

Research needs expressed in the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Cross-Cutting Issue: Protected Areas

Protected areas are a vital contribution to the conservation of the world's natural and cultural resources. Their values range from the protection of natural habitats and associated flora and fauna, to the maintenance of environmental stability of surrounding regions. Protected areas can provide opportunities for rural development and rational use of marginal lands, generating income and creating jobs, for research and monitoring, for conservation education, and for recreation and tourism (<http://www.cbd.int/protected/intro.shtml>).

The cited Decisions that express research needs are VII/28 (where the work programme is annexed), VIII/3, VIII/24, IX/18, X/31, XIII/2 and XIV/8, also checked were Decisions II/7, III/9, IV/15, VI/22 and VI/30.

Direct research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source http://www.cbd.int/decisions/
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.1 Suggested Activity 3.1.5	Goal 3.1: To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas.	Identify and remove perverse incentives and inconsistencies in sectoral policies that increase pressure on protected areas, or take action to mitigate their perverse effects. Whenever feasible, redirect these to positive incentives for conservation.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.1 Suggested Activity 3.1.6		Identify and establish positive incentives that support the integrity and maintenance of protected areas and the involvement of indigenous and local communities and stakeholders in conservation.	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.1 Suggested Activity 3.1.9		Identify and foster economic opportunities and markets at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by protected areas and/or reliant on the ecosystem services that protected areas provide, consistent with protected area objectives and promote the equitable sharing of the benefits.	

VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 4 Goal 4.4 Suggested Activity 4.4.1		Improve research, scientific and technical cooperation related to protected areas at national, regional and international levels.	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 4 Goal 4.4 Suggested Activity 4.4.2	Goal 4.4: To ensure that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas..	Promote interdisciplinary research, to improve understanding of the ecological social and economic aspects of protected areas , including methods and techniques for valuation of goods and services from protected areas.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 4 Goal 4.4 Suggested Activity 4.4.3		Encourage studies to improve the knowledge of the distribution, status and trends of biological diversity .	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 4 Goal 4.4 Suggested Activity 4.4.4		Encourage collaborative research between scientists and indigenous and local communities in accordance with Article 8(j) in connection with the establishment and the effective management of protected areas.	
VIII/24	Para 45		Options for cooperation for the establishment of marine protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.	
VIII/24	Annex II	Terms of	Refine and develop a consolidated set of scientific criteria for	COP-08&id=11038

	Para 1	reference for expert workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems.	identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and globally;	
VIII/24	Annex II Para 2		Compile biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiate future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps;	
VIII/24	Annex II Para 3		Compile a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas , including in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats.	
IX/18	Para 23	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Encourages</i> Parties and invites relevant organizations to enhance research and awareness of the role that protected areas and the connectivity of networks of protected areas play in addressing climate change;	cop/?id=11661
X/31	Para 2	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop and implement research and monitoring programmes for conservation and , in accordance with their management objectives, sustainable use within protected areas at any relevant scale as well as assess the efficiency and effectiveness of various kinds and categories of protected areas complying with the three objectives of the Convention;	cop/?id=12297
XIV/8	Annex I Section II, Para A	Suggested steps	b) <i>Identify key species, ecosystems and ecological processes</i> for which fragmentation is a key issue and which can benefit from improved connectivity, including those species, ecosystems and ecological processes that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and those species that may shift their range in response to climate change impact; c) <i>Identify and prioritize important areas to improve connectivity</i> and to mitigate the impacts of fragmentation of landscapes and seascapes, including areas that create barriers and bottlenecks for annual and seasonal species movement, for various life stages, and for climate adaptation, and areas that are important for maintaining ecosystem functioning (e.g., riverine flood plains);	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14

			<p>d) <i>Conduct a national review</i> of the status and trends of landscape and seascape habitat fragmentation and connectivity for key species, ecosystems and ecological processes, including a review of the role of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, in maintaining landscape and seascape connectivity, and any key gaps;</p> <p>e) <i>Identify and prioritize the sectors</i> most responsible for habitat fragmentation, including transportation, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, tourism, energy, infrastructure and urban development, and develop strategies to engage them in developing strategies for mitigating the impacts on protected areas and protected area networks including other effective area-based conservation measures, and areas under active restoration programmes;</p>	
XIV/8	Annex I Section II, Para B	Suggested steps	<p>a) <i>Identify, map and prioritize areas important for essential ecosystem functions and services</i>, including ecosystems that are important for food (e.g., mangroves for fisheries), for climate mitigation (e.g., carbon-dense ecosystems, such as forests, peatlands, mangroves), for water security (e.g., mountains, forests, wetlands and grasses that provide both surface and groundwater), for poverty alleviation (e.g., ecosystems that provide subsistence, livelihoods and employment), and for disaster risk reduction (e.g., ecosystems that buffer impacts from coastal storms, such as reefs, seagrass beds, floodplains);</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14
XIV/8	Annex II Section A, Para 7	Suggested steps	<p>c) <i>Clarify and determine the institutional mandates, roles and responsibilities</i> of all relevant State and non-State actors recognized in the national or subnational protected and conserved areas system, in coordination with other (subnational, sectoral) jurisdictions where applicable;</p> <p>d) <i>Conduct a system-level governance assessment as a collaborative multi-stakeholder process</i>. In large part, such an assessment serves as a gap analysis between an existing national or subnational protected area network and the potentially achievable area-based conservation, if areas presently protected or conserved <i>de facto</i> by various actors and approaches were recognized, encouraged and supported to take or share responsibility;</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14
XIV/8	Annex II Section B,	Suggested actions	<p>a) Conduct, in consultation with relevant rights holders and stakeholders, a review of protected area policy and legislation against</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14

	Para 12		<p>good governance principles, including equity, and taking into consideration relevant internationally agreed standards and guidance.</p> <p>b) Facilitate and engage in site-level governance assessments in participatory multi-stakeholder processes, take actions for improvement at the site level and draw lessons for the policy level.</p> <p>d) Facilitate assessment and monitoring of economic and sociocultural costs and benefits associated with the establishment and management of protected areas;</p>	
XIV/8	Annex II Section B, Para 13	Suggested actions	<p>a) Conduct site-level governance and equity assessments in ways that are inclusive of rights holders and stakeholders, and take action aimed at improvement;</p> <p>b) Assess, monitor and mitigate any negative impacts arising from the establishment and/or maintenance of a protected or conserved area and enhance positive ones;</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14
XIV/8	Annex IV, Section C, Para 3 Sub-section 4	Approaches for accelerating progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas	<p>a) Develop a common understanding of what effectiveness means across stakeholder groups, in line with the objectives of the protected/conserved areas;</p> <p>b) Develop clear, reliable and measurable indicators for assessing the effectiveness of the protected/conserved areas in achieving their objectives;</p> <p>c) Develop standardized approaches for assessment across mechanisms/processes;</p> <p>d) Assess protected/conserved areas at the network scale and at the level of individual areas;</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14
XIV/8	Annex IV, Section C, Para 4	Approaches for accelerating progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas	<p>h) Develop clear, reliable, and measurable indicators for assessing the effectiveness of the marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in achieving their objectives, and for assessing the status of the wider landscape and seascape;</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-14

Indirect research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source http://www.cbd.int/decisions/
VII/28	Para 17	The Conference of the Parties	Recognizes that the inadequacy of knowledge and awareness of the threat to, and the role and value, of biodiversity , insufficient financial sustainability and support, poor governance, ineffective management and insufficient participation, pose fundamental barriers to achieving the protected areas objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and stresses the need for Parties to adequately address these issues;	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 1 Goal 1.2 Suggested Activity 1.2.1	Goal 1.2: To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sector so as to maintain structure and function.	Evaluate by 2006 national and sub-national experiences and lessons learned on specific efforts to integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies such as poverty reduction strategies.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 1 Goal 1.2 Suggested Activity 1.2.2		Identify and implement, by 2008, practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land- and seascapes , including policy, legal, planning and other measures.	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 1 Goal 1.2 Suggested Activity 1.2.4		Develop tools of ecological connectivity, such as ecological corridors , linking together protected areas where necessary or beneficial as determined by national priorities for the conservation of biodiversity.	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 1 Goal 1.5 Suggested Activity 1.5.5	Goal 1.5: To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected	Assess key threats to protected areas and develop and implement strategies to prevent and/or mitigate such threats.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765

		areas.		
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 2 Goal 2.1 Suggested Activity 2.1.1	Goal 2.1: To promote equity and benefit-sharing.	Assess the economic and socio-cultural costs, benefits and impacts arising from the establishment and maintenance of protected areas , particularly for indigenous and local communities, and adjust policies to avoid and mitigate negative impacts, and where appropriate compensate costs and equitably share benefits in accordance with the national legislation.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 2 Goal 2.2 Suggested Activity 2.2.1	Goal 2.2: To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders.	Carry out participatory national reviews of the status, needs and context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders, ensuring gender and social equity, in protected areas policy and management , at the level of national policy, protected area systems and individual sites.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.1 Suggested Activity 3.1.1	Goal 3.1: To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas.	By 2006, identify legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede the effective establishment and management of protected areas , and by 2009, effectively address these gaps and barriers.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.1 Suggested Activity 3.1.2		Conduct national-level assessments of the contributions of protected areas , considering as appropriate environmental services, to the country's economy and culture, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the national level; and integrate the use of economic valuation and natural resource accounting tools into national planning processes in order to identify the hidden and non-hidden economic benefits provided by protected areas and who appropriates these benefits.	
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 3 Goal 3.3 Suggested	Goal 3.3: To develop, apply and transfer appropriate technologies for	Assess needs for relevant technologies for protected area management involving indigenous and local communities and stakeholders such as the research institutions, non-Governmental organizations and the private sector.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765

	Activity 3.3.2	protected areas.		
VII/28	Annex I Programme Element 4 Goal 4.1 Suggested Activity 4.1.2	Goal 4.1: To develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems.	Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system of the outcomes being achieved through protected area systems in relation to the goals and targets of this work programme.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7765
VIII/3	Annex I Para 17	Additional Planned Activities.	Improved and augmented biodiversity inventories of protected areas of all kinds , also to be expanded into monitoring efforts to record changes of species and populations over time. Taxonomic guides for key invertebrate organisms, lower plants and microorganisms, economically important and threatened species . Information on current distribution and occurrence of important species in protected areas , including population trends. Identification of habitats and priority setting for establishing new protected areas , through plotting distributions of species at local, national and regional levels. Mobilization and augmentation of specimen and observational-level data pertaining to species to allow modelling of current distributions and distributions under different models of climate change and of other biotic and a biotic changes (e.g. land-use change, invasive species).	cop-08.shtml?m=COP-08&id=11015
X/31	Para 14	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites</i> Parties to Enhance scientific knowledge and the use of the ecosystem approach as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge to support the development of adaptive management plans and to improve management effectiveness of protected areas for addressing impacts from climate change on biodiversity; Identify areas that are important for both biodiversity conservation and for climate-change mitigation and/or adaptation, including carbon sequestration and maintenance of carbon stocks , and where appropriate protect, restore and effectively manage and/or include	cop/?id=12297

			them in the protected areas systems with the aim to increase co-benefits for biodiversity, for addressing climate change and human well-being, while recognizing that biodiversity conservation remains the primary objective of protected areas;	
X/31	Para 29	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites Parties to</i> Increase understanding of and communicate the role, importance and costs and benefits of protected areas in sustaining local livelihoods, providing ecosystems services, reducing risks from natural disasters, adapting to and mitigating climate change, health, water and other sectors, at all levels;	cop/?id=12297
XIII/2	Para 3	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Recognizes</i> the considerable gap in the conservation status assessment of most taxonomic groups, and the general lack of information on species conservation plans.	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13
XIII/2	Para 5	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites Parties</i> c) to endeavour to undertake more systematic assessments of management effectiveness and biodiversity outcomes of protected areas, and where possible, other effective area-based conservation measures, to improve the management effectiveness by addressing the gaps; d) to undertake or participate in, where relevant, national protected area governance assessments with a view to promoting, recognizing and improving governance diversity, efficiency and equity in protected area systems; e) to strengthen their efforts to complete the assessments of the conservation status of all taxonomic groups and habitats and develop and implement species and habitat conservation plans, in particular for threatened and endemic species.	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13
XIII/2	Para 9	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites Parties, other Governments, relevant partners, regional agencies, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies</i> c) to facilitate the completion of assessments of the conservation status of species, in particular threatened and endemic species, and enable their status monitoring and conservation, in accordance with established national processes;	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13