

## Key messages from Evaluating Management Effectiveness workshop stream

1. While great progress has been made in achieving targets for expansion of the global protected area system there is a need to now set targets and make progress in improving the “quality” of protected areas – to ensure that their values are maintained and ecological, social, economic and cultural benefits are delivered to local, national and global communities. That is – we need to ensure that protected areas are EFFECTIVELY MANAGED. We can greatly improve effectiveness by monitoring and evaluating management and using the information to adapt and improve the way in which we manage our PAs. “Management effectiveness evaluation is central to the coming consolidation phase for protected areas”<sup>1</sup>
2. We have delivered on the call from the Caracas Congress to develop systems for evaluating management effectiveness and this has been done in a way that has helped to form and strengthen partnerships and alliances within the conservation and wider community. This has been evidenced at Durban with a diversity of approaches being matched by a determination to harmonise efforts and work together. There was a strong endorsement of the WCPA Framework approach, which recognises the need to match assessment methods to the needs and circumstances of sites and regions. Participants in the workshop expressed a commitment to move from developing systems to rolling out monitoring and evaluation across sites. Evidence of this commitment was presented from several sectors. WWF has already worked with PA managers in 30 countries to undertake over 600 assessments at individual sites. The World Bank has committed to applying the Tracking Tool that they developed in association with WWF in all their biodiversity portfolio sites. Important lessons are already emerging from these portfolio wide assessment efforts. Many other examples of on-going monitoring and assessment programs and their positive influences on management were presented by PA agencies and NGOs. World Heritage sites in particular have provided some of the most important pilot studies and the importance of these sites as exemplars was recognised.
3. While the need to match evaluation systems and criteria to local circumstances was recognised, there was a strong call for IUCN and others to advance work on the development of minimum standards for effective management and to investigate options and potential advantages and disadvantages of a voluntary certification system for protected areas. To further operationalise work on management effectiveness in World Heritage sites, a strengthened, independent and consistent approach to reactive monitoring is required. Better guidelines and criteria for monitoring and the In-Danger process are required as a first step. A possible system of certification to give greater credibility to the accreditation of a site as a World Heritage area should be explored. With the increase in private and community-run protected areas and devolvement of PA management to local organisations, voluntary certification has great potential for providing transparent and accountable evidence of management effectiveness.
4. Institutionalisation of management effectiveness evaluation as a routine component of protected area management was identified as an important next step. Incentives need to be developed, at all levels, to encourage this adoption and use. Use of Conventions (e.g. CBD, World Heritage, RAMSAR), national legislation (e.g. Parks Canada and new South African Parks Bill) and donor financing were all identified as effective ways to achieve this. Targets

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<sup>1</sup> Leonardo Lacerda (WWF) in closing plenary panel session

were also proposed as a means of ensuring the widespread adoption and use of management effectiveness evaluation. Targets relating to the adoption and application of management effectiveness evaluation at PA site and system level were proposed as part of the Message to the CBD. Workshop participants recognised that capacity building is a key requirement if the targets for management effectiveness evaluation are to be reached. Encouragement of organisational cultures which are open, transparent and willing to learn for their mistakes was also seen as necessary to create an enabling environment for evaluation and adaptive management.

5. The workshop re-affirmed the importance of the IUCN Protected Area Category system and there was unanimous agreement that enhanced guidance is needed to better address the new ways in which the system is being applied.
6. The role of good science in management effectiveness evaluation was emphasised. Management effectiveness evaluation provides a vital link between science and management in two ways:
  - It provides a framework to direct limited resources towards the monitoring of the most critical factors –biophysical, cultural and socio-economic; and
  - It puts science into a context that is more easily understood and incorporated into management. Management effectiveness evaluation provides a mechanism for adaptive management – feeding the results of research and monitoring into management on the ground and a giving a basis for decision-making.

Sound and objective studies have credibility with governments and stakeholders and can lead to major changes in policy and action. Inspirational case studies reported in the workshop included

- a community-managed marine area in Fiji, where local people - with the assistance of a scientist - measured the size and abundance of fish and clams under different management regimes and found that managing part of their area under permanent ‘ tabu’ provided them with a richer harvest and also increased biodiversity. Local people measured, reported on and communicated the results to their own and other local communities, and completed the adaptive management loop by making changes;
- a scientific study tracking wolves in Banff NP in Canada led to a government decision to remove some infrastructure – an expensive decision which has led to dramatic and measurable improvement in ecological integrity of the local area

Studies such as ecological integrity measurement are a vital link between the past, present and future, setting benchmarks and providing the information so that future generations understand why management decisions were made. Management effectiveness evaluation frameworks give greater certainty that corporate knowledge will be retained, and can also be a vital tool in resisting pressures for inappropriate development.

7. The workshop stressed the importance of management effectiveness evaluation involving appropriate stakeholders – including indigenous and local communities, on-ground park staff, NGOs, and experts – in all phases of evaluation, from design to adoption of recommendations. Evaluations should incorporate traditional and local as well as scientific knowledge. They must listen to the needs of local people and staff, and suggest appropriate responses to these needs. We must develop and adhere to ethical standards to ensure information, especially cultural information, is properly stored and treated and that feedback is given to these stakeholders

8. The workshop recognised the importance of management effectiveness evaluation in detecting and assessing threats on local and global scales. In particular, emerging threats to the integrity of protected areas and to the health of the wider landscape and communities, such as logging, unsustainable hunting, alien invasive species, and climate change, are already being evaluated and are causing serious concern. Further regular studies, including those at global scale linking with those outside protected areas, are needed to stimulate and inform much-needed action to mitigate these threats as much as possible.