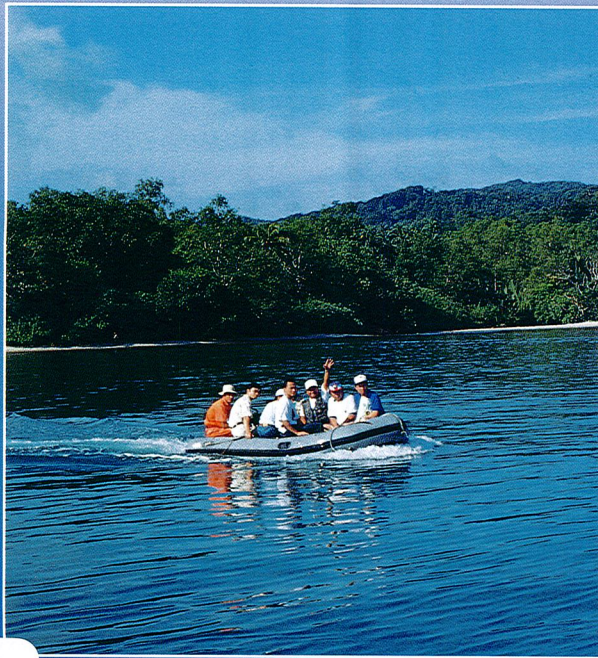
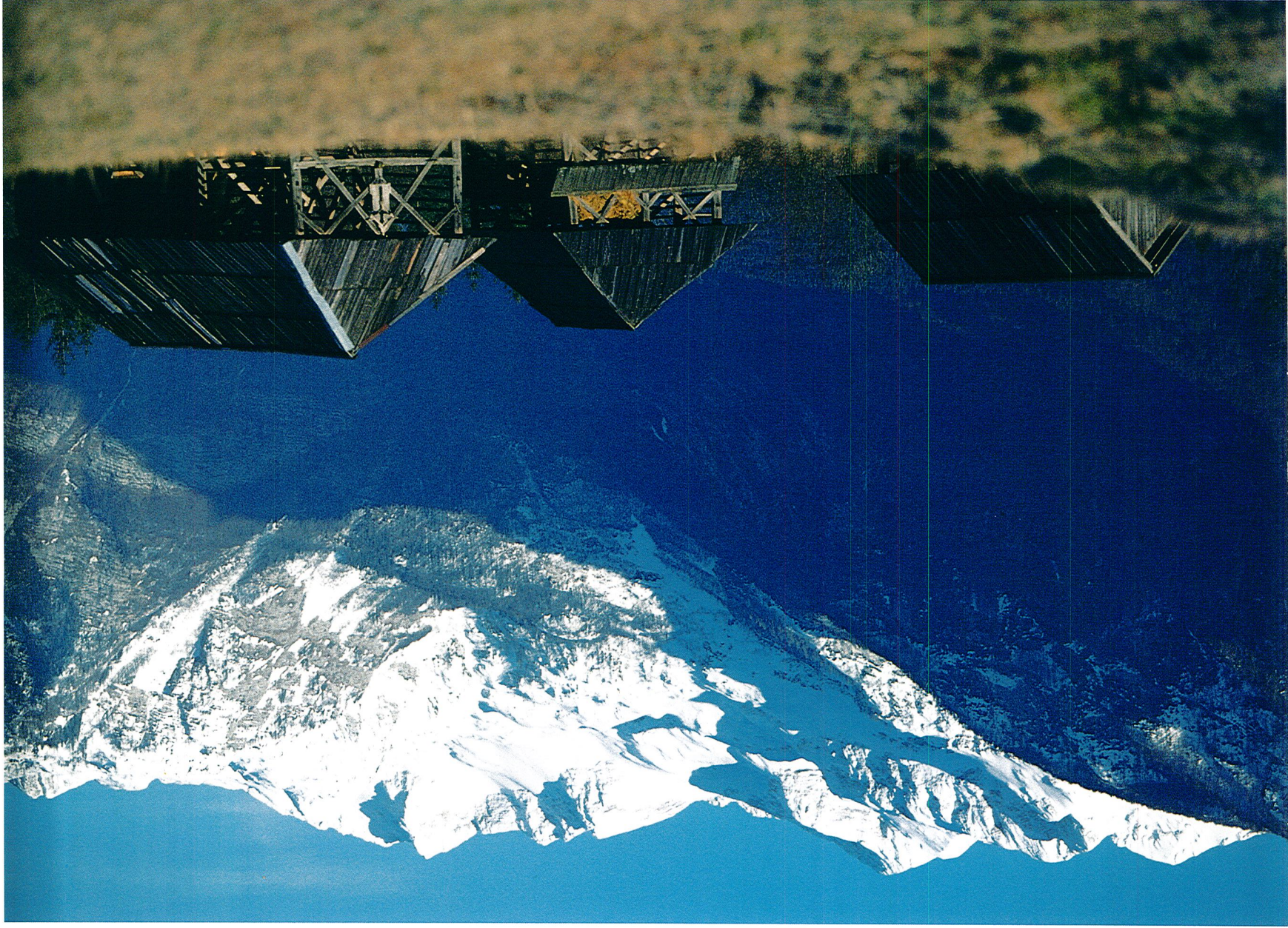


**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union



# CNPPA *in Action*

Safeguarding Life on Earth –  
*the world's parks and protected areas*



Triglav National Park, Slovenia

# Foreword

**BY ADRIAN PHILLIPS**

*Chair, CNPPA*

The world's protected areas are the greatest legacy we can leave to future generations – to ensure that our descendants still have access to nature and all the material and spiritual wealth that it represents. I believe that the programme of IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) is vital to bringing that about.

This short booklet, produced with the generous assistance of British Airways, explains what CNPPA is, what we are doing and what we plan to do. I hope it conveys some of the excitement we feel about our Commission and its mission. I hope, too, that it will encourage readers to ask, "How can we help?". We look forward to hearing from you!

A world without protected areas, devoid of natural and wild places, would be an immeasurably poorer place. On present trends, that is the future we are heading towards. But it does not have to happen. We believe CNPPA can help secure a more promising future, for nature and for people. Please join us in this endeavour.

*Adrian Phillips*



**Adrian Phillips, Chair of CNPPA since 1994, was a former Director of the Countryside Commission for England and Wales. He is Professor of Countryside and Environmental Planning at the University of Wales, Cardiff, UK.**

# A unique global partnership

Long before the environment became a global concern, IUCN<sup>1</sup> was quietly getting on with the business of saving the world's species of wild plants and animals and the places where they live.

Formed in 1948, IUCN is a unique global union, an international non-profit organisation where governments and non-governmental organisations work together as partners.

From small beginnings, IUCN has grown dramatically. Today, the Union has nearly 900 member organisations in over 130 countries. They include over 70 States, 100 Government Agencies, 50 international NGOs and 600 national NGOs<sup>2</sup>. The combined membership of the NGO members run into tens of millions of people.

IUCN's growing network of regional, country and field offices manages hundreds of field projects on the ground. The Union also has a range of international programmes, such as planning, ecosystem management, environmental law, economics and education.

At global level, the Union has six specialist Commissions – world-wide networks of experts working in a volunteer capacity, who help make IUCN a powerhouse of knowledge for conservation and sustainable development.

One of them is the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA). Its work is crucial because networks of protected areas are the most effective way of saving the world's variety of life for the benefit of present and of future generations.

<sup>1</sup> IUCN's formal name is the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, but in recent years it has worked under the name IUCN – The World Conservation Union.

<sup>2</sup> NGO – Non-governmental organisation. Examples are The Nature Conservancy (USA) and the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF).



▲ Bing Lucas, former Chair of Senior Adviser on World Heritage (IUCN) (CNPPA (left), Jim Thorsell (IUCN) and colleagues from China inspect one of the three sites nominated by China in 1992 for inscription under the World Heritage Convention.

## What is a protected area?

'Protected area' is the term conservationists use for what the public mostly know as national parks, nature reserves, nature parks, protected landscape areas and the like.

CNPPA defines 'protected area' as "an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means".

Countries need a range of different types of protected areas. CNPPA divides protected areas into six categories, on the basis of their underlying objectives:

**Category I** – Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area: Protected area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection

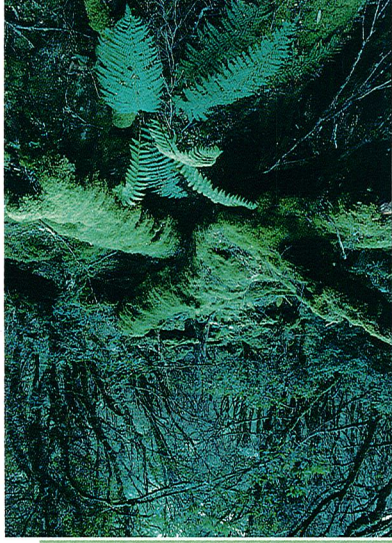
**Category II** – National Park: Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

**Category III** – Natural Monument: Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

**Category IV** – Habitat/Species Management Area: Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

**Category V** – Protected Landscape/Seascape: Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

**Category VI** – Managed Resource Protected Area: Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.



## Parks and protected areas – vital for life

The world's protected areas cover about 6% of the earth's land surface and a smaller proportion of the oceans.

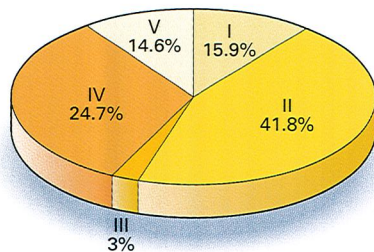
We think of these places, like the Grand Canyon or the Serengeti or the Great Barrier Reef, as pieces of paradise. But national parks and protected areas are much more than places of great beauty. They:

- Are essential in conserving the diversity of nature, saving numerous species from extinction
- Provide clean water, fresh air and other vital requirements for life
- Act as a storehouse of nature's genetic material for use in medicine, and in plant and animal breeding
- Support human communities, and show how people can live in harmony with nature
- Generate money to support local and national economies, especially through tourism
- Safeguard areas of great cultural importance.
- And they are places where people can be in contact with nature and provide a source of spiritual well-being for communities the world over.

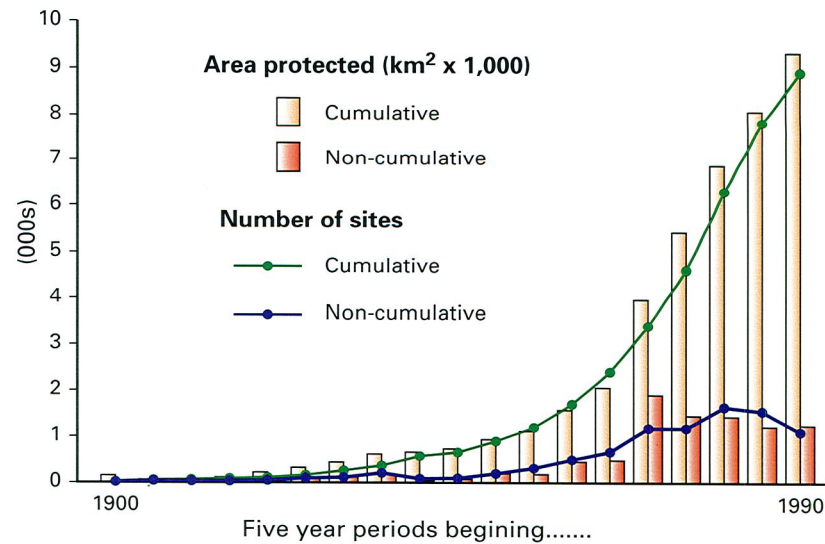
Protected areas are not a luxury. On the contrary, they are vital for the survival and well-being of all life on Earth – human, animal and plant.



◀ The Isle of Pines, New Caledonia – not just a part of paradise but also home to unique plants and animals not found elsewhere.



The proportion by area of protected areas worldwide in IUCN categories I – V. Source: WCMC.



◀ The growth of protected areas worldwide. Protected areas have grown greatly in number and extent in recent years, but many more are needed to safeguard the world's store of biodiversity before it is too late. Source: WCMC.

► CNPPA has organized its work into 15 terrestrial regions (left), and 18 marine regions (not shown).

members draw in a wide range of skills – strategic planning, on the ground management, biological assessment, tourism, education, to name but a few. CNPPA works alongside international organisations (like parts of the United Nations), governments, local communities, indigenous peoples and many other groups in setting up and managing the world's network of protected areas. As the pressures upon these special places grow, and resources for their protection are stretched still further, more than ever they need the help, training, advice and information that CNPPA can provide – efficiently, expertly and cost-effectively.

### How do we work ?

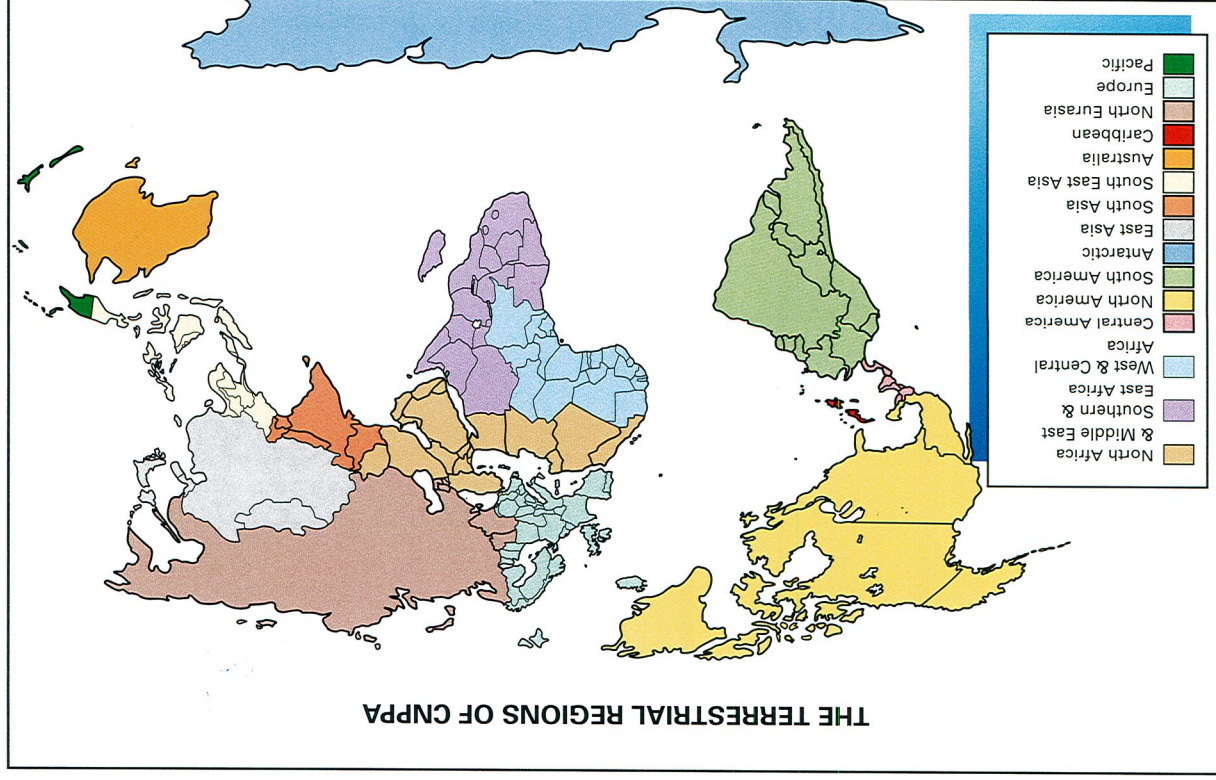
The head of CNPPA is its Chair, who is elected every three years by the members of IUCN, the World Conservation Union, at their World Conservation Congress (formerly General Assembly). The IUCN Council, also elected, appoints a Deputy Chair.

A Steering Committee meets twice a year to plan and oversee the programme. It consists of one Vice-Chair for each of CNPPA's 15 regions and selected additional Vice-Chairs (for themes such as marine protected areas and mountain protected areas) and other advisers. Most regional Vice-Chairs have set up small Steering Committees for their regions.

On the advice of Vice-Chairs, the Chair invites protected area experts, qualified and willing to assist CNPPA, to become members of the Commission.

CNPPA's work is managed by a staff of three in the IUCN Protected Areas Programme, based at IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. Field projects are either managed by, or run in close cooperation with, IUCN's Regional and Country Offices, with CNPPA staff and members often providing technical input.

Task forces of CNPPA members tackle particular issues, such as tourism in protected areas, or the economic benefits of protected areas. Two or three times a year, CNPPA holds "Working Sessions", each in a different part of the world. These are meetings where all the members in a region can come together, debate protected area issues and prepare a key output such as a regional action plan for protected areas.



## CNPPA – the world support system for protected areas

One body works for protected areas at the global level – IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA). Founded in 1960, it is a worldwide network of experts, qualified and willing to contribute to the establishment and effective management of protected areas. There is no comparable body in the world.

The Commission now has over 1000 members, double its membership a few years ago. Just over half of these members are in developing countries. Its

## With your help we can succeed

Everywhere – on land and at sea – protected areas are under threat. And for many of them the threats mount from year to year. The main dangers are the ever-increasing demand for land and resources to meet human needs. Other problems are pollution, over-exploitation and in places excessive tourism – governments and tour operators could be killing the very “golden eggs” on which they rely for their income.

The need is clear – for clean air, fresh water, sustainable resource use, as well as for sustainable tourism. The world needs more, and better managed, protected areas. And to work, they have to be planned and managed with the needs of people in mind.

CNPPA has a long and successful track record, as a “Red Cross” for protected areas and for the local people who depend on them.

Right now, CNPPA is spearheading a fightback for protected areas on several fronts:

- For the seas, **internationally**, we are working to establish a global, representative system of marine protected areas – by helping to improve management capacity in more than 200 existing marine protected areas and to create twice as many new ones.
- On land, **regionally**, we are developing action plans to define what needs to be done. Europe, North Eurasia, East Asia, South Asia and Africa – all now have plans complete or underway outlining the key steps that need to be taken.
- **Nationally**, CNPPA is helping improve the ways parks are established and managed. For example, it is helping a number of developing countries establish National Systems Plans, which help shape the development of a country’s network of protected areas.

CNPPA is uniquely placed to mobilise action for protected areas. Through its wide membership it is in regular touch with thousands of park managers, governments, scientists, policy-makers and other IUCN members and partners.

The Commission has a vision of how it can use its impressive leverage to



assist the world’s protected areas – and, in its recently adopted Strategic Plan, has drawn up a detailed plan for getting there.

We need the help of governments, corporations and people of foresight to mount a major effort to assist poorer nations and societies in safeguarding the places where many of the world’s most valued, and most threatened, protected areas are to be found.

▲ **Some protected areas, such as the Penhu Columnar Basalt Nature Preserve, Taiwan, safeguard unique geological features as well as rare plants and animals.**

# What has CNPPA done?

It would take a book to list all the achievements of CNPPA. A thousand expert volunteers, some working almost full-time for CNPPA, a dedicated staff, and institutional partners around the world make for a rich and successful programme. Below we highlight six CNPPA stories of success from the 1994–1996 triennium. The next steps are outlined in the section afterwards (pp. 13–16).

In all our work, the link between people and parks is uppermost. For many years, CNPPA has advocated the need to integrate local communities in the whole process of protected area management and establishment. Two World Park Congresses focused on this issue, helping to shape attitudes and break the myth that people and protected areas do not mix. A string of books and guidelines have appeared to support this line, such as *Law of the Mother* (WWF, IUCN, European Union and Sierra Club) on the role of indigenous people. And now, CNPPA is working with IUCN's Social Policy Service to develop and implement the exciting new idea of Joint Management, where the park authority accepts that local communities have a stake in the protected area and so must have a role in management too.



Protected areas will succeed best if local people take part in planning and management, as here at Mt Kilim, Cameroon, where local people plot the forest resources they use. This approach, promoted by CNPPA, is called Joint Management.

## Making the economic case

'Traditional thinking has taken the line that saving the environment implies 'sacrificing' the economy. The emerging view, however, is that protected areas and national parks represent an increasingly valuable source of economic activity that more than offsets their cost'. So reads the beginning of a CNPPA report for decision-makers on this topic.

It's surprising how rarely economics enters the protected areas debate and how few financial figures are available to back up arguments for new or extended protected areas. CNPPA has set out to change this.

An International Task Force on economic benefits of protected areas, convened by Lee Thomas in Australia, has now produced a report on this vital topic, with separate volumes aimed at the public, decision-makers and protected area managers.

It has come up with some powerful facts:

- Belize gains an estimated 25% of its GDP from tourism connected to its protected areas.
- A study by accountants Coopers & Lybrand showed that protected areas in British Columbia, Canada, are responsible for over 9000 jobs and generate CAN\$ 160 million in tax revenue alone. For every dollar spent on park operations, \$9 were spent by visitors.
- The US National Parks Service estimate that 11 of its national parks each generate close to US\$ 1 billion per year in regional revenues.

These are large figures. But they are calculated using conventional economics. As we do that conventional economics ignores benefits that cannot be measured in cash terms, such as clean air, fresh water or a potential new medicinal plant waiting to be discovered – and then truly the benefits of protected areas to a nation's economy are far greater than even these figures imply.

CNPPA will continue with this innovative work, broadcasting the important finding that protected areas are an economic benefit not a financial drain to a country. And these are not just the parks that receive large numbers of visitors.



## Caring for the seas

The oceans cover 70% of the earth's surface and contain a vast array of species, but much less has been done to develop marine protected areas (MPAs) than parks and reserves on land. CNPPA decided to evaluate the existing MPAs and make a plan to develop them as a coherent network.

Led by Vice-Chair Graeme Kelleher from Australia, CNPPA teamed up with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, custodians of arguably the best managed MPA in the world and certainly the biggest. With funding from the World Bank, Graeme and his colleagues built up a network of vast expertise from around the globe, organized into 18 Working Groups of CNPPA, each covering a different part of the oceans.

Over three years, these volunteer groups identified priorities for new MPAs and made practical recommendations to improve the management of the few MPAs that already exist. In 1995, their report, *A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas*, was launched in Washington – four volumes giving the first ever global assessment of the situation. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is now using the report to help determine investment priorities.

The Bank provided a grant of US\$ 100,000 towards this project, but the value of the work done by CNPPA volunteers was worth at least US\$ 1.5 million at normal consultancy rates. This multiplier effect is typical of the way IUCN works, showing the generosity of CNPPA members in contributing their skills to a common cause, as well as the excellent value for money from investing in IUCN networks.

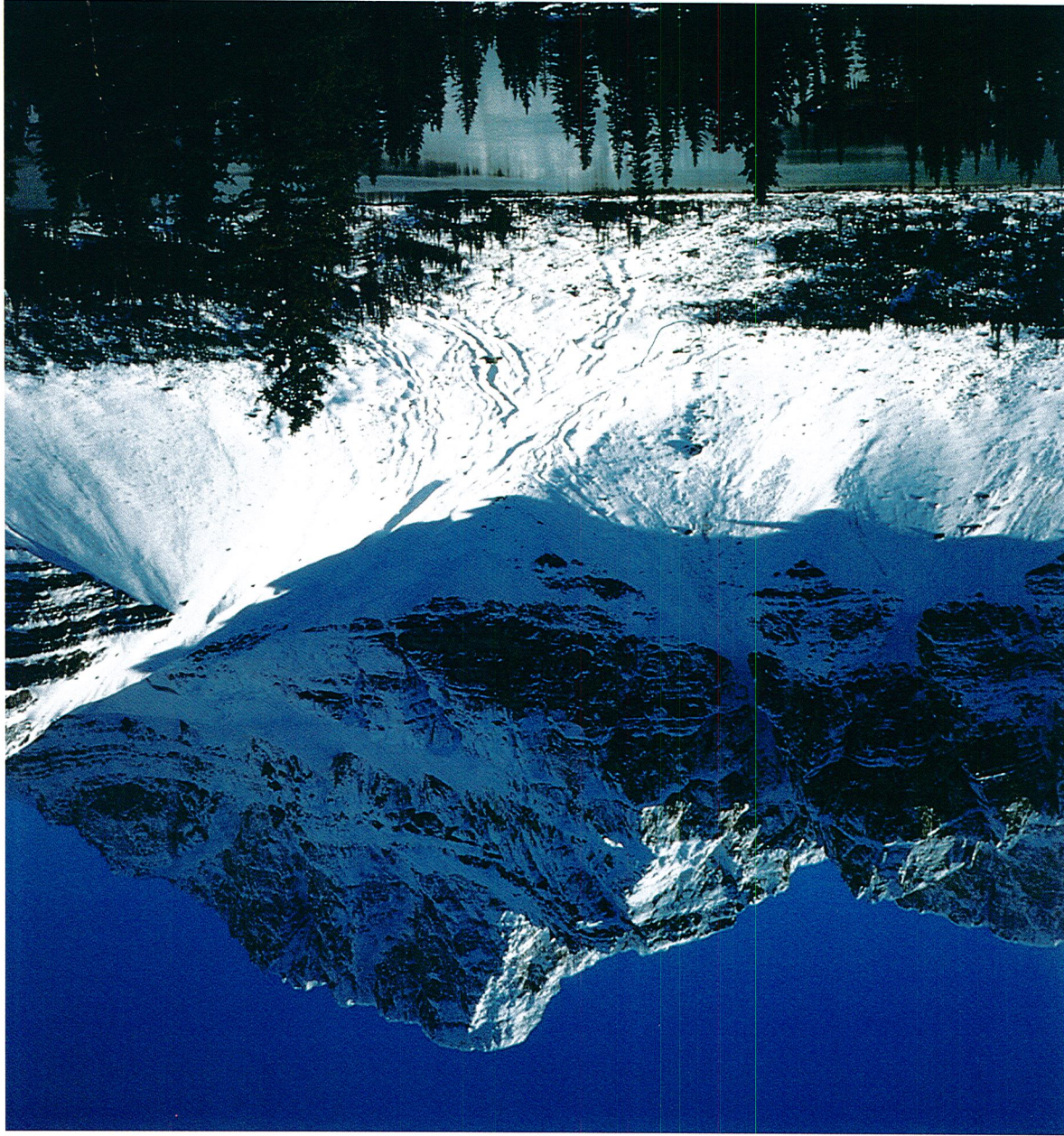
The next step is implementation. IUCN is now working with its partners to select some pilot areas and make them successes on the ground, as Centres of Excellence that others can follow.



▲ Los Canarreos  
Marine Park, Cuba

◀ Los Haitises  
National Park,  
Dominican Republic

Much marine life is concentrated close to the shore, where it is vulnerable to pollution from land and other threats.



## Protecting mountains

Many of the world's national parks are in mountains. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and Sagarmatha (Mt Everest) in Nepal are just two of the names that spring to mind.

Mountain ecosystems are relatively well covered by national parks in comparison with other ecosystems, but some important mountain areas are still not protected and many mountain parks face grave management problems. This is all the more serious because mountains have a disproportionately high share of the world's biodiversity, especially plants.

CNPPA has a set of activities to help. Led by Professor Larry Hamilton from the USA and guided by a task force he chairs, IUCN is a key player in the implementation of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21<sup>3</sup>, on mountain conservation, providing the expertise and coordination on mountain protected areas. It is concentrating its efforts on promoting large corridors of linked protected areas along mountain ranges, such as the Himalayas and the Rockies. This avoids fragmentation of habitat and helps hedge species and habitats against the impact of a changing climate. And the idea of protected areas that when linked together stretch unbroken for thousands of miles catches the public imagination on a grand scale.

In 1995, CNPPA co-sponsored or collaborated in meetings in South America on the possible development of an Andean corridor, and sponsored a meeting in Australia on transboundary cooperation. A set of guidelines for mountain protected areas is now available in English, Russian, Spanish and Japanese, and a Manual of Transborder Protected Area Cooperation nears completion.

▶ The Rockies in Banff National Park, Canada. CNPPA is working to link famous mountain national parks like Banff into continent-long corridors for nature.

<sup>3</sup> The global plan agreed by nations at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

## Saving the world's heritage

**IUCN plays a vital part in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Coordinated by its Senior Natural Heritage Adviser, Jim Thorsell, and helped by a CNPPA Task Force chaired by Bing Lucas, IUCN provides an independent evaluation of every natural site that governments nominate to go on the Convention. Each site is checked out in the field, to see if it matches the Convention's rigorous criteria for entry.**

The World Heritage Convention was drawn up to protect those outstanding natural and cultural sites that are of such unique value that they form part of the heritage of all peoples. It has proved particularly effective in conserving large wilderness areas, because of its high public profile and because of its tough obligations on conservation. IUCN has worked to make full use of these assets. It supports the World Heritage Committee in taking a strong line, encouraging them to accept on the World Heritage list only those sites that are of truly world importance and are effectively protected.

Only 102 natural sites are on the Convention so far, but many of them are massive in size. The ten natural sites added in 1994 alone cover a staggering 6 million hectares – the size of Switzerland. They are among the most species-rich places on earth, including the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda, Los Katios in Colombia and Cota Donaña in Spain. With IUCN's help, a further six more sites were added in 1995, including over 3 million hectares of the Virgin Komi Forests in Russia, possibly the least disturbed large forest on earth. And 14 more sites are nominated for 1996, including the famous Mt Emei in China, described by botanist Roy Lancaster as "embodying all that western minds and dreams regard as a botanical paradise".

CNPPA keeps a special watch on any World Heritage site that comes under threat, in particular those listed on the World Heritage in Danger list, such as Yellowstone in the United States and Virunga in Zaire, and assists where it can on remedial action. But these are the minority: World Heritage is a cause for celebration, because it safeguards many if not yet most of the world's finest sites – truly nature's "Crown Jewels".

**Inside Sinharaja Forest Reserve. The largest extent of forest left in the Wet Zone of Sri Lanka, Sinharaja was threatened by logging but, with help from IUCN and its partners, it is now effectively protected as a Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site.**





## Working regionally

One of CNPPAs greatest strengths is its work at the regional level, where its mandate and approach enable it to bring countries together to face shared problems. The regional approach is more cost-effective than working globally, and usually leads to more commitment and practical results on the ground.

In most cases, the best approach is the regional action plan for protected areas. With a strong emphasis on consultation and participation, the preparation of the plan draws together the views of leading experts and policymakers, from both governmental bodies and NGOs. The result is a document – and an approach – that can guide and stimulate action for years to come.

### Between 1994 and 1996, CNPPA has:

- Developed regional action plans for Europe, tropical Africa, East Asia, Australia and North America;
- Started similar plans in North Eurasia, North Africa and the Middle East, South Asia and South East Asia;
- Contributed through the IUCN Antarctic Advisory Committee to various Antarctic meetings, including the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, and organized a workshop on the cumulative impacts of human presence in Antarctica.

Each action plan takes a different shape. Some, like that for North America, where protected areas are well developed, concentrate on what the CNPPA members themselves will do. Others, like the one in East Asia, focus on collaboration across a diverse region, with the aim of bringing together experts on tasks of practical cooperation.

## Europe – a model approach

In its turn, the European Action Plan focused on policy, finding that government approaches for protected areas varied greatly across the continent and that, surprisingly, the quality and extent of protected areas were also very uneven across the region.

Covering an area from Portugal to the Baltic States, the completed plan sets out the policies and actions each country should take to improve its protected areas, as well as outlining action needed at international level. The action points are in the form of Recommendations (to governments). Endorsements



▲ Training, in French Guiana. CNPPA recognizes the central importance of training at regional level, and helps especially those institutions that train protected area managers from more than one country.

(of many existing activities) and 30 Priority Projects, designed to stimulate the action needed.

Developing the European plan was one of the largest consultation exercises in IUCN's history, involving over 200 individuals and organizations. By its completion, over 10 governments had contributed financially. Combined with national launches in most European countries, the wide participation generated a deep sense of ownership for the plan and as a result a lot of enthusiasm to implement it.

To coordinate and monitor implementation, CNPPA has appointed a full-time Parks for Life Coordinator, generously funded by the Government of Slovenia. Andrej Sovinc works out of the Water Management Institute in Ljubljana, close to the Regional Vice-Chair, Marija Zupančič-Vičar. Rather than implement the 30 Priority Projects himself, his main job is to find volunteers from among the 200 contributing individuals and organizations to take on each project, whether as leader or just as one of many contributors. The aim is that each project will be implemented by a team of organizations across the region.

Donors appreciate CNPPA's skill in action planning. The European Commission (EC) commissioned CNPPA to prepare a set of reports and strategies on protected area needs in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific – the countries linked to the European Union (EU) by special aid and trade arrangements known as the Lomé Convention – and how the EC could best help. As a second phase, CNPPA is now helping the Commission "internalize" the conclusions into its operating procedures and is preparing an EC publication summarizing the strategy; this will be used by staff of the EC and their partners in Brussels, in EU Members States and in the regions concerned.



▲ Triglav National Park, Slovenia, was host to one of a series of CNPPA workshops to prepare the European Action Plan.

◀ CNPPA members and partners translated summaries of the European Action Plan into their languages as part of the launch of the document. Summaries are available in 15 languages, some illustrated here. The full version is available in English, French, Spanish and German, with more languages to come.

## Monitoring

Good conservation relies on accurate information. CNPPA has long recognized this: in 1981, it established a Protected Areas Data Unit to manage information on protected areas. This Unit is now an integral part of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), based in Cambridge, UK. IUCN, together with UNEP and WWF, is one of the three founding partners of the Centre and Adrian Phillips, CNPPA Chair, is one of the two IUCN representatives on its Board.

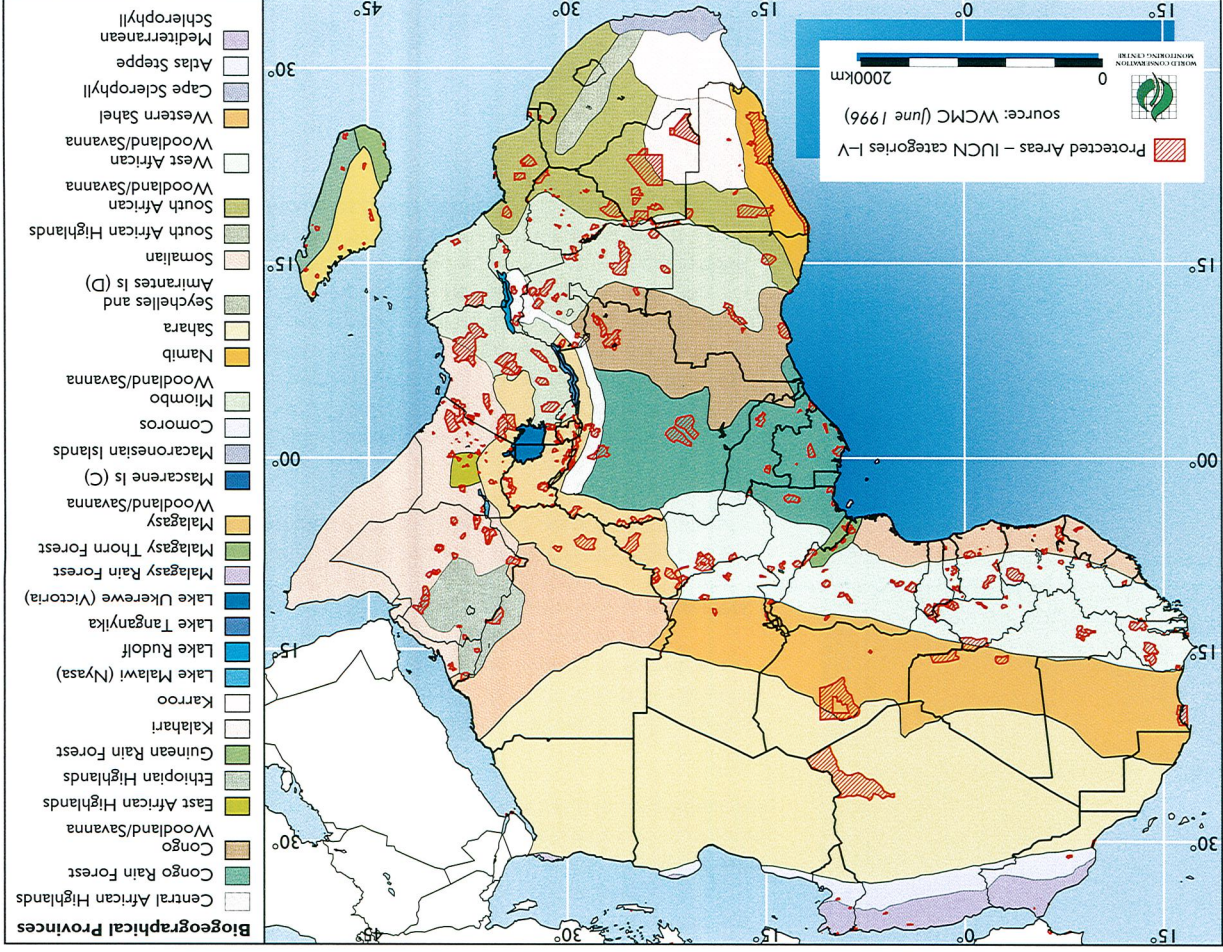
The WCMC database now has records on over 50,000 protected areas, with full descriptions of some 5000. Where known, the boundaries of protected areas have been digitized so maps can be produced. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, WCMC can assess the conservation status of key ecosystems by overlaying spatial datasets of, say, biogeographic provinces and protected areas as in the map shown. Recently, for example, it has made gap analyses to identify conservation priorities in tropical and Arctic habitats, and has examined the impact of trans-European road and rail networks on protected areas.

A major product is the *United Nations List of Protected Areas*, which IUCN regularly publishes following a UN General Assembly Resolution in 1962. CNPPA is responsible for maintaining the list, but delegates most of the work to WCMC. This includes the application of IUCN's Protected Area Management Categories – a classification system based on management objectives,

as defined by each country's laws, to enable protected areas to be classified by the degree of human intervention allowed. For example, Category I sites are strictly protected for scientific research and wilderness purposes, whereas Category V are traditional landscapes in which people live and work (see p.2).



▼ Protected Areas of Africa, with biogeographic zones, a map produced by WCMC to show coverage at a glance.



# The Challenge Ahead: A Plan for People and Parks

BY DAVID SHEPPARD

*Head, IUCN Protected Areas Programme*

CNPPA has created the most significant “rescue package” ever put together for the world’s protected areas. It has grown out of a comprehensive Strategic Planning Exercise undertaken in 1995, as well as from consultation with CNPPA members and partners.

The plan seeks to implement CNPPA’s Mission:

**“To promote the establishment and effective management of a world wide, representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas”**



## The need

As we move into the next century, conservation faces many challenges. CNPPA considers that the main ones facing those responsible for protected areas are:

- Using the full range of protected area types, from Strict Nature Reserve to Managed Resource Protected Area, rather than just a part of the range as many countries do;
- Putting the planning and management of protected areas in their broader context of regional and environmental planning, in particular by looking beyond the boundaries to work with local people;
- Broadening the range of partners in protected areas, for example to include indigenous peoples, who have often proved to be the best guardians of protected areas for generations.

To promote this agenda, we will, in partnership with others:

- **Help governments and others plan protected areas and integrate them into all sectors**, by providing strategic advice to policy-makers
- **Strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of protected area managers**, through guidance, information and networking
- **Increase investment in protected areas**, by persuading public and corporate donors, as well as governments, of the need for more resources.

The following pages outline some of the main proposals. Each has been planned in detail and makes full use of the unique strengths of CNPPA, but each will only happen if funding is found.

◀ **Hemanta Mishra (World Bank), Jim Thorsell and David Sheppard after the North American regional CNPPA meeting in Banff National Park, Canada, in October 1995.**

## Conserving the World's Marine and Coastal Environments

We are spearheading a programme for the creation and better management of marine protected areas, building upon our landmark report (see p. 7). Working with our partners, especially the World Bank and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, we will establish "Centres of Excellence" for marine protected areas. We will develop training courses to help improve park management, initially in SE Asia, the Pacific, Western Indian Ocean and South Atlantic. We will help countries plan and develop marine protected areas systems, in co-operation with government agencies and local communities.

## Protecting the mountains

As outlined on page 8, CNPPA has developed a strong and effective network of mountain experts with a proven track record. Funding is now required to expand this network so that it can provide clear and concise input to relevant policy instruments such as Agenda 21.

## Parks for Peace

Protected areas can make a major contribution to improving co-operation and communication between countries. There are already more than 70 transboundary protected areas around the world – areas shared between two or more countries – and many of them are "hot spots" of biodiversity. We will pull together and publish the lessons learned on practical ways to improve the effectiveness of regional co-operation for transboundary parks. We will assess how protected areas can reduce conflict and aid peace-keeping. With the IUCN Environmental Law Centre we will consider an international Code of Conduct to reduce the effect of war on protected areas.

## The economic benefits of protected areas

Building on our initial report (see p. 6), we will demonstrate how protected areas can contribute to economic development and how protected areas managers can raise independent capital for their parks, addressing the vital issue of sustainable financing. We will prepare and publish detailed guide-lines, set up training programmes and carry out case studies, drawing on the expertise of a wide range of specialists.



## Global Projects PARKSHARE

We will establish "sister park" arrangements between protected areas in developed and developing countries to exchange staff and information. There will be both "North-South" and "South-South" exchanges. Through 3-6 month staff exchanges, many protected area managers will receive first class training: many more will benefit through study tours and regional training courses (led by a CNPPA Task Force under John Marsh from Canada). CNPPA is ideally placed to encourage international exchange of knowledge and expertise about protected areas, and so improve management.

▲ Protected areas on hills and mountains prevent erosion and ensure farmlands receive a steady flow of water. CNPPA aims to help quantify benefits like these in economic terms.



## Tourism and protected areas

At present some parks receive more visitors than their environments can withstand while others are little visited. We need to encourage a more balanced distribution of visitors to protected areas, in line with capacity to cope. We will publish a **Protected Areas Travellers' Guide**, and make it available on Internet through World Wide Web; it will identify lightly visited protected areas around the world which would benefit from more visitors and the money they would provide. We will also bring together protected area managers and tourism representatives in a series of "roundtable" meetings to build bridges and chart the future course of tourism in protected areas.

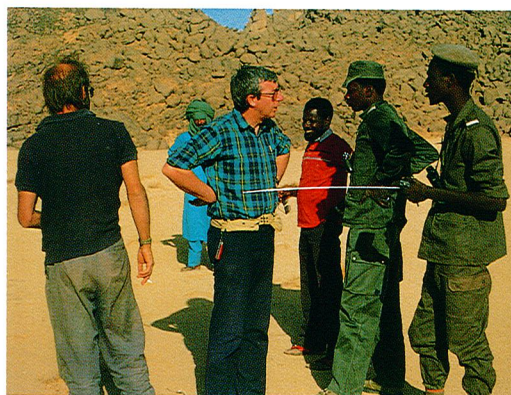
## Advisory Service for Protected Areas

We will establish a consultancy service to provide professional guidance on everything to do with establishing and managing protected areas. It will harness the expertise in CNPPA – the world's largest network of protected area specialists. We plan to develop this further into a service of practical aid to parks most at risk.

## Spreading the message

We want to continue and expand our work in distilling experience on protected areas around the world and presenting it in an accessible and readable way. Our journal **PARKS** aims to strengthen international collaboration among protected area professionals and to enhance their role, status and activities. We would like to publish it not just in English, as at present, but also in French and Spanish. Our **CNPPA Publication Series** is used to distribute information on protected area issues to a global audience.

► **Education through practical experience is vital if the next generation are to appreciate parks and protected areas.**



▲ **Tourism is a big issue for Amboseli National Park, Kenya.**

◀ **CNPPA member Gérard Sournia with colleagues on an advisory mission to the giant Air-Ténééré Nature Reserve, Niger.**



Again, funding is required to ensure that this can continue, flourish and be multi-lingual.

## State of the world's parks

Accurate and relevant information is essential for managing the world's protected areas. Much of this information is available within the CNPPA network, and is gathered and analysed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), our data-managing partner. Working through WCMC we will:

- Report on the status of the world's protected areas through production of the next edition of the *United Nations List of Protected Areas*
- Develop methods and mechanisms for monitoring threats to protected areas and the effectiveness with which they are managed
- Develop a Protected Areas Resource Centre (PARC) to provide information on protected areas by conventional and electronic means.

## Setting and Reviewing the Global Parks Agenda

Every 10 years IUCN hosts the World Parks Congress. This event sets the agenda for protected areas worldwide and is the ultimate park networking opportunity. Over 1800 experts attended the IV World Parks Congress in Caracas, Venezuela, 1992. This meeting adopted the Caracas Action Plan, whose implementation so far will be reviewed at a mid-term meeting in late 1997, in Albany, Western Australia. Funding is now required, particularly to support the participation of developing country experts. And planning has already started for the next Parks Congress, for Africa in 2002!

## Working regionally – Action Plans for Protected Areas

CNPAs strongest focus tends to be at the regional level. Each Vice-Chair organizes a wide range of activities for his or her region, depending on the willing network of CNPPA members and other volunteers.

CNPPA has developed many regional action plans for protected areas, as outlined on pages 10 – 11. For example, support is needed to:

- Implement the European Action Plan, in particular its 30 Priority Projects and to promote its use at the national level;
- Develop a regional action plan for Russia and the other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries;
- Develop a regional action plan for North Africa and the Middle East,

focussing on training of managers, developing protected area legislation, establishing transboundary protected areas and preparing guidelines on ecotourism.

Over the years, IUCN has been active in the conservation of Antarctica, perhaps the world's last great wilderness. It has prepared key documents such as *A Strategy for Antarctic Conservation* and has recently formed an Antarctic Advisory Committee. Support is needed so the Committee can provide a strong and effective input to Antarctic fora, such as the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCM), and play a leading role on conservation issues in Antarctica, such as conservation of biodiversity.

## National Action for Protected Areas

Everything we do is designed to feed down to the national or even local level as this is the level where protected areas are made and managed.

In addition to the activities above, CNPPA can also provide focused advice to individual countries on the establishment and management of protected areas. We offer assistance to develop systems of protected areas, as countries are obliged to do under Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We can advise on a wide range of management approaches, such as new forms of funding and management by NGOs and the private sector.



Spectacular Machu Picchu, Peru, was the location where CNPPA's Steering Committee for South America held its first meeting, in May 1996, and started work on an Action Plan for South America.

# How you can help

**CNPPA wants to continue and expand its record of success. We want to turn back the threats through implementing our rescue package. But to do this we need your help.**

CNPPA has a record of using donor's money wisely. It has also become the trusted advisor to major funding organisations on how best they can spend their money. For example, it has worked with the European Commission, the World Bank and UN agencies, among others, to develop strategies for their investments in protected areas.

**We need to find at least US\$ 10 million over the next three years to implement the vital projects outlined above.**

This programme will require the support of development assistance agencies, major corporations, foundations and individuals. Donations can be made to whole projects or components of any of them. Money is needed quickly to ensure that priority work can begin soon. But commitments made for contributions spread over three years will enable us to make accurate plans and determine priorities with confidence.

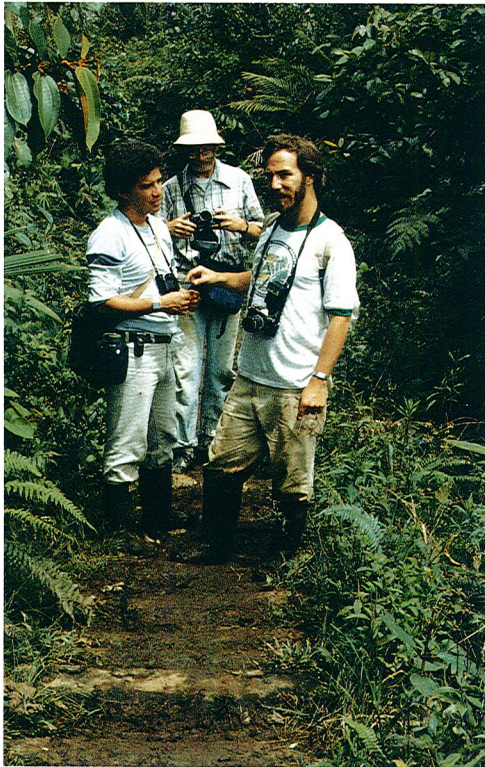
**We are asking you to help us make these projects a reality – to help us make a difference to what happens to the world's protected areas in the next century – and so help safeguard paradise on earth – the world's parks and protected areas.**

For more information on the projects and on how you can contribute, please contact:

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**Botanists investigate the plants at La Planada Reserve, Colombia, one of the richest botanical sites in the world. By encouraging and supporting the establishment and management of protected areas, CNPPA is helping to conserve plant and animal riches for future generations.**



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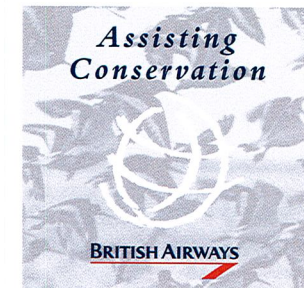
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**Cover:** Glacier National Park & World Heritage Site, USA (top left), Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania (right), CNPPA members in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia (bottom).

**Back cover:** Sinharaja Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka.

CNPPA

Safeguarding Life on Earth  
the world's parks and protected areas

