

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)

Kathy MacKinnon, United Kingdom

Personal:

Name: Kathy MacKinnon
Date of birth: 28 February 1948
Nationality: British

Education:

1966–1972 Oxford University, UK, Lady Margaret Hall
1969 Awarded B.A. (Hons) in Zoology
1976 D. Phil., Oxford
1976 M.A., Oxford

Current position

Since retiring from the World Bank in 2010, I have worked part-time as a freelance consultant but much of my time is dedicated to voluntary work for IUCN/WCPA where I serve as Vice Chair to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Vice-Chair on Climate Change. I am a Board Member for Botanic Gardens Conservation International and a member of the Supervisory Council of Wetlands International and also serve on the editorial boards of two conservation journals *Oryx* and *Biodiversity Conservation*. I am a visiting scholar at the Conservation Science Group of Cambridge University, UK.

Professional background

I have worked on conservation issues, protected area planning and management, for over forty years, especially in developing countries including 10 years living and working in Indonesia. My experience ranges from implementing management and research in protected areas, to system planning, developing sustainable finance mechanisms and mainstreaming biodiversity in development projects. I have been able to engage with conservation challenges from a variety of perspectives: implementing NGO programmes, as a government advisor, through university teaching and working for a major donor.

From 1994 to 2010, I worked as Lead Biodiversity Specialist in the Environment Department of the World Bank, supporting Bank and GEF-funded biodiversity projects globally, including protected area and natural resource management projects in Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. This involved working with a variety of stakeholders including government agencies and NGOs, local communities, indigenous peoples and the private sector as well as a range of different governance and management arrangements.

More recently I have been involved in efforts to integrate biodiversity and conservation into mainstream development and climate change programmes, including collaboration with WCPA on the *Natural Solutions* series which emphasizes the socio-economic benefits of protected areas and their role in helping communities cope with climate change. I have authored several books and numerous scientific articles on conservation topics, including species conservation (primates, tigers, squirrels), protected area planning and management and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change. In 2007 I was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, Society of Conservation Biology

Experience and past involvement with IUCN

I have had long-term involvement with IUCN programmes and Commissions (WCPA and SSC) since the 1980s and co-authored key IUCN publications such as *Managing Protected Areas in the Tropics*, and *IUCN Review of the Protected Area Systems in the Indo-Malayan and Afrotropical Realms*. While at the World Bank, I worked with IUCN on a range of issues, including forest programmes and REDD, as well as development of several IUCN-implemented projects on marine protected areas, local language field guides, the Global Invasive Species Programme and the Save Our Species

programme. Key products included several WCPA Best Practice Guidelines as well as the Arguments for Protection series and *Natural Solutions: Protected Areas helping people cope with climate change*.

Currently I serve as a Vice-Chair of WCPA, working closely with the Global Protected Areas Programme and leading the WCPA Climate Change Task Force. I am also a member of the joint WCPA-SSC Task Forces on *Biodiversity and Protected Areas* and *Managing Invasive Alien Species in Protected Areas*. On behalf of WCPA, I participated in IUCN delegations to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Rio Conventions as well as planning meetings for the new IUCN quadrennial programme and protected area initiatives.

Future priorities of the Commission

A main priority of the WCPA will be to help national stakeholders to implement the strategic programme of the CBD, especially target 11 which emphasizes ecological coverage, governance and connectivity as well as other Aichi targets relevant to more effective management of protected areas. This will be achieved by:

- Strengthening and expanding the WCPA network for better geographical representation to provide more support to protected area managers at the field level, whether staff of government agencies or local communities as these practitioners are at the front line of biodiversity conservation. This would be achieved through preparation of good practice guidelines, including translation into local languages, and dissemination through national and regional trainings and the World Parks Congress in 2014.
- Strengthened partnership and collaboration with the Global Protected Areas Programme to deliver capacity building under the BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management) project in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific and development of more joint projects to strengthen local capacity and share good practice.
- Expanding collaboration with other IUCN programmes e.g. Drylands and Forests. and Commissions, especially SSC and Ecosystem Management, to address new and critical management issues e.g. climate change; management of invasive alien species and ensure that protected area issues are better incorporated into land- and seascape management.
- Creating awareness among policymakers and the general public of the multiple values of protected areas and their relevance to critical environmental challenges so as to promote mainstreaming of protected areas into climate change strategies and sectoral development programmes e.g. water, energy, agriculture etc.
- Establishing task forces on key topics and collaborating closely with the CBD Secretariat and donors such as GEF, UNDP and USAID to ensure recognition of protected areas as critical components of sustainable development and adoption of good management practice.

Institutional support

Although I have no official affiliation with either organization, both Birdlife International and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, U.K., have generously offered space for meetings, office support and IT needs.