

WORKSHOP STREAM V: EVALUATING MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Rapporteurs' report of Session 4a, 12th September afternoon.

“Collapse from the Inside: Threats to Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity of Protected Areas from Unsustainable Hunting for Subsistence and Trade.”

Speakers and short titles:

1. Elizabeth Bennett (WCS-New York): The problems of hunting in tropical forest PAs.
2. Tom Milliken (TRAFFIC): The problems of hunting in PAs in eastern and southern Africa.
3. Melvin Gumal (WCS-Malaysia): Addressing hunting in PAs in Sarawak, Malaysia.
4. Antoine Moukassa (WCS-Congo): Addressing hunting in buffer zones around PAs in Congo.
5. Helder Lima de Queiroz (Mamiraua Institute): Learning from fisheries management to address hunting in Mamiraua and Amana, Brazil.
6. David Kpelle (CI): Use of traditional belief systems to address hunting in Ghana.
7. Callum Roberts (University of York, UK): Applying lessons from marine to terrestrial protected areas.

Key objectives:

- To examine the issue of unsustainable hunting in protected areas throughout the tropics and sub-tropics, and present case studies of solutions from all three tropical continents.

Key messages:

- Given the wide range of habitats and countries represented in the session, all speakers presented a very similar picture, notably that:
 - hunting and commercial trade in wildlife from protected areas across the tropics and sub-tropics are rapidly increasing and unsustainable;
 - this is due to rapidly increasing demand for, and diminishing supply of, wildlife;
 - factors contributing to the scale of the problem include: increased access to protected areas, greatly improved hunting technologies, inadequate management capacity (whether the management authorities are the local communities, governments or other agencies), and unintended consequences of some development programmes and resource extraction activities;
 - tackling the problem is critical both to conserve the biodiversity and ecological functions of protected areas, and also to meet the livelihood needs of some of the world's poorest peoples. Both of these are jeopardized by unsustainable hunting.
- Case studies of solutions involved working with different combinations of partners (local communities, governments, and logging companies). Key components of different programmes included science-based solutions, using traditional knowledge as the basis of programmes, education and enforcement. All involved addressing both PA conservation, and meeting local peoples' needs.

Key issues:

- With proper, well-planned management, the needs of local people and wildlife conservation can be met.
- Solutions must be specific to the biological, social, cultural and political conditions of each area.
- Key components of programmes should include participation of local communities, totally protected no-hunting zones forming at least part of the PA, and curtailing of commercial wildlife trade.
- Capacity building of PA managers is crucial, be they local communities, governments or other agencies. Considerable financial and technical resources are required for this.

Actions to be taken:

1. An “emerging issues” statement to be submitted from the session to the Congress.
2. IUCN to be requested to dedicate resources to addressing the issue of unsustainable hunting in protected areas at its next General Assembly.

Audience:

The audience was relatively small – about 30 people. Each talk stimulated at least one question, and some talks resulted in short but lively debate with the floor.

To be continued:

The session will be continued the following day. Final reports will then be produced.