



IUCN
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014



IUCN · WCPA
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



iAct Dialogues for Sustainability: IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 Webinar Series

Global Contributions to the New Social Compact:

Towards effective and just conservation of biological and cultural diversity

16 October 2014

Summary Notes from Discussion Groups

Contents

Stream 2: Climate Change and Protected Areas	2
Stream 5: Extractive Industries, Conservation and Protected Areas	6
Stream 6: Governance, Equity, Rights and Protected Areas	9



Intergenerational
Partnership
for Sustainability

Stream 2: Climate Change and Protected Areas

Facilitators: Catie Burlando and Shalini Dhyani

Participants: Claire Watson, Cuifen Pui, Fayruz Mandil, Nihal Gujre, Oscar

Reporter: Cuifen Pui

1. What key issues need to be addressed to effectively mitigate and respond to climate change related vulnerabilities in and around protected areas?

Collaborate with local communities in an equitable way

- Ensure greater equity in terms of how decisions over land and sea uses are taken as well as greater recognition of diverse governance systems, so that local resource users are given a voice in terms of what they see as best ways to address climate change and climate change impacts; local views should not be seen in isolation but have strong linkages to higher policy arenas
- Involve local people in conservation in a meaningful way
- Support and build the knowledge and skills of the local people so that they have a good understanding of climate change processes and can apply their knowledge practically on a daily basis

Ensure education and conduct capacity building

- Ensure access to education on climate change; educators need to have materials and basic skills for capacity building and awareness generation; conduct training of trainers where needed
- Ensure all stakeholders have a good understanding of the linkages between the current environment and possible climate drivers and scenarios
- Conduct capacity building on adapting livelihoods in the context of climate change to allow for development and conservation
- Conduct capacity building on practical and leadership skills to respond to climate change, for ex: joint forest management involving all possible stakeholders i.e. forest officer from government sector, local village level governing authorities, local communities and youth stakeholders too

2. How might the NSC be designed to respond to these issues, and what key questions need to be posed at the World Parks Congress or in other fora in order to effectively address them?

Value the stories and roles of local communities

- Highlight the role of custodians (for example in India); there is a need to recognize that the indigenous communities, women and the new generation dwelling in and around parks and protected areas are critical for a comprehensive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Share stories of those directly affected by climate change for e.g. people in India in Uttarakhand in 2013 and Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 who faced disastrous consequences of Himalayan Tsunami
- Value and support indigenous knowledge; some indigenous communities may be illiterate, but they have vast knowledge that can inform adaptation strategies because these have been developed by them living amid extreme environmental conditions.

Engage in action-oriented communication and education

- Engage in mass communication and build required skills for those in the media
- Communicate and publish in local languages for wider awareness
- Climate change is cross-disciplinary; make drivers and impacts of climate change a mandatory topic in formal education, not just in science classes but embedded in civic education
- Involve climate change groups at school level; transfer action-oriented information in more interactive ways

Cultivate global perspectives and relationships

- Share stories of those directly impacted by climate change to wider audiences
- Explain to others further away how their actions influence climate change impacts around the world

3. What role do people of different generations play (whether representing local communities, states and state officials, NGOs and civil society organizations) in mitigating and responding to climate change in and around protected areas?

Young people

- Young people are the new generation, already bearing the brunt and lost opportunities of development decisions that have limited their livelihood opportunities. They are also leaders in their communities and need to be given an opportunity to take part in decisions that will affect their lives and future in a very huge way
- Young educators play a huge role in delivering climate change education in schools. They should be given a chance to increase their confidence on the climate change topic by having access to school materials and training by experts. Students also play a huge role and need to be given a chance to lead and to inspire action
- Give young people opportunities to participate in the global discussions that matter; this builds confidence for them to play a stronger role in decision-making processes and action. this participation must not be just tokenism but their involvement in mainstream decision making.

Urban, rural and indigenous communities

- Differentiate between urban, rural and indigenous communities in terms of their interrelated roles in perpetuating and responding to climate change
- The voices of the people in remote areas need to be communicated and understood by those in larger cities and developed areas, for example In Canada I did not understand as much of the Arctic perspective until I went there... there is a missing dialogue that is very important.
- moreover also because many urban settlements are well dependent on ecosystem services of rural areas and these rural people are devoid of many benefits and opportunities for themselves and their future generations.

Civil society and the public sector

- NGOs should act as a link between local people and the government in a transparent, unaccountable and open unbiased way/approach to bring forward community issues that are not being taken into consideration by the government
- State officials should work to support and enable proper management and implementation of sustainable development and climate adaptation and mitigation projects all the way from the grass roots level

4. How can young professionals and community leaders be empowered in inter/multi-generational decision-making and planning processes related to climate change policy and interventions in and around protected areas in a manner that protects parks, people and the planet for generations to come?

Support capacity building of young people

- Young people need sponsorship to participate in capacity building workshops and then be given platforms / opportunities to apply what they have learned
- Young professionals should have a chance to apply for fellowships and acquire financial support in order to participate in strategic events, like the WPC and WCC and many others like COP meetings and CBD workshops and meetings

Create inspiring and moving communication media and form action-based intergenerational networks

- Young media professionals produce punchy videos to catch the attention of other young people. Share information, perspectives and examples of actions they can take to help and participate. Raise awareness about the inspiring global initiatives/success stories and networks that are active

- Highlight individual stories and action on climate change; provide opportunity for people to tell their stories directly to others; stories need to touch the lives of people, personally, because then action is more urgent. there is also an urgent need of platforms that provide more visibility and voice to more youth from across the world sharing their innovative approaches, especially community based to promote ecosystem based adaptation and ecosystem based disaster risk reduction with active community participation.

- Form networks involving the participation of youth groups, community leaders and stakeholders who work together for the common goals of conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Think locally and act globally.

Stream 5: Extractive Industries, Conservation and Protected Areas

Facilitator: Caroline Seagle

Participants: Andrea Zubialde, Irina Pleva, Katharina Tjart, Meg, Nigel Crawhall

Reporter: Katharina Tjart

1. What key issues need to be addressed within the context of conflicts between protected areas, extraction-based development and local or global communities?

Political

- Fossil fuel exploration, oil drilling and mining expanding into World Heritage Sites (following rule changes) (Can we also include Hydropower projects in these as they are major threat to WHS in many SE Asian countries?)

Environmental

- Loss of landscape integrity and Biodiversity at large

Economic

- Sharing of revenues generated from extractive resources
- Challenges concerning mining-funded conservation

Social

- Mining-related conflict, violence and deaths
- Health risks and impacts
- Loss of tradition, culture and indigenous resource base
- Loss of Education opportunities as many mining sectors have children too employed as cheap labours.

2. How might the NSC be designed to respond to these issues, and what key questions need to be posed at the World Parks Congress or in other fora in order to effectively address them?

- Who should be at such a dialogue? Consider all types of stakeholders, including governments, mining companies, NGOs, local communities (including rangers and trackers) and health, content and legal experts (for example: ICMM, World Bank, BBOP/TEEB, FAO)
- How and when does each stakeholder present their points? Timing is important; who goes first?
- What are the ethical/socio-culture dimensions of such dialogues?
- How does the NSC address human will and responsibility to act? Bring in a sense of humanity into the dialogues, engaging every one as a person first.

3. What role do people of different generations play (whether representing local communities, states and state officials, NGOs and civil society organisations) in responding to extraction near or in protected areas?

- More senior generations can bring in knowledge and experience, while the young ones can think of new ways to approach current challenges
- An important issue in extractive industries is innovation: how these activities need to incorporate new technologies in order to become more sustainable in terms of environment, society and health; young engineers could develop and advocate for the use of such new technologies
- At the same time, do not make assumptions about young (innovation) and senior (experienced/wise)
- Intergenerational justice is one of the strongest arguments for conservation justice – youth will be most strongly effected by the impacts of extraction and have a special role to advocate for intergenerational justice, supported by like-minded members of other generations
- Include new generations to take up the challenge / process / mission to ensure continuity

4. How can young professionals and community leaders be empowered in inter/multi-generational decision-making and planning processes related to extraction in and around protected areas in a manner that protects parks, people and the planet for generations to come?

Form networks for change

- Create intergenerational networks among young professionals and community leaders
- Form and support an alliance or lobby group including young professionals
- Link experienced professionals with young professionals as in the Buddy System piloted by CEC

Generate knowledge and raise awareness

- Research and write publications, popular articles, reports, and if possible translate them in native language for wider applicability and reach etc.
- Sometimes this all looks like a big conflict between local communities / NGOs and mining companies, but the reality may not be so black and white

Governance, law and accountability

- Strengthen national governance and rule of law to hold extractive industries accountable
- Ensure a just legal system enforced by governments
- Support lawyers in providing legal representation to local communities, as well as resource communities when claiming their rights

Stream 6: Governance, Equity, Rights and Protected Areas

Facilitator: Melanie Zurba

Participants: Douglas Williamson, Grace Mwaura, Jessica Campese, Lulekwa Gqiba, Meher Noshirwani, Michelle Lim, Rosanne van Schie, William David

Reporter: Michelle Lim

1. What key issues related to justice and equity need to be addressed in and around protected areas?

Defining protected areas

- Understand and recognize the needs of local communities living in and near protected areas
- Ensure there is a clear understanding of the costs and benefits of protected areas from the community to global levels
- Ensure that IUCN protected areas designation criteria are based upon justice issues, including equity, rights, accountability, and due governance processes.

Power and governance

- Understand and take into account the broader governance context of protected areas (history, politics, power issues between groups, other sectors) before designating and setting aside protected areas and management plans
- Extend governance beyond outdated top-down, colonial models and beyond the western 'one size fits all' approach
- Site specific approach for governance
- Ensure greater recognition but also accountability for non-state actors

Rights and empowerment

- Ensure Earth Rights, Rights of Mother Earth are at the basis of human action
- Recognize and affirm individual and collective rights in the development and management of protected areas
- Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in all aspects of governance
- Understand different types of land ownership and recognize indigenous land rights and title

- Empower communities through education and awareness raising on their rights
- Protect human rights defenders and rangers working in parks

Resources, ecosystem services and livelihoods

- Understand extractive operations in protected areas and the role of local communities and indigenous people in a commons dominated by extractive resource interests
- Ensure payment of ecosystem services, REDD and REDD+ approach within protected areas support local livelihood systems
- Ensure access and livelihoods for women and men within and connected to parks

Implementation

- Ensure adequate policy and legislation for implementation of diverse governance systems that ensure equity and rights in relation to protected areas
- Ensure that implementation is inclusive, participatory, owned at the grassroots level

2. What role do people of all generations play (whether representing local communities, states and state officials, NGOs, CSOs) in addressing conservation injustices?

Intergenerational collaboration

- Involve all generations and stakeholders, facilitating the power dynamics that are bound to exist
- Include elders and their wealth of knowledge coming from varied and life long experiences
- Respect nature and people through application of the 7 generations concept (3 generations in the past, current generation, 3 generations in the future)

Approaches

- Ensure inclusive, grassroots approach to build a sense of ownership
- Recognize ways that non-state actors (NGOs, private sector, etc) are duty-bearers, in addition to states
- Create more space for local decision-making and control - either by indigenous peoples or local communities; civil society/NGOs can call for creation of such space by governments or may assist in creating it directly as long as they are accountable to the communities whose territories they speak for.

- Emphasize the role of customary and sustainable uses of biodiversity through (evolving) traditional occupations

Resources

- Mobilize and share financial and in-kind resources for governance and management
- Apply gendered budgeting practices in projects
- Mobilize and share knowledge resources, both traditional and scientific knowledge (for example, building on the work IPBES is doing)

3. How might NSC be designed to respond to these issues and what key questions need to be posed at the WPC or other fora in order to effectively address them?

What form will the NSC take?

- Binding instrument, declaration, statement of action?
- Consider how it links with existing international instruments e.g. UNDRIP, International Covenant for Economic and Social Rights, Earth Charter

How to engage business and government?

- Consider how to bring business and other sectors to the table and integrate principles of the NSC in business models
- Most post-colonial governments are still fixated on the termination of rights, so implementation of instruments like the UNDRIP and NSC are important

Determine and strengthen the role of the IUCN

- IUCN needs to be more influential and have more / better ways of ensuring accountability of state and non state actors
- Ensure accountability of IUCN itself, including state and non-state members
- The challenge of IUCN influencing governments is complicated because governments are members of IUCN meaning that interests can and do conflict
- In North America IUCN is quite weak, but a lobbying arm that could unite with local or national advocacy groups might help

4. How can young protected areas and community leaders be empowered in inter/multi-generational decision-making and planning processes to cultivate just and equitable biocultural diversity in a manner that protects parks, people and the planet for generations to come?

Challenges

- It is very important we know how to talk with people across generations
- Web-based approaches are important, but we need to take into account the lack of technical capacities in many areas. Ensure that those voices are included
- Parallel to that is how to get young people away from the computer screens and interact effectively on a personal level
- Many young people feel apathetic and without purpose as technology moves in and occupies a lot of their time

Dialogues and events to inspire responsibility and build capacity in young people

- Organize more intergenerational dialogues at the local level (possibly supported by IUCN)
- Intergenerational Dialogues should actually become one of the recorded knowledge products that IUCN markets and shares with the wider conservation community
- I like the idea of the CEPA toolkit developed a few years ago by CEC; a new one could be developed to empower a broad array of people and organizations to organize intergenerational workshops
- Engage youth through Youth Leadership Summits, engagement should not be a one-off event
- Offer opportunities for youth to experience connection to nature, building a 'youth wilderness ethic'

Enhance the role of youth in decision making and implementation

- Engage young people and current decision makers in visioning and scenario mapping approaches
- Adopt an attitude where young people are seen as full participants in the process
- Organize an internship program with IUCN member organizations, facilitated by the IUCN
- Give young people actual responsibility and support to succeed