN List of Protected Areas and for providing a basis for improving the management effectiveness of PA systems and specific sites.
- Lead:** Marija Zupancic-Vicar
- 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.
- Actual outcomes:**
1. Limited progress because of lack of finances to run pilots despite many requests for support especially to Austrian and German interests
  2. Proposals presented to WCPA Global Steering Committee and gained some support and credence
  3. Proposals consulted on as part of the review of the Categories Guidance and now referred to in the published version
  4. Number of formal Verifications and Certifications of protected areas undertaken by WCPA Europe members, vetted by Regional Vice-Chair and Certificates presented by IUCN for all 3

- sections of the Hohe Tauern National park, Austria
5. Other Verification assessments undertaken using the protocol by WCPA Europe members and outcome vetted by the Regional Vice-Chair include Gesause National Park and Durrenstein Wilderness Area both in Austria
6. Other Verification assessments underway at the end of the programme period: Kellerwald-Edersee National Park, and Siebengebirge National Park both in Germany
7. Plans agreed for application of Categories Verification by WCPA verifiers for selected PANParks: Central Balkan NP Bulgaria and Retezat NP Romania in 2009

## Using Knowledge

### Item 8 Develop series of best practice guides

- Task:** To produce a 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.
- 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.
- Resources:** Donors required from national governments.
- Expected outcomes:** Accessible best practice guides on key issues, which might include zoning, governance, consultation, management incentives published as part of the WCPA series.
- Actual outcomes:**
1. Visitor monitoring manual published based on Baltic and Nordic experience
  2. WCPA European members contributed to Best Practice Series
  3. Guidance on *Hunting and Game Management* issued to all WCPA Europe members
  4. Guidance on the applications of the '75% rule' provided

## THEME 3 DEVELOPING CAPACITY

### Awareness Raising and Outreach

#### Item 9: Training needs and strategy

- Task:** To develop 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.
- Lead:** Maurilio Cipparone, Chair WCPA Europe Education and Training Task Force.
- Participants:** Members of the WCPA Europe Education and Training Task Force and relevant institutions.
- Resources:** Finance in place for initial work.
- Expected outcomes:** Development of education and training opportunities to meet needs of PA stakeholders.
- Actual Outcomes:**
1. The outcomes of the TOPAS (Training for Protected Areas) project disseminated throughout the protected areas network in Europe. It has involved 9 European Countries and 18 partners, for establishing content and quality standards for training initiatives for PAs and for testing the feasibility of a "European certificate" in PAs management at University level.

2. International seminars on PAs management designed, promoted and resources for its implementation have been found from Italian local governments and National Parks. Due to insufficient support for the dissemination of information, the minimum number of paying participants not reached and the seminar was cancelled.
3. WCPA members teaching input to major MSc in Protected Areas at University of Klagenfurt Austria and to Spanish University Madrid Spain
4. Contacts and exchange of information and documents with the WCPA Global Training Task Force leader undertaken.
5. Training needs assessment for Croatian NPs completed. Training course for "Training the Trainers" undertaken. The "Trained trainers" have been involved in a course in Interpretation for Croatian Park Rangers.
6. Training programmes and initiatives planned and developed for Romania.
7. Training strategy for the Italian PA system designed. Post-graduate courses in PA Governance promoted in Italy, in collaboration with a public University.
8. International Steering Committee of WCPA Europe Education & Training Task Force, Europarc and participating PAs, being established to set overall guidelines for the training process,

#### **Item 10: Integrating WCPA into the UN Decade on Sustainable Development**

- Task:** To develop a project within the scope of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development
- Rationale:** From 2005-2014 UNESCO is implementing the UN's Decade for Sustainable Development. The overall goal is to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and training. 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 and UNESCO.
- Resources:** Donor required.
- Expected outcomes:** Development of project proposals and successful application.
- Actual outcomes:** No progress achieved as insufficient time available in relation to other education and training activities and no additional financial resources found.

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

- Task:** To develop programmes of education and training for Protected Area stakeholders on repayment basis in a coordinated manner between established Centres.
- Rationale:** 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, Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz, Germany
- Participants:** Network members are: the 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:** Extension of education and training opportunities available to PA stakeholders.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. An informal network of Training Centres of Excellence (NEETCE) in UK, France, Italy, Germany and also Russia promoted.
2. Cooperation and exchange of trainers between Italy and France tested.
3. Two educational tours for Park Rangers and other park staff designed and lead by the ETTF Chair. Collaboration promoted with some important US National Parks.
4. New guidelines for developing future joint training initiatives agreed.
5. Action undertaken to create a "Protected Areas Academy" in Italy.

## **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 just as important in Europe as in other parts of the world.

**Lead:** WCPA Europe Regional Vice-Chair and IUCN ROfE.

**Participants:** All WCPA members, especially National Committee Focal Points and those working in government and state agencies. Also collaboration with large European PA networks.

**Resources:** This is core function of leading organisations working with PAs. WCPA global programmes to lead on production of brochure and WCPA regions to modify material to suit regional circumstances.

**Expected outcomes:** Greater understanding and awareness among social and economic interest groups of the role and benefits of protected areas and support for their proper management. And greater understanding among NGOs and PA managers to integrate conservation and regional development.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. Global brochure delayed and only available in 2008 at WCC Barcelona (produced by WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs Australia, North America and Europe)
2. Promotion efforts undertaken with EC in Brussels, at international meetings around Europe, and with national governments by WCPA members and through special missions reported under other Items.

## **Sustainable Financing**

### **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 and IUCN European Regional Counsellor.

**Participants:** all members, especially National Committee Focal Points and those working in government and state agencies.

- Resources:** starting with the EC DG Environment report (Markland report) and building on Item 11, we need to press the EU and Member States to deliver funding to Natura 2000 sites from a variety of sources. In European countries outside the EU, we need to press Governments to fund protected areas adequately. We need to promote increased interest in funding from commercial sources, particularly the tourist industry.
- Expected outcomes:** Increased funding for protected areas.
- Actual outcomes:**
1. Limited activity due to other commitments
  2. WCPA Europe contributed to global TF on Financing
  3. Presentations given, e.g. to Mediterranean financing workshop Seville

## THEME 4 GOVERNANCE

### Item 15 Transboundary protected areas guidance

- Task:** To identify and promote best practice in transboundary protected areas in Europe to supplement original material and take into account new experience, i.e. European Green Belt Initiative.
- Rationale:** need to compile and disseminate best practice for others in Europe and beyond to learn from.
- Lead:** Roland Stein, Chair of WCPA Europe Transboundary Working Group.
- Participants:** Members of the WCPA Transboundary Working Group working on collaboration with the Europarc Federation Transboundary Working Group
- Resources:** Provided by Rhineland Palatinate.
- Expected outcomes:** Network of transboundary protected areas in Europe promoting best practice.
- Actual outcomes:** **Transboundary Working Group**
1. Only WCPA regional expert group on transboundary Pas. Cooperation worldwide with wide range of European experts from international organisations (e.g. UNESCO, UNEP), ministries of environment, park authorities, forestry services, national committees (e.g. UNESCO-MAB), European Green Belt, non-governmental organisations (e.g. WWF International, IUCN programme offices), Regional Environmental Centers, consulting agencies, foundations (e.g. EURONATURE, PANParks, Foundation for the Eastern Carpathians), local initiatives (e.g. Pro Mont Blanc, Association MPPM), European federations (e.g. EUROPARC, Federparchi), nature conservation institutes (e.g. Serbia) and universities (e.g. Sassari, Berlin, Toulouse).
  2. Met annually to review experience in the field, exchange experience, share knowledge and know-how, give consultancy and advice; act together as European ambassadors of the TBPA/TBC issue where opportunity; donors funds secured for annual meetings.
  3. Focal Points representing Northern, Western, Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Europe appointed covering a wide range of transboundary protected areas, e.g. biosphere reserves, national parks, nature parks, European diploma sites, world heritage sites, parks for peace, demilitarized zones, wilderness areas, cultural landscapes; all relevant ecosystems represented. Good networking and sharing of experiences occurred.
  4. Technical advice provided particularly in South Eastern Europe, and recommendations to international conferences (e.g. CBD COP 7, European Nature Conference), to preparatory CBD COP 9 working groups and bodies (e.g. WCPA-2 and SBSTTA-13), to the IUCN WCPA Task Force on Transboundary Conservation

- and to national agencies for nature conservation (e.g. Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany).
5. Effective communication with the EUROPARC Federation, the IUCN WCPA Mountains Theme and the IUCN WCPA Task Force on Transboundary Conservation.
  6. EUROPARC's *Basic Standards for Transfrontier Cooperation* and *Following Nature's Design* TBPA certification system promoted.
  7. Promoted European experience at international events, e.g. 2007 Parks, Peace & Partnerships Conference, at Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (Canada/ United States).
  8. No funds for secretariat raised, and only limited funds for international travel available, but funds for 2 more meetings available.

#### **Green Belt Initiative**

1. Very effective progress on many fronts: transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and regional development strengthened; ecological network along the boundary created; common geo-database developed; knowledge and best practise shared; supporting bodies increased substantially; institutional structure developed (national focal points, regional coordinators and partners from most of the 23 adjacent countries) with IUCN secretariat; international organisation support gained; new mandate for secretariat agreed.
2. Key promotional events planned to celebrate 20 years since Iron Curtain collapsed.

Also WCPA Europe member involvement in EUROPARC Federation projects on certifying best practice in transboundary protected areas cooperation and European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

WCPA Europe members trained and operate as Verifiers for **WWF PANParks initiative** on promoting wilderness and visitor management in Europe's National Parks.

### **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 in Europe. There is considerable potential for further activity.

**Lead:** Josep Mallarach

**Participants:** Delos Initiative members in Europe

**Resources:** To be secured

**Expected outcomes:** A WCPA report concerning the synergies between protected natural and cultural sites.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. very substantial progress achieved under leadership of Delos Initiative Coordinator Josep-Maria Mallarach
2. major workshops in Spain and Greece to develop the initiative; Montserrat Statement and Ouranopolis Statement on sacred natural sites in technologically developed countries agreed and published; proceedings of two workshops published
3. leadership of and substantial contribution to IUCN Best Practice Guideline 16 *Sacred Natural Sites: Guidelines for protected Area Managers*; further guidance in preparation on sacred natural sites in developed countries for mainstream religions

4. eleven case studies selected around Europe to disseminate best practice, eleven further sites being considered
5. Volume II of the Series Values of Protected Landscapes and Seascapes launched at World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, focussing on cultural and spiritual values of protected landscapes and Seascapes edited by Josep-Maria Mallarach. It includes four case studies from all over the world, of which four come from the Delos Initiative network in Europe. Seven authors of chapters are members of the Delos working group.

## **WCPA EUROPE ADVISORY SERVICES**

1. A number of requests were made by governments, government organisations and IUCN Members for expert advice and evaluation on protected areas.
2. A Protocol for such activities was drawn by the WCPA Europe Executive Committee as a basis for agreeing the terms of engagement with bodies making a formal request for advice.

### **Actual outcomes:**

1. Successfully achieved with advice, both informal and formal, in many countries and many situations provided to the evident satisfaction of the recipients
2. Iceland Ministry of Environment: proposed Vatnajökull NP – purpose, scale, boundaries, application of categories and governance
3. Denmark (a) government Forest and Nature Agency: establishment of national parks: statute, governance, processes, aims and objectives, categories; and (b) IUCN member Friluftsvader on tourism in new national parks
4. Bulgaria for Ministry of Environment and Waters: governance and institutional capacity building for wetlands protected areas
5. Slovenia for Ministry of Environment and Triglav NP agency: purpose, activities, categories, legal basis
6. Czech Republic for Ministry of Environment: Sumava NP categories and management arrangements and practice
7. Slovakia for NGO consortium of IUCN members and Tatra NP administration: response to wind blow and further development of tourist infrastructure
8. North Cyprus: protected area status effectiveness
9. Active lobbying against detrimental development proposals, e.g. airport development in Germany, tunnel under Danube near Vienna, resort development on Bulgarian Black Sea coast, ski development in Rila NP Bulgaria
10. Developed proposals with other IUCN colleagues for southern Caucasus in Georgia/Armenia/Azerbaijan

## **WCPA Europe membership**

1. Membership reviewed against key criteria: active participation, new ideas and skills sets, age and gender balance.
2. Membership increased to over 300 with increase in members <40 years age, and more female members, and wider range of expertise.

## **6. IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME**

### **(1) EXTERNAL PARTNERS**

#### **CBD**

1. WCPA members participated in activities under Themes 1-4 specifically IPAs, MPAs, EU Biodiversity Action Programme, EU Rural Development Regulation implementation, education and training, improving data quality, transboundary, assessments and verification, good practice on management and governance.

2. WCPA made input to EU Biodiversity Communication.
3. WCPA members made input to Countdown 2010.
4. Limited input to CBD Programme of Work on PAs due to lack of national government interest and commitment, and lack central WCPA effort. WCPA member participation in scoping project run by BfN Germany.

## **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE**

1. WCPA members in Europe contributed to continued implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Field and desk advice was provided for 6 candidate sites subsequently inscribed: West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord (Norway), Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia/Ukraine), Teide National Park (Spain), Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France), Surtsey (Iceland), and Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona (Switzerland).
2. WCPA Europe members contributed to the 14 sites subject to State of Conservation reports to the World Heritage Committee, prompted by a range of conservation concerns. Conservation issues are critical at two sites: the Pyrénées-Mont Perdu due to damaging impacts of the Gavarnie Festival on its values, and the Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) due to damaging ski development.
3. WCPA in Europe also played a major role in capacity building activities for World Heritage Site managers and national focal points, focused in Central and South East Europe. A series of workshops were held coordinated by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and a range of partners, notably the Vilm Academy of the German Nature Conservation Agency (BfN) with the financial assistance of the Bellagio Forum for sustainable development. Need assessment workshop identified topics and target audience for future training programme. Network of focal points and site managers established across Eastern and South Eastern Europe

## **EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

1. Provide expert input to EU EC and institutions on protected areas and biodiversity and funding and policy mechanisms which affect protected areas.

### **Item 14: NATURA 2000 help desk**

**Task:** To examine the scope for and interest by EC and governments in providing a help desk of experts on NATURA 2000 for EC DG Environment and for individual EU Member States and state authorities, specifically on implementation, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building in CEC, wider countryside measures and linkages, and link to IUCN Categories system.

**Rationale:** There is now a great deal of practical experience within the WCPA Europe membership on the implementation of NATURA 2000. Sharing of experience on the challenges and solutions would help the process of effective implementation of the network. But we need to test the feasibility with partners.

**Lead:** IUCN ROfe, in consultation with Regional Vice-Chair Europe

**Participants:** List of NATURA 2000 experts in WCPA Europe to be drawn up and individuals called on as appropriate

**Resources:** To be negotiated with EC DG Environment or state authority which seeks the advice.

**Expected outcomes:** Assuming this is feasible, then 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.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. Not achieved in terms of formal agreement due to EC DG Environment lack of interest
2. WCPA experts involved in many studies and capacity building exercises especially in central and eastern Europe, e.g., Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania
3. Lessons from Natura experience debated in workshop at WCC Barcelona

WCPA Europe key signatory of Resolution on Wilderness Areas submitted to the European Commission in autumn 2008. As a result: an EC conference on Wild Land organised for 2009;

European Parliament Environmental Committee approved draft report on Wilderness Areas; and EC agreed finance for two projects.

### **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

1. Assistance on implementation of European Landscape Convention: expert input on cultural landscapes.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. Effective lobbying in key countries to ensure ELC implemented, e.g. UK
2. Specific activities encouraged, e.g. joint working group between IUCN UK (lead by WCPA members) and ICOMOS UK

2. WCPA participate as assessors for Council of Europe Diploma Sites.

**Actual outcomes:**

1. WCPA members actively engaged as assessors on sites throughout Europe.

3. Promotion of networks, corridors and other linkages as part of the Pan-European Ecological network,

Actual outcome see Item 4.

### **REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS**

1. Expert input on marine protected areas to Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean, Helsinki Convention for the Baltic, and OSPAR for the North Sea through regional seas groups established under revived WCPA global marine Theme.

### **EUROPARC Federation**

1. Implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (agreed in 2003) stalled due to resistance of the then Director (now replaced).
2. Joint member activity on Transboundary Protected Areas.
3. Europarc President member of WCPA Europe Steering Committee.
4. Explicit WCPA Europe support for EUROPARC initiatives on European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, Transboundary Cooperation Charter, Junior Ranger Programme.

### **Eurosite**

With change of President and Director new opportunities being explored.

Three party summit Europarc/Eurosite/WCPA Europe convened by WCPA Europe arranged for March 2009 to agree on synergies, common purposes and allocation of leads for future work.

### **PANParks**

1. Memorandum of Understanding signed with WCPA Europe in September 2007: to clarify the linkage between the PANParks Foundation (PPF) verification system and the IUCN Protected Area Categories; and to maximize the information flow between the two partners with particular attention on the lessons learned about measuring management effectiveness of protected areas.
2. Agreed contact with WWF through the WWF PANParks initiative: WWF PANParks Director member of WCPA Europe Steering Committee, WCPA member on PANParks Advisory Committee, WCPA members as Verifiers for PANParks verifications, monitoring and re-verifications.
3. PPF lessons learned series circulated to WCPA Europe members.
4. Work in train to define the link between the PAN Parks and WCPA verification process and joint verification planned 2009 for Central Balkan NP, Bulgaria and Retezat NP Romania. Plans to place results of PANParks verifications onto WDPA.

### **IUCN Commissions**

1. Most Commissions do not have devolved regional arrangements like WCPA, so difficult to make links except on informal basis.
2. Focal Points in WCPA for each of the other Commissions agreed as follows:

CEESP: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend  
CEM: Roger Crofts

### **IUCN National Committees**

WCPA Europe Focal Point for National Committees agreed with IUCN National Committee Chairs for France, Finland, Norway, The Netherlands, and UK with role of representing WCPA and protected areas issues in the National Committee and bringing requests for protected areas support from the National Committee.

### **IUCN Regional Councilors**

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

### **IUCN Secretariat**

#### **Regional Office for Europe**

1. Periodic meeting Regional Vice-Chair and Head of ROfE and key staff.
2. WCPA part-time Programme Coordinator member of IUCN staff in Brussels Office.
3. Close contact with staff in Brussels, Warsaw and Belgrade offices.
4. Engagement of WCPA in delivery of IUCN European Programme.

#### **Office for Mediterranean Cooperation**

1. Periodic meetings Regional Vice-Chair and Head of OMC.
2. Protected Areas specialists in OMC.
3. Attendance by WCPA members at events organised by OMC.

## **(3) COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

### **Regional meetings**

1. Joint IUCN European members and WCPA meeting Barcelona summer 2006.
2. Focussed members meetings on specific topics for WCPA or jointly with partners within the IUCN family (e.g. Office for Mediterranean Cooperation, Federparchii Italy).

### **WCPA members**

The following means of communication with members used, in addition to the global WCPA web site, newsletter, 'Parks' journal and PALNET:

1. List server for all European members to be further developed.
2. Members views requested on development of e-news bulletin to replace *Lifeline Europe* ceased due to lack of resources
3. Contribute to IUCN European, southeast Europe and Mediterranean newsletters: articles, events etc and distribute to WCPA members.

## **(4) GOVERNANCE**

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

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

**Executive Committee:** 6 members selected on basis of commitment, geography, representational role and knowledge/experience of protected areas; Robert Brunner (Austria), Roger Crofts (Scotland), Pierre Galland (Switzerland), Alistair Gammell (England), Stig Johansson (Finland) and Maurilio Cipparone (Italy).