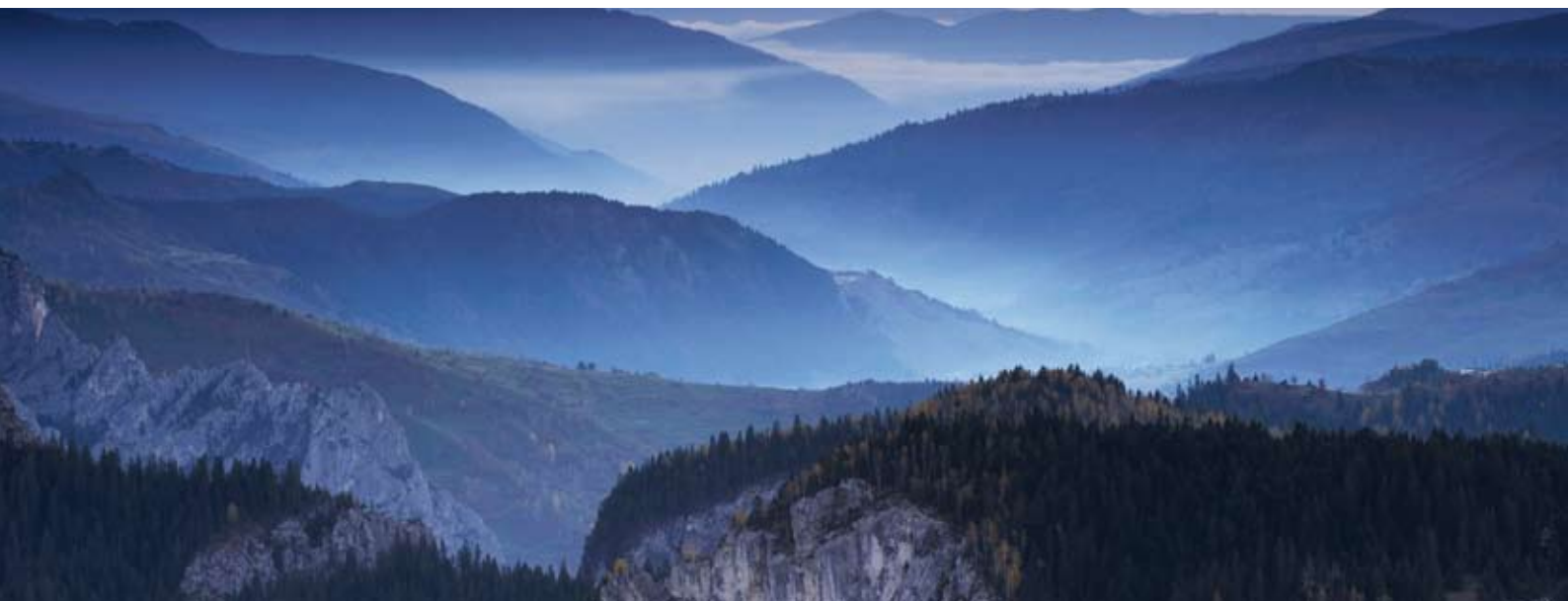




*for a living planet®*

**Protected Area Networks –  
cornerstone of development:**

**Making it happen!**



Drawing upon recent experience and lessons learned in Central Asia, Europe and West Africa, this brochure highlights ingredients of success for establishing effective national and transboundary protected areas networks as a foundation of economic development.

# Working together governments, donor agencies, scientists and civil society can make a difference

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This document summarizes recent efforts to establish effective protected area networks at national and transboundary levels and identifies key factors of success and priorities for future work.

We review progress in five targeted ecoregions – encompassing 27 countries in Central Asia, Europe and West Africa – where national and transboundary partnerships (between governments, donor agencies, scientists and civil society) have supported governments in meeting their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In addition to looking at how partnerships can advance implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), we look at key lessons learned in priority areas and identify specific recommendations for future work. These areas are:

- Putting protected area networks in place
- Better management
- Local people and development
- Sustainable financing
- Smarter laws and institutions
- Capacity and expertise

A key to success in all of these areas is collaboration and cooperation. If we are to address the many challenges that face the establishment, management and financing of protected area networks that underpin development then all parties need to work together to ensure that:

1. **Protected areas partnerships are strong and enduring**
2. **Protected area networks are prioritized in national budgets and planning**
3. **Mechanisms for multi-sectoral cooperation on development and conservation are established**
4. **Unsustainable development does not take place in important areas for biodiversity and ecosystem services**

WWF calls on all parties to work together to ensure that these key priorities are addressed during 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity – at global, regional and national levels.

## INTRODUCTION

### **Governments have made considerable progress in establishing protected area networks**

The 27 countries covered by WWF's *Protected Areas for a Living Planet* project provide ample evidence of solid progress in recent years. Effective multi-stakeholder partnerships at regional and national levels have supported and substantially increased the capacity of governments to deliver on their international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish effective protected area networks.

*Key developments include:*

- **national and ecoregional gap analyses conducted to identify important areas that require protection**
- **more than 30 new protected areas established and commitments made for 30 more**
- **management effectiveness assessed in 150 protected areas and**
- **more than 500 individuals trained on a range of protected area issues**

### **The challenge is to build on this foundation to ensure that protected area networks are integrated into development and contribute to livelihoods**

Meeting this challenge requires integrating protected areas – both current and future – into development plans; ensuring the effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in protected area planning and establishment; and ensuring that adequate financing and capacity is provided to underpin good management.

There has been some progress towards these goals – but a number of challenges remain.



*Katon-Karagai National Park, Kazakhstan. Natural ecosystems provide essential services to society such as clean water for drinking and agriculture as well as lessening the impact of natural disasters such as flooding and landslides. With increasingly irregular rainfall patterns and lower water-flow from glaciers due to climate change, protecting and restoring natural ecosystems will become increasingly important to ensure the maintenance of water supply and mitigate natural disasters. Protected area networks provide the foundation for using natural ecosystems to adapt to climate change.*

## KEY AREAS FOR ACTION

Based on the experience and lessons learned presented in this document, there are four key outstanding priorities for future work – which would set in place the necessary conditions for achieving effective protected area networks that underpin sustainable development.

- **Partnerships:** Governments, NGOs, international organizations, and donors must make every effort to establish or enhance existing national and transboundary partnerships to combine their efforts in establishing effective protected area networks
- **National Planning and Budgets:** Aid agencies, as well as national ministries of economy and finance, must understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the fundamental role that protected area networks have in maintaining these, and so prioritize protected areas in national planning and budgets
- **Multi-sectoral cooperation:** Mechanisms to ensure cooperation between government sectors responsible for economic development and managing natural resources need to be established, so that effective planning for development and conservation can be put in place
- **Safeguard key areas:** Governments should urgently ensure that unsustainable development does not take place in key areas for biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, identified in national gap analyses and other studies



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## 2010 provides a golden opportunity

Lack of understanding of the social and economic benefits of protected area networks still hampers their effective establishment and management. But the tools and political attention are now available to demonstrate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the central role that protected areas play in maintaining them.

WWF calls on all parties to join forces to build on the achievements highlighted in this document – not just in these 27 countries but across the world. Together, we must take these arguments and priorities to the highest levels and convince all government sectors that biodiversity and ecosystem services are key to development and business. Only by doing so can we mobilize the necessary political will to overcome the challenges identified.

# Strong and diverse partnerships

## Multi-stakeholder partnerships have accelerated progress towards CBD commitments

National and transboundary partnerships have helped build momentum and widespread support for protected area networks, and form the basis of the activities described in this brochure.

Often part of, or linked to, existing mechanisms, these partnerships are coordinating and streamlining delivery of the CBD protected area targets at both the national and ecoregional level. This has allowed existing conservation strategies and plans to be focused around the CBD's Programme of Work for Protected Areas, promoting synergies between the activities of different partners and reducing duplication of effort.

Partnerships have promoted the transfer of expertise and capacity between partners; strengthened collaboration between government and civil society; and encouraged long-term planning around common goals.

Thanks to transboundary collaboration, national conservation priorities are being set within a regional perspective, and regional cooperation in some areas – such as joint promotion for tourism – has been enhanced. These partnerships have allowed greater sharing of experience and lessons learned at a regional level.



*Government ministers from the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion at the signing of the Big Win Joint Statement (CBD 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, May 2008). As of December 2009, 50% of the commitments made in the Joint Statement have been achieved.*

### FUTURE CHALLENGES

#### ■ Continued support for partnerships and implementation of their work

Many of the partnerships described in this document rely on project funding and therefore risk not being continued.

- Many action plans and analyses have been developed by these partnerships on issues such as capacity building and sustainable financing but require ongoing funding and support for their implementation.

#### ■ Involving all relevant government sectors

Government representatives in most current partnerships come from environment ministries. West Africa and Mongolia are notable exceptions, where other sectors have been engaged (see page 8). The engagement of all ministries

dealing with natural resource management such as forestry, fisheries, climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation – is essential, as long-term biodiversity and ecosystem protection requires the integration of protected area networks into the natural resource management plans of all relevant sectors.

- Protected areas also need the support of finance and economy ministries for long-term financing. To gain such support, it is crucial that these ministries understand the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the fundamental role that protected area networks play in their maintenance.

#### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

##### 1.1

**Ensure long-term support for national and regional-level partnerships.**

##### 1.2

**Implement gap analyses, action plans for capacity building, legal reform, and other priorities that have been developed and agreed by government and other stakeholders under national and regional-level partnerships.**

##### 1.3

**Establish mechanisms to ensure cooperation between government sectors on the management of natural resources for development and ensure all sectors understand the contribution of protected area networks to development.**



*The Caucasus Biodiversity Council is coordinating CBD implementation at the ecoregional level in the Caucasus. Members include government, NGO, and scientific representatives from each country. The Council is linked to national coordination committees in four countries.*

## Dinaric Arc Ecoregion

Ministers from **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia** signed a joint commitment to work together for CBD delivery in the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion (see image page 6). This was supported by the Dinaric Arc Initiative, an informal partnership of international organizations active in the region including FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, Council of Europe, Euro-natur and WWF.

## Carpathian Ecoregion

A steering group has been established that includes representatives from the **Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine** as well as the Carpathian Ecoregional Initiative (CERI), a network of research institutes and NGOs. Almost all members of the steering group are also members of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee, an implementing body of the **Carpathian Convention** – an international treaty for conservation and sustainable development in the Ecoregion closely linked to the CBD.

## Caucasus Ecoregion

Implementation is being coordinated through the Caucasus Biodiversity Council (see image page 7), linked to National Coordination Committees in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey** which have been established to coordinate delivery of CBD targets.

National committees in the Caucasus countries include government, NGO and scientific representatives, and have been instrumental in promoting CBD implementation, including the development of national action plans for capacity building, legal and institutional reform, and sustainable financing. Some outputs have already been used to promote reforms, and proposed activities have been incorporated into government and partner plans for protected area work.

- **Russia:** a coordination committee has been established between regional governments in the North Caucasus to share experience and develop joint actions. It covers the complete spectrum of protected areas, and includes representatives of protected area management authorities and regional experts.

## West Africa Marine Ecoregion

Delivery of the CBD targets is being supported by the partners of the *Programme Régional de Conservation de la zone côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'ouest* (PRCM), a multi-stakeholder initiative, including ministries of fisheries, coordinating efforts for coastal conservation throughout the Ecoregion.

- **Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, The Gambia, and Senegal:** national partnerships are currently being developed to help speed up delivery of the CBD targets in the West Africa Marine Ecoregion, especially strengthening management of, and community participation in, protected areas.

## Altai-Sayan Ecoregion

Cooperation on protected area networks is taking place through bi-lateral committees between **Russia and Mongolia** and between **Russia and Kazakhstan**. Joint management and monitoring plans have been developed for adjacent protected areas that will receive transboundary status in 2010 (see page 13).

- **Mongolia:** conservation organizations and donor agencies came together with the support of the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism (MNET), GTZ and WWF to align their activities around the PoWPA at the national level. A national action plan was adopted by the government and a national committee established. This led to a series of initiatives to support delivery of the CBD targets, including the joint development of a national protected area gap analysis by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), MNET and WWF (see page 11).
- **Mongolia:** donor organizations and NGOs conducted a joint open forum on the value of protected area networks and their threats, to raise awareness on the significance of protected areas to Mongolia and to share views between different national and international organizations.
- **Russia:** a coordination committee has been established for the regional governments of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion. It covers all aspects of protected areas work, and includes representatives of protected area management authorities and regional experts.

## Putting protected area networks in place

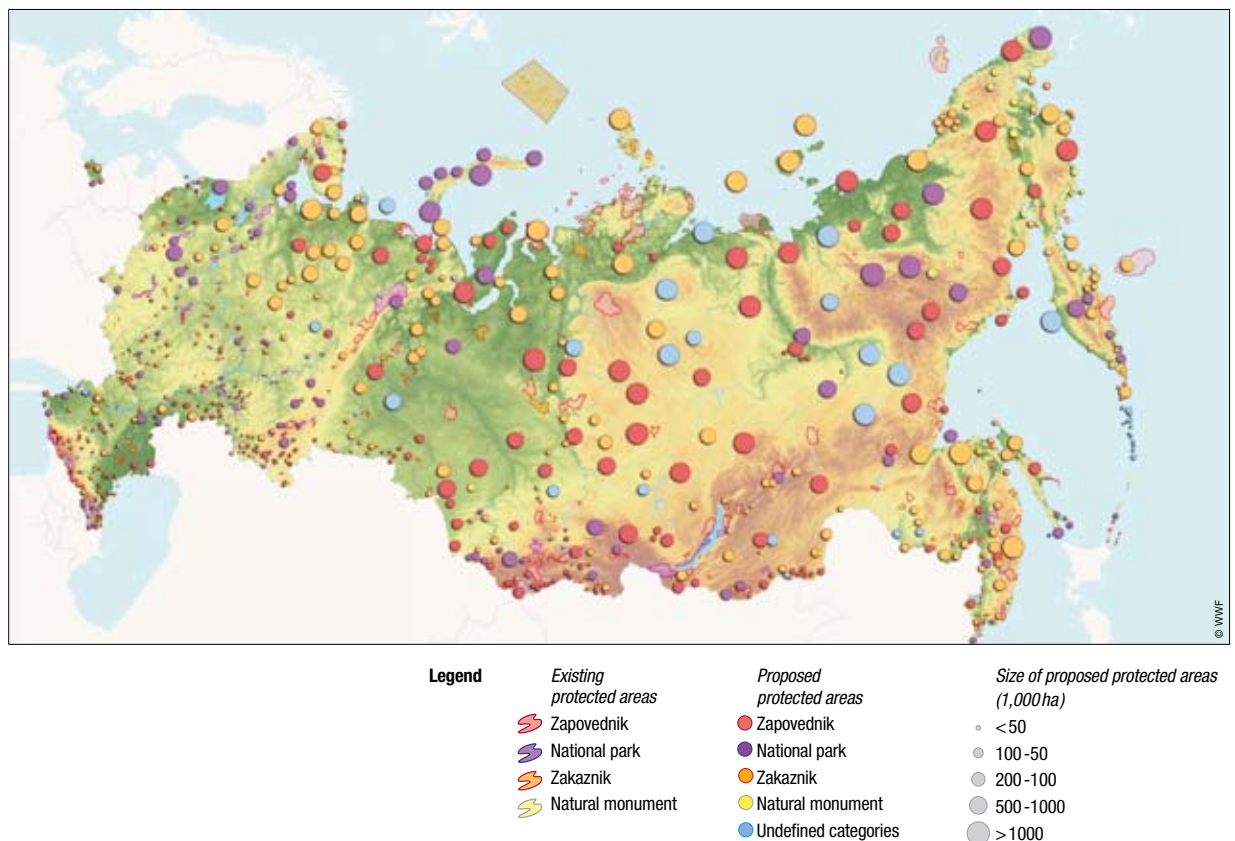
### Significant progress has been made in planning and establishing protected area networks

Protected area gap analyses at the national and ecoregional level have been completed, or are nearing completion. These have identified priority areas and ecological corridors for protection, and in several cases have already led to the development of new plans for protected area networks. Such analyses should also inform land and marine management plans in ecologically important areas that are currently not protected.

Over 30 new protected areas have been established or extended in the five ecoregions since 2006, and governments have committed to designating or extending over 30 more. Several countries have also greatly expanded their national protected area networks.

FIGURE 1

**First-ever gap analysis of the Russian national protected area network published in 2009.** This recommended the establishment of 566 new protected areas covering 183 million ha; 40 of these are under consideration by the Russian government for establishment over the next 10 years.



## FUTURE CHALLENGES

### ■ Incorporating climate change and ecosystem services into gap analyses

Additional work is urgently needed to overlay current analyses with climate change models, in order to identify future refugia that should be protected as well as ecological corridors to link protected areas. Similarly, key ecosystems providing vital goods and services – such as drinking water, flood mitigation and fish nursery areas – also need to be identified and protected.

### ■ Protecting areas identified by gap analyses

Establishing safeguarded areas and corridors as identified by gap analyses will clearly take dedicated resources over the long term. In the meantime, these areas need to be urgently safeguarded from unsustainable development and damaging activities.

## PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

2.1

**Implement the results of gap assessments by protecting core biodiversity areas and establishing corridors in collaboration with local people and relevant government sectors.**

2.2

**Include climate change models and ecosystem services into protected area gap assessments and planning.**

2.3

**Where funding is not currently available to establish protected areas, ensure that incompatible development does not take place in important biodiversity and ecosystem service areas identified by gap analyses.**

FIGURE 2

**Planning of new protected areas linked by ecological corridors in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, based on the results of an ecoregion-wide protected area gap analysis.**

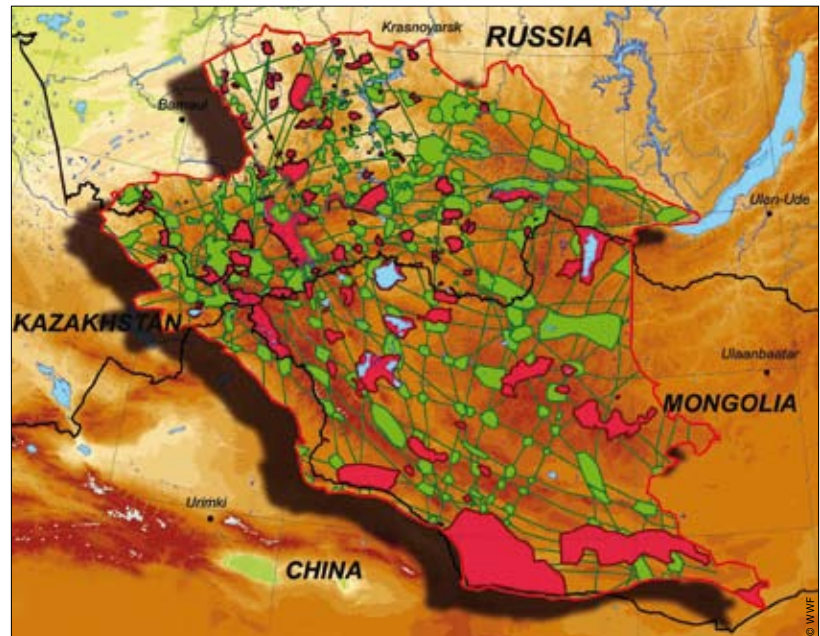


FIGURE 3

**Protected areas in the Caucasus Ecoregion have particularly been established in mountainous areas and watersheds along national borders, helping to ensure joint management of these areas and the ecosystem services they provide.**



## Ecoregion gap analyses

- **Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, Russian Caucasus, Central Asian countries:** Plans for networks of protected areas linked by ecological corridors and transition zones have been developed for these regions (see Figure 2, page 10).
- **Carpathian Ecoregion:** An analysis of priority areas and ecological corridors for protection will be published by the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) in early 2010.
- **Dinaric Arc Ecoregion:** A gap analysis is nearing completion.
- **West Africa Marine Ecoregion:** Priority sites have been identified at an ecoregional and national level and are being used as a basis for protected areas planning.

## National gap analyses

- **Hungary:** Ecological planning of trans-boundary protected areas and a gap analysis of freshwater sites has been completed.
- **Mongolia:** A national gap analysis will be finalized in early 2010.
- **Russia:** The first-ever gap analysis of the national protected area network was published in 2009 (see Figure 1, page 9)
- **Slovakia:** An inventory of old-growth forests has been initiated.
- **Turkey:** The first gap analysis in the Mediterranean region was completed and used to help the government develop a Biological Monitoring Unit as well as to train officers to conduct a gap analysis throughout Turkey. A gap analysis for the Turkish part of the Caucasus Ecoregion including climate data to assess the negative effects of climate change on biodiversity is being finalized.

## New protected areas

- **Armenia:** Five new protected areas were established between 2007 and 2009.
- **Azerbaijan:** The area under protection has doubled since 2000.
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** One new national park was established in 2008.
- **Dinaric Arc Ecoregion:** Governments have committed to establishing or expanding 22 protected areas.
- **Guinea Bissau and The Gambia:** Two new transboundary parks have been identified for establishment.
- **Mongolia:** One new protected area was established in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion in 2008.
- **Romania:** A Natura 2000 network was created through the work of the Natura 2000 Coalition, which doubled the country's area under protection to 17% (5.4 million ha).
- **Russia:** A total of 2.2 million ha of new national protected areas have been established since 2007. The country is establishing a further six new protected areas in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, as well as establishing two new protected areas and enlarging three more in the Caucasus Ecoregion.
- **Senegal:** Three community-based marine protected areas are planned.



Children from a forest settlement in the Talish Mountains on the Azerbaijan-Iran border. These people are part of an estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide that rely on forests for their livelihoods. Protected areas can play a key role in safeguarding livelihoods by preventing the destruction of forests for unsustainable development and promoting the sustainable use of resources.

## Substantial work is underway to improve the management of protected area networks

Many governments have made good progress – or even exceeded the CBD targets – on completing management effectiveness evaluations, with the results used to improve the management of national protected area networks.

New management plans for individual protected areas are also being developed in many countries as well as systems to monitor both biodiversity and management in protected areas.

### FUTURE CHALLENGES

#### ■ Acting on the results and recommendations of management effectiveness evaluations

#### ■ Preventing unsustainable activities in protected areas

Many protected areas still face pressure from unsustainable mining, energy and tourism activities within their boundaries which undermine conservation efforts.

#### ■ Implementing responsible management of Natura 2000 sites

In the EU, the Natura 2000 Network makes a substantial contribution to meeting the CBD targets. However, legal measures for the management of such sites at the European level have not been adequately implemented. Responsible management is needed for all Natura 2000 sites as soon as possible, to ensure the conservation of habitats and species as required by EU legislation, the CBD and other international commitments.

### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

#### 3.1

**Incorporate the results and recommendations of management effectiveness assessments into all plans and projects related to protected areas networks and landscape management.**

#### 3.2

**Ensure all activities carried out within protected areas are sustainable and well managed.**

#### 3.3

**Ensure the management of Natura 2000 sites maximizes contribution to CBD implementation.**

**Natura 2000 sites – together with protected areas of national interest – should become model areas for meeting CBD requirements.**



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*Rangers on patrol in the Teberdinsky Biosphere Reserve in the Russian Caucasus. Good management is essential to ensure that protected areas are effective in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as engaging local communities and contributing to development.*

# SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Altai-Sayan

- **Russia:** Management assessments have been completed for all national protected areas. Management plans are now a mandatory planning tool and are under development for all national protected areas.
- **Kazakhstan/Russia:** A joint monitoring plan has been developed for two adjacent protected areas on the international border.
- **Mongolia/Russia:** A joint management plan for two adjacent protected areas is nearing completion.

## Carpathian

- **Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine:** Management effectiveness assessments have been completed for 57 protected areas in the Carpathian Ecoregion and recommendations developed to improve protected area management.
- The newly developed **Carpathian Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool** is currently being tested by several protected area administrations in the Ecoregion, for use by park managers and the seven governments for CBD and management effectiveness reporting.
- **Romania:** 18 protected areas have developed management plans which have been submitted for approval to the national authorities.
- **Ukraine:** Two protected areas are developing management plans using participatory processes.

## Caucasus

- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia:** Management effectiveness assessments have been completed for around 80% of protected areas.
- **Turkey:** Management effectiveness assessments have been completed for all national and nature parks.  
  
A Regional Biodiversity Monitoring Network will be launched in 2010 that covers protected areas.

## Dinaric Arc

- **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia:** Management effectiveness assessments for all national protected areas have been completed. The results will be used to develop national capacity building action plans. In **Slovenia**, results from Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) have been incorporated into management planning guidelines.

## West Africa Marine

- **The Gambia:** Management effectiveness of all protected areas has been assessed, and the government has committed to carrying out future assessments on a yearly basis.
- **Cape Verde, Senegal and The Gambia:** Management plans are being finalized for seven marine protected areas.



*Students from the Carpathian region attending the international masters course on protected area management at Klagenfurt University, Austria. Building capacity on issues such as climate change adaptation, sustainable tourism, participatory management and developing community sustainable development plans are essential to ensuring protected area networks contribute effectively to local economic development.*

## Work to engage local people in protected areas is progressing in many countries

Participatory management of protected areas by local communities and protected area agencies is being facilitated through the establishment of stakeholder platforms, capacity building on participatory management, and the development of effective legislation.

Activities have also been carried out to improve the sharing of protected area benefits with local communities and to promote economic development around protected areas through eco-tourism and micro-financing schemes.

### FUTURE CHALLENGES

#### ■ Improving national policies and legislation

Many countries still lack the necessary legal framework to enable participatory management, equity and benefit sharing. Legislation should recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and ensure the participation of local communities in the establishment and management of protected areas. In addition, many countries do not have a legal basis for the establishment of protected areas with different governance systems, such as community conservation areas and private protected areas. (See also section 6.)

#### ■ Integrating protected area and local development work

Protected area managers and agencies usually do not have the mandate, experience, or capacity to take responsibility for local development in addition to their protected area functions. Protected areas therefore need to be integrated into local development through collaboration with other government sectors responsible for land and marine management as well as rural development.

### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

#### 4.1

#### Ensure national policies and legislation are in place to:

- engage local people in protected area establishment and management
- share protected area benefits with local communities
- recognize the rights of indigenous peoples
- establish protected areas with different governance systems, such as community conservation areas and private protected areas.

#### 4.2

**Facilitate collaboration between protected area agencies and other government sectors having responsibility for, and expertise in, local development to implement approaches that develop local economies while protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services.**



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*Weighing a fish caught by Imraguen fishermen, Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania. Approximately 500 million people worldwide rely on fish as their principal source of animal protein. Marine protected areas safeguard fish spawning and nursery areas. They have been shown to substantially increase the size and number of fish caught in adjacent waters.*

## Altai-Sayan

- **Kazakhstan:** A 'virtual tour' of a national park in the Altai-Sayan Eco-region has been developed with local businesses and will be integrated into Google Earth to promote ecotourism nationally.
- **Mongolia:** A programme for tourism development in protected areas has been developed with GTZ, MNET, NGOs, and other organizations.
- **Russia:** A micro-financing scheme is being developed and income generation for local communities is being promoted in partnership with Oxfam and UNDP. The scheme has already been replicated by local people and businesses in additional areas with their own funding.
- **Russia:** Joint management councils have been set up in four protected areas at the request of local people. Experience from the councils will be used to inform the revision of legislation for regional protected areas. For nationally managed protected areas, proposed changes to national protected area legislation (see page 18) will facilitate the engagement of local communities in management if adopted.

## Carpathian

- An assessment of the current situation regarding participative management in protected areas in the countries of the Ecoregion is nearing completion.
- **Romania:** Stakeholder platforms have been established to help the management planning process for protected areas and to secure dialogue between protected area managers and key stakeholders.
- **Ukraine:** Participatory process for developing a protected area management plan has been established and guidelines are being developed for protected areas staff on how to work with communities to develop community visions and sustainable development plans.

## Caucasus

- **Turkey:** Participatory management in protected areas is being improved, starting with those located in nine forest hot spots. Sustainable tourism management is being planned in some national parks that will be included within the PAN Parks network.

## Dinaric Arc

- A project has been launched on sustaining rural communities and their traditional landscapes through strengthened environmental governance and transboundary protected areas.

## West Africa Marine

- Across the Ecoregion, training and exchange of experience on co-management has been carried out for park managers and fisheries officers, as well as the local community and government members of co-management committees.
- **The Gambia and Senegal:** A draft agreement has been reached with local communities to develop ecotourism in two marine protected areas.
- **Senegal:** A plan for the development of alternative sources of income for shrimp fishers and beach seiners negatively impacted by a marine protected area is being implemented in consultation with the local community. In addition, three community-based marine protected areas will be established.



*Mallé Diagane, Protected Areas for a Living Planet West African Coordinator, facilitating the exchange of experience on participatory management between Senegal and Mauritania in November 2009. This exchange visit for local community and marine protected area representatives from both countries is part of a broader programme to build capacity on participatory management across the West Africa Marine Ecoregion.*



*Workshop on traditional crafts for local people living in and around protected areas in Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, for alternative incomes through ecotourism as part of micro-financing work. Workshop sponsored by UNDP and WWF.*

**Some governments are allocating more resources to protected areas and progress is being made in developing sustainable financing plans**

Sustainable financing plans include public and international donor support, adoption of legislation and other measures to support sustainable financing, improving self-earned revenues (e.g. from leases, concessions and ecotourism), enhancing protected area institutional capacity, staff training and infrastructure development, and investigating the feasibility of payments for ecosystem services.

However, expertise and capacity for developing sustainable financing plans is clearly lacking in several countries. This has partly been addressed through the development of business plans for individual protected areas, which will help build the necessary capacity for the development of full national sustainable financing plans as required by the CBD.



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Park rangers installing hiking signs, Retezat National Park, Carpathian Mountains, Romania. Tourism can contribute substantial funds for protected areas.

#### FUTURE CHALLENGES

■ **Making protected areas a political priority**

The main challenge to sustainable financing is that protected areas are not a political priority in many countries and therefore are not considered in national budgets. The contribution of protected areas to national economies, sustainable development, and climate change mitigation needs to be better understood by decision makers – particularly in finance and economy ministries – so that sufficient funds are allocated to their establishment and management.

■ **Promoting innovative financing mechanisms**

Many countries rely solely or primarily on government funding for protected areas, and have not explored or implemented innovative financing mechanisms. Lack of capacity and expertise to develop national sustainable financing plans is a key problem. Many governments also lack the capacity to access international funds for protected areas and often rely on NGO support for the development of proposals.

#### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

5.1

**Ensure all government sectors understand the value of biodiversity, ecosystem services and protected area networks.**

5.2

**Promote experience in business planning at site-level, as a first step to developing full national sustainable financing plans.**

5.3

**Build the capacity of government agencies so that they can directly apply for protected area funds.**

# SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Altai-Sayan

- **Mongolia:** A sustainable financial mechanism for protected areas in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, along with recommendations for its implementation, has been developed by a comprehensive working group that includes the Ministries of Justice, Finance, and Nature, Environment and Tourism. A conservation fund has been established through financial and in-kind contributions from partners and volunteers, and is being tested in one protected area.
- **Russia:** Business plans are being developed for pilot protected areas and a strategy to raise funds from the private sector is in preparation.

## Carpathian

- The 'Total Economic Value' of selected protected areas is being assessed, and recommendations are being developed for a payment for ecosystem services scheme in a pilot protected area. In addition, a proposed UNDP project aims to secure the financial sustainability of **Romania's** Carpathian network of protected areas, as a model for replication throughout the entire Carpathian Ecoregion.

## Caucasus

- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey:** National sustainable financing plans are under development linking to the Caucasus Protected Area Fund (CPAF), a trust fund established in 2006. In **Armenia**, for example, a detailed financial needs assessment was conducted for the coming five years in close cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection, UNDP, CPAF and others, as well as an analysis of current protected area financing and opportunities. The outcomes of this work can be used by different organizations to contribute to sustainable financing of protected areas.
- **Turkey:** Local park managers will conduct a 'Values and Benefit Assessment' for national parks, as a tool for communication and planning.

## Dinaric Arc

- An initiative is underway to develop business plans for one protected area in each country. Training on protected area economics and business plan development has been provided to park managers and representatives of national institutions responsible for protected areas, and a pilot business plan is under development in **Slovenia**.

## West Africa Marine

- National assessments of the current status and shortfalls in protected area funding are underway in each country.
- **Guinea Bissau:** A sustainable funding mechanism for the protected area network is being developed by the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP).



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*Tourists in Plitvice National Park, Croatia. The National Park's spectacular karst landscape attracts thousands of people each year generating significant income from visitor fees.*

### Several countries have revised legislation and policies, or reformed institutions to more effectively support protected area networks

This has included identifying legal and institutional gaps and developing action plans to address them as well as revising policy and legislation to better address issues such as involving local people in protected area management, sustainable financing and marine protected areas.

#### FUTURE CHALLENGES

##### ■ Creating legislation that better enables the long-term effective management of protected areas.

In addition to legislative gaps regarding local people and benefit sharing (see section 4), few countries have legislation dealing with innovative financing mechanisms or integration of protected areas into broader spatial planning.

#### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

##### 6.1

##### Ensure effective national legislation and policies are in place to support:

- cross-sectoral cooperation to establish and manage ecological corridors and integrate protected areas into wider landscapes
- innovative financing mechanisms such as equitable payment for ecosystem services.



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*Experience in Senegal has shown the value of community management of fishery resources combined with the establishment of a marine protected area in lifting incomes and allowing some recovery of depleted fisheries. Widespread establishment of such community management requires appropriate legislation that provides for engagement of local people, benefit sharing, and integration of protected areas into development plans.*

#### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Altai-Sayan

- **Mongolia:** A draft national policy for developing ecotourism developed by WWF and partners is being reviewed and a national action plan to meet CBD targets has been integrated into the National Programme of Protected Areas.
- **Russia:** The Federal Protected Area Law is under review and the government is considering a series of recommendations prepared by UNDP and WWF. These include: improved implementation of international conventions; separate regulations on marine protected areas; involvement of local communities in protected area management; and provisions for a more flexible system to raise additional funds for protected areas.

##### Carpathian

- **Romania:** Funding conditions for EU Structural Funds have been significantly changed and should allow for better absorption of EU money for Natura 2000 and protected areas.

##### Caucasus

- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey:** National Action Plans to address legal and institutional gaps and barriers have been developed, with input from the National Coordination Committees (see page 8).
- **Turkey:** The national marine protected area network is being harmonized.

##### West Africa Marine

- **Cape Verde:** The national marine protected area network is being harmonized.
- **Guinea:** A ten-year national protected areas strategy has been developed which includes CBD protected area targets.
- **Senegal:** A Department of Community Protected Areas has been established by the Ministry of Fisheries, which should help to clearly define roles and responsibilities for the establishment and management of community marine protected areas.

### Capacity and expertise are being built on a range of issues

Training, development of regional networks of practitioners and experts, and the development of tools for disseminating best practice and lessons learned is building capacity on issues such as engaging with local people, business planning, sustainable financing, and climate change adaptation.

#### FUTURE CHALLENGES

##### ■ Adapting existing tools to the national and regional context

Despite the availability of guidance and best practice at the international level, many protected area professionals still face major difficulties in accessing useful tools and expertise – particularly tools in their own language adapted to the national or regional context as well as local expertise for specific tasks.

##### ■ A coordinated approach to best practice

A proliferation of toolkits and manuals developed by different organizations makes it difficult to select and integrate a single international best practice at the national level.

##### ■ Providing incentives to keep well-qualified staff

In many developing countries, well-qualified staff often leave government positions to take up better paid posts with international organizations or NGOs, often outside their country of origin. In some countries this 'brain drain' is particularly prevalent in environment ministries, as opposed to finance and economy ministries which have adequate incentives in place to attract and keep staff.

#### PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

- **Support national and regional centres of expertise that build capacity at the institutional rather than the individual level, and which can adapt international best practice to the regional context and language(s) and facilitate the exchange of expertise at the regional level.**

- **Put incentives in place to attract and keep well-qualified people in environment ministries and protected area agencies.**

#### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Altai-Sayan

- The *Protected Areas for a Living Planet* programme and its partners have trained more than 500 individuals, including government administrators and park managers, on a range of protected area issues.
- **Russia:** A training programme for regional protected areas has been developed with a university in the Altai Republic. After being tested for one year, the programme will be opened-up to participants from neighbouring regions.

##### Carpathian

- A web-based platform for information sharing, the Carpathian Protected Area Clearing House Mechanism, is being developed.
- **Romania:** *ProPark – The Foundation for Protected Areas* has been established, dedicated to developing and improving protected areas management capacity initially in Romania and later throughout the Carpathian Ecoregion.
- The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) held its first Conference in 2008. This is the official platform

of Carpathian protected areas established within the Carpathian Convention and which has the mandate "to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries".

##### Caucasus

- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia:** National action plans for capacity building have been agreed based on the results of management effectiveness evaluations.

##### Dinaric

- A regional capacity-building plan is in development based on the results of management effectiveness evaluations.

##### West Africa

- **Senegal:** A network of radio stations operating in marine protected area sites has been created to facilitate the flow of information and exchange of experience between different management committees and local people.

## Protected Areas for a Living Planet – delivering on CBD commitments

Launched in January 2007, the *Protected Areas for a Living Planet* project is a key part of WWF's contribution to helping governments achieve the CBD 2010 Target to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Meeting this target is not only essential to safeguard our world's unique species and habitats, but also essential to improving the food security, health, and income of poor communities worldwide and therefore to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Developed with the support of MAVA Fondation pour la Protection de la Nature, *Protected Areas for a Living Planet* brings together partners and stakeholders to support and monitor implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) – an historic commitment by 190 governments to create a global network of comprehensive, well-managed, and representative terrestrial and marine protected areas. The project is currently active in 27 coun-

tries in Central Asia, Europe, and West Africa, and particularly in five ecoregions: Altai-Sayan, Carpathian, Caucasus, Dinaric Arc and West Africa Marine.

WWF thanks all partner organizations and individuals involved for their dedication and tremendous efforts that have contributed to strong and effective partnerships, raising support for protected areas, and making progress on PoWPA implementation across the project's 27 countries.

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*Cover photo credits*  
Main picture: Wild Wonders of Europe /  
Cornelia Doerr / WWF  
Row below: Irina Onufrenya / WWF –  
Mauritania / WWF – Wild Wonders of  
Europe / Staffan Widstrand / WWF

Designed by Wassmer Graphic Design,  
Switzerland

Printed by Ropress, Switzerland  
on Aconda vert silk FSC  
using vegetable oil-based ink.

Published in April 2010 by WWF – World Wide  
Fund For Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund),  
Gland, Switzerland. Any reproduction  
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ISBN: 978-2-88085-299-3

With the kind support of



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