

Our Protected Planet

Strengthening the Information Base in Asia

INTRODUCTION

National parks and protected areas are the cornerstones in most biodiversity conservation efforts. Accurate national reporting to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity on Protected Areas systems requires governments to apply conservation and data standards to the information reported to ensure consistency and allow the information to be “rolled up” into regional and global information systems.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11



By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Standards utilized at the global level include the IUCN definition of a protected area, the IUCN Protected Area Management Category system and the IUCN Protected Area Governance Matrix¹. Data standards, published by the United Nations Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre, ensure that databases of information and boundaries of parks and protected areas are able to be joined up into global information systems such as the IUCN/UNEP World Database on Protected Areas.

THE PROJECT

The project aims to strengthen the information base in Asia by verifying and improving the national parks and protected areas data held in the World Database on Protected Areas through a review by national and international experts, facilitated by UNEP-WCMC. The review will ensure that the global conservation and data standards are applied correctly to information for China, Japan and the Republic of Korea so that the information is available and suitable to use at regional and global level decision-making to measure progress toward the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, among others.

¹ Published in: Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86p

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The project is being implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in collaboration with the Korea National Park Service (KNPS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office. Government agencies/ministries in each of the three countries will also be involved and key to the success of the project.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- An inception workshop in the Republic of Korea and national workshops in the three countries
- Review of protected areas data in each country and application of globally accepted standards, such as IUCN's protected area definition, management categories & governance types
- Strengthened information management of protected areas data
- Improved data within the World Database on Protected Areas for each country, which will be made publically available through www.protectedplanet.net
- Regional meeting at the World Conservation Congress, September 2012, Republic of Korea
- Increased collaboration between UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and national partners in the region

WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the only global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas. Available online at www.protectedplanet.net, it contains information on over 200,000 protected areas. Established in 1981, it is a joint project between UNEP and IUCN, maintained by UNEP-WCMC.

Contact Information

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INCEPTION WORKSHOP

28TH - 29TH MARCH 2012

LOTTE CITY HOTEL (MAPO), SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will run over two days, consisting of a series of presentations and group discussion sessions. After an overview presentation on the overall objectives of the project and the means to achieve them, each country will give a presentation on the protected area systems within their country, the current system for the application of conservation and data standards and the systems for information management and reporting. The workshop will identify the key steps and challenges in implementing the project in each country that will better inform the work plan.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a common understanding of the present national protected area information management systems and challenges in the three countries that are the focus of this project
2. To develop a process for engaging national and international protected area experts, leading to:
3. The development of an agreed project work plan for each of the three countries

AGENDA

Wednesday 28th March	
09:00-09:10	Welcome (<i>KNPS</i>)
09:10-09:20	Objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop (<i>Charles Besançon, UNEP-WCMC</i>)
09:20-09:30	Introductions and expectations by meeting participants
09:30-10:00	Project outline and introduction to the Protected Planet Initiative (<i>Charles Besançon, UNEP-WCMC</i>)
10:00-10:20	Current status and future trends for protected areas in the Asian region (<i>Seong-Il Kim, IUCN WCPA Regional Vice Chair for Asia</i>)
10:20-10:40	Break and Group Photo

10:40-11:50	<p>Overview of national protected areas by representatives from each country (10 minutes each plus time for questions and answers after each presentation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Japan • Republic of Korea
11:50-12:10	<p>The IUCN/UNEP World Database on Protected Areas (<i>Siobhan Kenney, UNEP-WCMC</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on earlier presentation of Protected Planet Initiative and provide more detailed information of the origin of the World Database on Protected Areas, its international mandates, current status and gaps in information.
12:10-14:00	<i>Restaurant Lunch</i>
14:00-14:20	<p>Overview of IUCN protected area conservation standards , including the definition of a protected area, the IUCN Protected Area Management category system and Governance Matrix (<i>Hag Young Heo, IUCN/KNPS</i>)</p>
14:20-14:40	<p>Report back from WDPA Review Process in Asia Part 1 finalized in 2010 (<i>Charles Besançon, UNEP-WCMC and Hag Young Heo, IUCN/KNPS</i>)</p>
14:40-15:40	<p>Presentations from each country describing current protected areas information management system, including discussion of technologies utilised, institutional arrangements that allow data to be and how this information feeds national, regional and international reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Japan • Republic of Korea
15:25-15:40	<i>Break</i>
15:40-16:00	<p>Current information in the WDPA database for each of the three countries (<i>Siobhan Kenney, UNEP-WCMC</i>)</p>
16:00-17:00	<p>Brainstorm session on how to overcome challenges that have been identified over the course of the day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split into three groups • Groups report back
17:00-17:30	<p>Summary of discussions Reflections on day</p>
<i>Evening</i>	<i>Dinner (venue TBC)</i>

Thursday 29th March

09:00-09:10	Introduction to day two (<i>KNPS and UNEP-WCMC</i>)
09:10-10:30	Discussion of work plan and project implementation (<i>UNEP-WCMC</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• project governance• political/community sensitivities• key players involved in data management in each country• tools/capacity to support the review process• timetable• project deliverables
10:30-10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45-12:45	Design separate national processes for WDPA Review (<i>UNEP-WCMC</i>) Split into three groups with facilitators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identification of national experts in each country• timeframe for carrying out review in each country• timing for national workshops in each country• develop specific time bound action plans for each country including details/timing of national workshops Groups report back
12:45-14:30	<i>Restaurant Lunch</i>
14:30-15:00	Brainstorm on potential to roll project out to other ongoing commitments, processes etc. (e.g. NBSAPs, PoWPA reporting, Aichi Target 11) and potential funding mechanisms (<i>UNEP-WCMC</i>)
15:00-15:30	The way forward (<i>UNEP-WCMC</i>)
15:30	End of workshop

Contact for logistical arrangements

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Mapping the world's protected areas

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the only global dataset on protected areas. Protected areas are a major tool for conserving the world's living resources – species and ecosystems – and they provide a range of goods and services essential to human wellbeing. Today, protected areas cover more than 12 percent of the world's land and sea area, and without the WDPA we would know little about them. Considering this, the WDPA delivers invaluable information to decision-makers around the world.

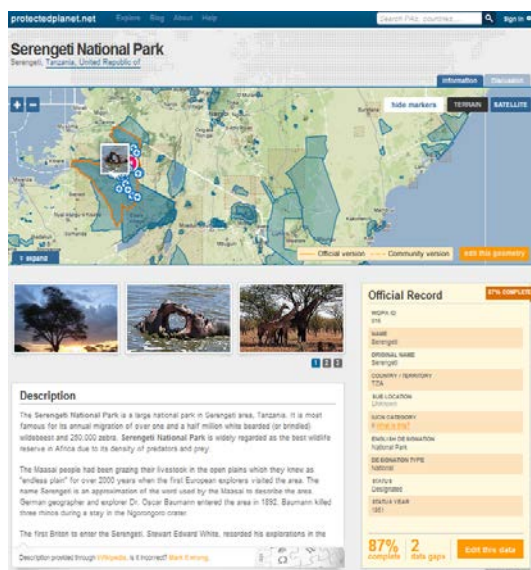


The WDPA is a joint initiative by IUCN and UNEP, produced by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. The WDPA started more than 40 years ago as a non-spatial listing the world's protected areas, called the United Nations List of Protected Areas, which has been produced under a mandate from the UN General Assembly since 1962. It has developed into a GIS database mapping more than 160,000 terrestrial and marine protected areas. In accordance with the principles of Conservation Commons and Open Geospatial Consortium Standards the WDPA data is now available in the public domain, through a fully searchable and downloadable GIS database on Protected Planet available at www.protectedplanet.net.

Key features of the World Database on Protected Areas

Content

- ✓ Attribute and spatial information (location and boundary) for more than 200,000 terrestrial and marine protected areas in 244 countries and territories
- ✓ Includes national (e.g. national parks, nature reserves) and international protected areas
- ✓ Data standards on collating protected areas information including minimum requirements such as spatial extent, name, designation, status, date of establishment, presence of marine component, total area (km²), marine area (km²) and the maintenance of WDPA IDs
- ✓ Incorporates the UN List of Protected Areas, which is compiled every few years under the authority of the United Nations and contains the data provided by governments
- ✓ Increasingly contains information on private, community, co-managed and even proposed protected areas



Functionality

The WDPA is made available through an interactive web-site called Protected Planet which allows on-line access to the following functionality to users from around the world:

- ✓ Exports shapefiles for use in GIS applications, kml files for Google Earth and csv files for tabular software
- ✓ Imports new data submitted as shapefiles formatted to the WDPA Data Standard
- ✓ Supports multiple languages through UTF-8 encoding
- ✓ New data undergoes validation and verification procedures dynamically on-line, through moderation by staff at UNEP-WCMC, and periodically through expert review by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas
- ✓ Conceptualizes protected areas data with descriptions from Wikipedia, images from Google Panoramio, species and specimen data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

How the World Database on Protected Areas is being used

Since its inception the WDPA has attracted many different users. As the only comprehensive global inventory of the world's protected areas, it is a key resource not only within the biodiversity community, but also for societies and economies striving to minimize the impact of their activities on the environment. Here is a quick overview of some of the key users and uses of the WDPA:

- ✓ **United Nations:** use the WDPA to compile the UN List of Protected Areas, report progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and conduct assessments such as the Global Biodiversity Outlook and Global Environment Outlook
- ✓ **Governmental and non-governmental organisations:** use the WDPA to report progress on protected area coverage, conduct gap and threat analyses of protected area systems, and make decisions where and when to establish or extend protected areas
- ✓ **Private sector:** consult the WDPA to comply with environmental safeguard policies of many governments, industry groups such as the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), and major development and investment banks (e.g. the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and over 60 financial institutions that have adopted the Equator Principles), and conduct environmental impact assessments and risk assessments for existing and potential operations.



The WDPA is also one of the base layers for the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) that allows businesses, researchers and conservation planners to access and analyse critical biodiversity information. Clearly, continued development and improvement of the WDPA is important to all the different users of the WDPA, and we are working hard to meet their expectations.

Support and test the “new” World Database on Protected Areas

To learn more about the WDPA, and/or how to become a partner, please contact:

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Our goal is to provide the world's decision-makers with the best possible information on protected areas. Improving the quality and quantity of information in the WDPA, and its delivery, is a continuing challenge which we meet with support of many partners. With the support of the Proteus 2012 Partnership¹, involving private sector partners, the WDPA has recently received a new look with the development of Protected Planet, a wiki-style website, designed to engage the community of internet users with a shared interest in protected areas. Protected Planet was launched with great success at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. We welcome you to view Protected Planet at www.protectedplanet.net and to provide your feedback on its content and functionality.

¹ <http://proteus.unep-wcmc.org>