TERMS OF REFERENCE
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES
COVID-19 AND PROTECTED AREAS TASK FORCE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is an acute health crisis with economic, political, social and environmental implications. These factors are already impacting protected and conserved areas (PCAs) and these impacts will grow in both the short and longer term. PCAs also have an important role to play in the prevention of ecosystem degradation and zoonosis and in maintaining essential ecosystem services upon which people depend for their health and well-being. There is now a strong case for greater investments and profile for PCAs in the emerging plans for green recovery. WCPA needs to respond to this situation by providing advice, coordination and leadership specific to the current pandemic, including collation and dissemination of good practice, and in advocating best practices for maintaining the essential life support systems of ecosystems.

Purpose of Task Force/Specialist Group

The overall aim of the task force is to collate information and insights on the impacts of COVID-19 on protected and conserved areas and to collate and disseminate principles and good practice for rescue, recovery, and rebuilding to strengthen and expand systems of protected and conserved areas which contribute to human health and welfare

Integration in GPAP/WCPA's Quadrennial Programme 2017-2020 (describe but also use checklist below to indicate which areas are covered)

Actions of the Task Force will contribute directly to communicate the values of PCAs in helping societies to cope with and recover from Covid-19 and other pandemics. As we work to place PCAs as central pieces in the national government's recovery plans, we expect to make direct contributions to programme area 3 – by emphasising the role of PCAs as nature-based solutions and advocating for plans and commitments that take this into consideration. It is anticipated that stronger links will be made to the IUCN Programme for 2021-2024 when this is approved and to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Objective 1: Collate and share relevant information on the impacts and best practice in responding to COVID-19 on protected areas and OECMs

Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)

- Relevant resources, including papers, political commitments, grants,
- Regional surveys and responses on impact of Covid 19 on Pas are compiled, reviewed and interpreted
- Relevant information is shared among WCPA members, PA agencies and practitioners, NGOs, researchers - through various channels as appropriate (e.g. webinars, email lists, webpage, social media)
- Inputs to Special Issue of PARKS (2020) and other relevant publications

Objective 2: Develop principles and good practice for protected and conserved areas across the 3 phases of the pandemic (relief, recover, rebuild)

Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)

- Short briefing papers prepared, including operating procedures for the management of protected and conserved areas during pandemics (particularly with regard to visitor management); the role and value of protected and conserved areas and how they can contribute to a One Health approach; the role of protected and conserved areas in building back better for a more sustainable future
- Provide WCPA input to IUCN policy positions and programmes and recommended best practices on strengthening PA systems in the face of the public health and economic crisis of a global pandemic

Objective 3 Engage WCPA members in an on-going dialogue on the impacts and responses to the pandemic for protected and conserved areas

Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)

- Hold calls of the task force
- Organize/participate in webinars to discuss and present issues relevant to addressing Covid responses in Pas
- Collaborate with WCPA Health and Wellbeing SG
- Assist IUCN in positioning this topic during WCC and CBD meetings including COP15

Objective 4: Coordinate a discussion within WCPA membership and supporters on the call-for-action - to mainstream opportunities and challenges for PCAs among relevant stakeholders

Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)

- Liaise with and secure the support of other parts of IUCN (other commissions, IUCN secretariat, Members) and partners in the conservation and development sector
- Engage with other institutions beyond the conservation sector to mainstream a One Health approach

Leadership, membership and organization

Co-chairs: Mariana Napolitano Ferreira (WWF-Brasil) and Rachel Golden Kroner (Conservation International)

Given the scope of the topic, the Task Force will seek collaboration with other relevant WCPA specialist groups and all other IUCN commissions, to collaborat eon joint work on this issue. The Task Force will also rely on the support of the WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs to engage regional members as it seeks to monitor and understand the impacts of COVID-19 and disseminate information and facilitate the identification of national/regional solutions and commitments.

The Task Force will seek global representation of WCPA membership and diverse scientific expertise relevant to its goals.

Partnerships, funding and fund-raising

Potential partners beyond IUCN include: NGOs (WWF, CI, others), ICCA Consortium, CBD secretariat, regional PA initiatives (Asian Protected Area Partnership, RedParques..)

The Task Force will seek funding to support some activities, which will mainly include producing technical and communication materials and targeted guidance to address specific issues.

Communication

The Task Force communication strategy is focused to three main audiences which will be reached by different channels/materials:
- WCPA and other conservation practitioners through: social media, IUCN channels, Protected Planet Newsletter, blog posts, technical notes and briefings
- Protected Area Practitioners: technical briefings, webinars
- Experts and researchers: Parks Special Issue
- High-level decision makers: key messages, bilateral calls, key events and online petitions

Reporting

The advances and results of the Task Force will be reported in WCPA annual technical reports. The TF will also communicate regularly with the Chair, WCPA, the WCPA Steering Committee and the IUCN Secretariat focal point (GPAP).

The Task Force will hold internal calls (every 2 or 3 months) to report progress and discuss relevant issues with its members.

*SMART goals are specific (who and what?), measurable (how?), attainable (realistic?), relevant (leads to results?) and timebound (within the planning period?)

IUCN PROGRAMME GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017 – 2020

IUCN WCPA has the following goals within the 3 programme areas of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. **Please identify which goals your group or region will support by placing an X in the relevant box(es).** Specify only those where you will contribute directly.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 1: Valuing and conserving nature

WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.1:

| (i) Protected Planet includes all relevant information to monitor and report on implementation of Aichi Target 11 | |

(ii) Protected area quality enhanced through Green List of Protected Areas	
(iii) Marine protection towards achieving Aichi Target 11 accelerated	
(iv) Effectiveness of World Heritage Convention and protection of listed sites is enhanced, leadership on performance demonstrated, and nature/culture integration advanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2:	
(i) Parties to the CBD are supported to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	
(ii) Institutional and professional capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is developed	
(iii) Financial capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is enhanced	
(iv) The value of protected areas is communicated to key constituencies including urban dwellers and young people	**X**
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.3	
(i) The ecological and functional connectivity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is enhanced	
(ii) Criteria for the identification of OECMs developed and applied	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.1:	
(i) Governance and equity assessment approaches for protected area systems are developed	
(ii) Pilot governance assessments conducted	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.2:	
(i) Governance quality and equity of protected areas is enhanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.3:	
(i) Legal and institutional approaches for enhancing the role of PAs in natural resource governance are piloted	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1	
(i) Case studies for nature-based solutions involving PAs in a range of sectors are collated	**X**
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2	
(i) Dissemination and use of PAs as nature-based solutions across a range of sectors	**X**
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.3	
(i) Cross-sector learning and application of solutions is enabled	**X**