



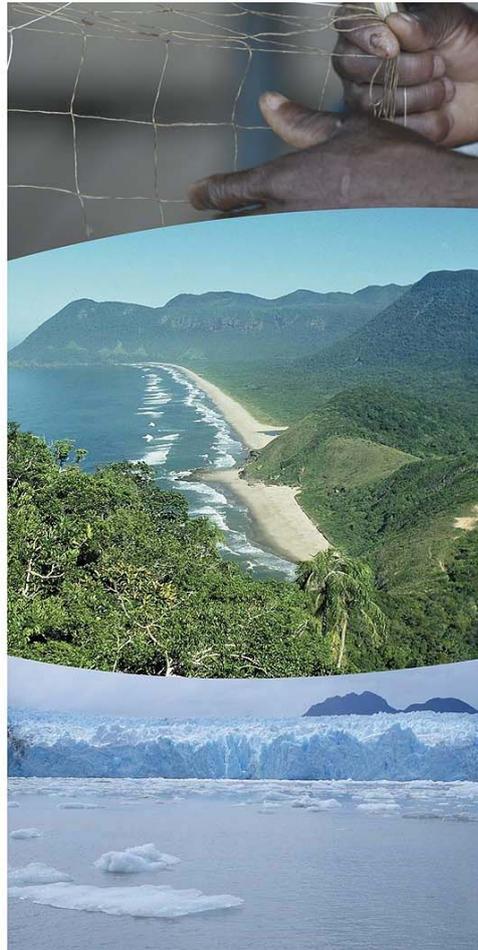
II
Congreso Latinoamericano de
PARQUES NACIONALES
y otras **ÁREAS PROTEGIDAS**

30 de Septiembre al 6 de Octubre de 2007

“Conservación, integración y bienestar para los pueblos de América Latina”

Bariloche, provincia de Río Negro, Argentina.

ECHOES FROM BARILOCHE: Conclusions, Recommendations and Action Guidelines





The Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas aimed to assess, value and project the contribution of protected areas towards the conservation and sustainable development of the region. It dealt with subjects as diverse as the conservation of biodiversity, environmental services, rights of indigenous groups, poverty reduction strategies and regional integration processes among Latin-American countries. It was the largest ever regional-scale event on nature conservation in history.

During the II Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Area (Bariloche, 2007), the role of protected areas as an effective tool for conservation was ratified. New elements for the management of protected areas such as the following were highlighted:

- Institutionalized participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes.
- Integral planning of protected areas and surrounding spaces, institutionalized at different administrative levels.
- The role protected areas fulfill in the contribution for poverty reduction.
- The threats of Climate Change on protected areas and their role in mitigation and adaptation.
- The direct involvement of indigenous people and territories in the management of protected areas.
- The inclusion of cultural and social values as a management objective of protected areas.
- An increase on the effective use of traditional knowledge and practices for the management of protected areas.
- The recognition of the importance of marine protected areas in the equilibrium and functioning of ecosystems at a global scale.
- The impact of infrastructure and development projects at a regional level.
- Transboundary Landscape and corridor management.
- The management of invasive exotic species.
- The promotion of good practice in productive activities related to protected areas.
- The responsible involvement of private companies.
- The importance of private conservation initiatives associated with protected areas, indigenous territories and other conservation mechanisms.
- The development of new long term financing mechanisms, such as Trust Funds.
- An increase in methods for effective management assessment.

The congress allowed a rich discussion process from which the following most important **conclusions** were drawn:

- The conservation of protected areas recognizes the complex natural, cultural and social relationship existing in the configuration and evolution of protected spaces and their regional contexts (surroundings). There are many examples of National Systems of Protected Areas in the region that integrate these variables.
- The progress in the application of the ecosystem approach in the link between conservation and development, in experiences related to the value and compensation for ecosystem services, in adaptation to climate change and in the hydro regulation function are evident.
- There is a strong sub-representation of marine and fresh water protected areas in national systems.
- There are limitations for the management of tangible and intangible resources from the cultural patrimony inside and outside the protected area.
- The conservation of biodiversity is a responsibility shared with the indigenous people; thus, it is necessary to integrate the traditional with the scientific knowledge.
- The role of park-rangers in the effective management of protected areas and the importance of the empiric knowledge they possess are recognized. Meanwhile, there is a need to strengthen their capacities to face the new paradigms in the conservation of protected areas.
- The results from effective management assessment should be followed up and applied within the national systems of protected areas and in other instances of public administration.
- Spatial planning is a fundamental tool for planning at different time and space scales.
- The bioregional and ecosystem approaches will allow the integrity of planning processes, promoting a better linkage between conservation and development objectives.
- Not all natural protected areas can be direct beneficiaries from systems of compensation for ecosystem services; therefore, the financial responsibility of governments should be maintained.
- So far, the National Systems of Protected Areas do not optimally recognize the contribution, complementarity and conservation achievements of indigenous territories, community conserved areas and private properties



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After the 80 workshops and working groups organized around the 16 symposia of the congress, 2300 participants consented on the following **recommendations**:

Biodiversity Conservation

- Strengthen the promotion of regional systems and advance in the consolidation of national systems, both for terrestrial as marine protected areas.
- Decrease conservation gaps through strategies and tools for the management of natural resources within national conservation programs, with the participation of different actors. Such strategies should not be exclusively based on the implementation of the IUCN's management categories.
- Insert the issue of protected areas into the public policies of different sectors.
- Use spatial planning as a political and juridical instrument to facilitate the solution of socio-environmental conflicts around the protected areas.
- Highlight the threats that exotic species represent in each area and system of protected areas. Guarantee the implementation of management strategies that include education, prevention, prioritizing, control and eradication actions.

Management of Protected Areas

- The management of protected areas should integrate both material and intangible values allowing the encounter of diverse cosmovisions.
- Carry out participatory national assessments for governance models in relation to their capacities to achieve conservation and development goals in terrestrial and marine ecosystems and areas of high conservation value.
- Clearly define roles and competences of different public and private entities in the planning and management of protected areas.

Management Effectiveness Evaluation

- The tools for Management Effectiveness Evaluation must be adapted to reflect on the needs of the country and must be systematically applied, at different scales,

in coordination with the authorities from protected areas.

- For the Management Effectiveness Evaluation in terrestrial and marine areas, simple and low cost tools are required in order to facilitate self-assessment and the incorporation of results within a framework of adaptable management.

Private Protected Areas

- In the process of re-defining IUCN management categories, the inclusion and participation of different actors should be more explicit. Besides, the issue of conservation in private reserves, community conserved areas and urban areas should be addressed.
- Generate a dialogue at national level in order to reach consensus concerning key aspects related to private conservation such as tension between use and conservation, land ownership, perpetuity-temporality and juridical security
- Encourage the development of legal instruments, alliances, and networks of private protected areas, facilitating the composition of a social platform that would allow the positioning of private conservation as a significant instrument to complement governmental efforts.

Marine Protected Areas

- Enlarge the coverage of marine protected areas prioritizing the establishment of functional and resilient networks, including multiple use and strict preservation areas, which together will generate environmental, social and economic benefits.
- Marine protected areas and the ecosystem approach are two complementary tools that must be integral parts of national and regional fishing zoning plans.
- Marine protected areas must be recognized as tools that provide ecosystem, economic and social services crucial for society.

- Promote the use of international treaties and agreements as tools for the creation of regional and trans-zonal networks for marine protected areas.
- Prioritize ecological, social and economic research programs that can validate the decision making to establish and manage marine protected areas and their networks.
- Guarantee the access to public information on productive activities in the marine environment, specifically on fishing records.
- Potential oceanic areas must be identified, inside and outside the exclusive economic zone of countries, for the conservation of fishing resources and threatened species.

Community participation

- Promote the involvement and dialogue among the different sectors in order to improve the functionality of the landscape and identify through them the necessary measures for environmental protection, mitigation, restoration and compensation.
- Inform decision makers, not directly involved with protected areas management, but whose decisions might have an impact on National Systems of Protected Areas.
- Inform and agree on the management of each protected area firstly with the inhabitants of the area.

Traditional knowledge – indigenous issues

- Respect the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in the design and management of protected areas.
- Promote mechanisms for sharing of traditional and scientific knowledge and their integrated application.
- Respect the *sui generis* conservation systems and the protection of traditional knowledge on biodiversity.
- Promote policies and actions within the management of protected areas that would guarantee the fulfillment of indigenous peoples' rights, in agreement with the current national and international legal frameworks.

- Create and establish access mechanisms for indigenous people and local communities to technical and financial resources in order to consolidate management capacities concerning biodiversity, natural and territorial resources.

Spiritual values from protected areas

- Governmental and non-governmental organisms, the academy and technology must perform a facilitating role in the promotion of working experiences on cultural, social, and spiritual values of protected areas, specially related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Research

- Ensure a larger and more direct involvement of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, local communities and park-rangers in research projects.
- Ensure that research on functioning and management of protected areas responds to current and urgent questions.
- Promote specific efforts on interdisciplinary research.
- Establish innovative financial mechanisms for scientific research applied to protected areas.
- Increment initiatives for technology transfer that would allow improving the monitoring of changes in biodiversity in protected areas.

Information and Knowledge Management

- Promote accessible spaces that would improve the dissemination and exchange of scientific information.
- Promote interaction between information providers and managers of protected areas.
- Encourage governments of the region to spend financial and human resources necessary for a strategic knowledge management in protected areas, in order to improve their management effectiveness, according to national plans.

- Strengthening intra and inter generational knowledge sharing for the conservation of biological diversity.
 - Integrate environmental research, extension, monitoring and education actions for the development of experiences within an adapted management framework.
 - Identify and systematize experiences and good practices for the management of protected areas with special attention to tourism, fishing and forest activities (among other productive fields) and programs
 - Accelerate south-south, north-south and learning communities knowledge exchange, through the intensive use of existing mechanisms and tools.
- The diversity of stakeholders with responsibilities and shared competences in the management of protected areas.
 - Skills, demanded by the new forms of governance (communication, negotiation, facilitation, articulation of stakeholders y conflict management).
 - Create and consolidate training programs in the planning and management of protection, innovation and development of traditional and ancestral knowledge in protected areas. The strengthening of pedagogical negotiation skills with indigenous groups and communities.

Training

- Strengthening links and exchange between academic programs and technical training.
- Set long term goals to measure the impact of training programs, and facilitate follow up processes.
- Promote skill strengthening processes that incorporate:

Poverty Reduction

- Determine the level of effective contribution of protected areas to poverty reduction, through processes of analysis, development of information and shared learning mechanisms.
- Develop an articulated work among tourism and environment authorities, park and protected area managers, tourism entrepreneurs, local authorities, NGOs and local population to develop a systemic approach between tourism, protected areas and poverty reduction.



And now, what will we do?

The participants of the congress committed themselves to work within the following ACTION GUIDELINES

Management of protected areas

- Use follow-up tools to the implementation of international agreements and guidelines in order to achieve an effective management of protected areas in the region.
- Incorporate the ecosystem approach and the results of periodic effective management assessment to the systems of protected areas' planning process.

Marine Protected Areas

- Generate guidelines for the establishment of national and regional systems of protected areas, with special emphasis on marine protected areas and the improvement of the quality of life.
- Declare the period 2008 – 2018 as the Decade of the Marine Protected Areas
- Ask governments to prolong the coverage of Marine Protected areas in priority marine coast ecosystems until 2012.
- Consolidate a regional specialists network WCPA-Marine with the mission of formulating a Work Plan for the Decade of the MPA (2008 – 2018) that prioritizes focalized actions to the achievement of the goals for 2012.
- Impact in presidential meetings of the region to reinforce the commitment and accelerate the processes tending to achieve the goals for 2012.
- Prepare and implement educational programs to involve new generations in marine conservation.

Climate Change

- Promote the design of protected areas systems that would allow a better adaptation to the climate change, especially in key ecosystems that could be affected by catastrophic events.
- Based on scientific research processes in *páramo*, wetlands and marine ecosystems and their ecotones, identify vulnerabilities of protected areas to

climate change and establish mitigation and adaptation measures.

- Formulate a Latin-American proposal to the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) in order to monitor the impact of climate change in vulnerable protected areas and to propose policies and adaptation measures.

Cultural and spiritual values from Protected Areas

- Implement specific normative for the conservation of cultural, social and spiritual values from protected areas with the participation of aborigine groups and related stakeholders.
- Strengthen and implement spaces of special value, management categories or zoning of national systems of protected areas, which importance and objectives are identified from cultural, social and spiritual aspects.

Information Exchange Mechanisms

- Make compatible scientific information on biodiversity in Latin American protected areas, available through sub- regional, hemispheric and global networks.
- Propose IUCN the creation of a technical-scientific magazine that would permanently and systematically compile the research effort applied to protected areas in the Latin American region.
- Facilitate the creation of a regional market of experiences on spatial planning for the management of protected areas and river basins through UNDP, UNEP, OAS and FAO
- Construct an inventory on applied research networks that currently exists on protected areas in Latin America.
- Establish analysis, development and information processes and shared learning mechanisms to set and implement strategies to achieve the effective contribution of protected areas to poverty reduction.

Meetings, Forums, Platforms

- Ask to the pertinent instances the organization of a forum, to update policies and research protocols in protected areas
- Facilitate periodical meetings at a national level among IUCN Commissions, protected area services and science and technology national commissions.
- Organize, during 2008, a regional workshop on traditional and scientific knowledge (a dialogue of knowledge) on biodiversity (land and marine) and protected areas that will allow the alignment of priorities for the management of PA.
- Build an easy access virtual platform for the exchange of information concerning the strengthening of capacities, in order to ensure permanent contact between providers, users and sponsors.

Financing Mechanisms

- Strengthen the management of Environmental Funds as actors for the identification of new financial mechanisms and routing of new resources towards protected areas, promoting its capitalization and the increment of trust funds.
- Actively incorporating private enterprises in the funding of protected areas, through the development of new financial mechanisms.

Capacities of managers and responsible actors of Protected Areas

- Incorporate the new paradigms of conservation (ecosystem approach, spatial planning, and adaptation to climate change) into the training of park rangers, and administrators of protected areas.

- Incentive and promote, from private and public sectors, the consolidation of the Latin American Park Rangers network through a virtual platform for the exchange of experiences, learning and the generation of capacities.

Assessment of Effective Management

- Monitor the compliance of the Goals 2010 from the CBD on the evaluation of at least 30% of the protected areas.
- Unify criteria, indexes and methodologies for the Management Effectiveness Evaluation and Gaps Analysis in conservation until the year 2010.
- At least 50% of the National Services of Protected Areas from the Latin American Region must count, until the year 2010, with a program for Monitoring and Management Effectiveness Evaluation of their Protected Areas.

Compensation for Environmental Services

- Systematize and/or produce studies for the economic and social value of goods and services provided by protected areas.
- Promote international and national mechanisms and agreements that would facilitate the retribution to the protected areas for the services they provide, especially but not limited to, carbon, water, tourism and avoided deforestation issues.
- Establish portfolios of pilot projects on retribution for environmental benefits and develop legal and economical instruments that would allow their development and fair benefit sharing.

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