

## **WORKSHOP THEME 5, SESSION 3E ASSESSING THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORY SYSTEM**

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**Organisers:** Adrian Phillips Sue Stolton, Nigel Dudley and Kevin Bishop

### **Overview**

The workshop was attended by more than 40 people. In terms of geographical balance, the continents of Africa and Asia were under-represented and due to the parallel workshop on Marine Protected Areas such interests were also probably under represented

### **Key Issues**

- General support for the IUCN protected area management categories system as the common language for the protected areas community
- Support for the existing objectives-led system
- Recognition that the system is not perfect and that improvements are needed in: guidance and application
- Need to seize the moment and ensure that we link effectively to the CBD process to avoid two systems for categorising protected areas but recognition that CBD already has a different definition of a 'protected area'
- Need to develop a wider sense of ownership of the categories system based on a common understanding
- Need to be realistic in our expectations. Develop a work programme for the short, medium and long terms that is clear in what we are trying to achieve
- Recognition that the system is now being used for new purposes
- Categories should only be assigned to areas that meet IUCN's definition of a protected area

### **Emerging Issues**

- Discussion of what the definition of a protected area should include that focused on the concepts behind the definition rather than the actual words. Appeared to be three distinct concepts: nature conservation; living culture; and bioregional planning.
- Debate about whether there was, or should be, an in-built bias within the IUCN definition towards biodiversity.
- People want areas protected for many other reasons than biodiversity (eg livelihood functions, cultural and social values)
- What does 'other effective means' mean in the IUCN definition of a protected area?
- Discussion of whether categories V and VI were 'protected areas'. Strong concern from the floor about the implications of this.

### **Outputs and Follow-up action**

The outputs from this workshop will be fed into the Speaking a Common Language project with the aim of presenting recommendations to the COP7 of the CBD and World Conservation Congress. For further information and to keep abreast of developments visit: [www.cf.ac.uk/cplan/sacl/](http://www.cf.ac.uk/cplan/sacl/)

**Rapporteurs:** Kevin Bishop and Sue Stolton