

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS (WCPA)

Ernesto Enkerlin-Hoeflich, Mexico

Personal

Name: Ernesto C. Enkerlin-Hoeflich
Date of Birth: 14 December 1958
Nationality: Mexican

Education

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E. 1980, major in Agronomy, minors in Animal Science and Ecology)
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. 1995, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences)

Current position

Professor and Dean for Sustainability, Monterrey Tech, Mexico

Professional background

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernesto_Enkerlin.

Prominent Mexican conservationist, environmentalist and researcher, specialized in parrots' ecology, environmental policy, sustainability and biodiversity stewardship. His efforts at the National Commission on Protected Areas of Mexico (CONANP), which he presided from 2001 to 2010, were distinguished with the 2005 Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation by UNESCO and one of the 2009 Distinguished Service Awards by the Society for Conservation Biology. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) awarded Enkerlin one of the 2008 Packard Awards and the Kenton Miller Award for Innovation in Protected Areas Conservation in 2009.

He has also worked as a research professor at the Center for Environmental Quality (ITESM) and as an adjunct research scientist for the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, in the United States.

As a conservationist, Dr. Enkerlin has worked for several NGOs and co-founded Amigos de la Naturaleza and Pronatura Noreste before joining the National Commission on Protected Areas by presidential appointment. During his tenure, Mexico increased its protected area coverage by almost 50% adding over 8 million hectares in different protected area categories. CONANP incorporated 26 new sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and received recognition for over 125 wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Additionally, Mexico incorporated Islands and Protected Areas of the Sea of Cortez (2005) and Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries (2009) as natural sites under the World Heritage Convention.

Experience and past involvement with IUCN

Member of WCPA since 1996, participant in the 2003 World Parks Congress and member of the drafting team of the Durban Accord and inputs of IUCN into the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resolutions and actions on protected areas. Participant, as part of the Mexican delegation, in several official meetings leading to the adoption of the CBD Plan of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA). Hosted the World Protected Areas Leadership Forum in 2006. Participant in IUCN convened workshops on POWPA and in WCC2004 and WCC2008. Participant in the workshop to revise and clarify the definition and categories of protected areas. Chairperson of the sessions to update the POWPA during COP9 in Bonn (105 bracketed text items were successfully negotiated). Biodiversity TAG (Technical Advisory Group) of GEF. Participated in advice on augmenting the financial portfolio to protected areas in the recent replenishment. Deputy Chair WCPA (Nov. 2010–).

Future priorities of the Commission

- Building on past success and innovating we need to do more, faster, better and larger. WCPA must reaffirm its role assisting members/governments in achieving just that.
- Protected areas continue to be the most cost effective, efficient and reliable tool for biodiversity conservation yet they are not by themselves sufficient to stem biodiversity loss. The message needs to be heard loud, clear and with convening power.
- Protected areas have also positioned themselves as providers of other ecosystem services and are a significant component and contributor to other societal values.
- Indigenous and rural communities need additional empowerment and incentives as frontline conservationists and we need more efforts to advance a variety of governance types.
- Protected area managers and staff should continue to be at the centre of our efforts.
- We need a “Green List” to show that we can have fantastic protected areas in every single region of the world. Get out the good news to every person in the world and bring out the pride, forget the doom and gloom.
- There is a need to continue and strengthen the good work done for protected areas by WCPA, Global Protected Areas Program (GPAP) and other areas within IUCN. Arrangement of the Secretariat is ideally suited to increase cooperation and synergies amongst the Commissions.
- The ONE Union approach and our Business Plan will also present new opportunities. Our renovated WCPA mandate to be approved in WCC 2012 will be of course a significant part of our road map.
- Very welcome secondments have been negotiated and generously provided by Canada, Colombia and the US. These should of course be continued or expanded but actual staff to increase the capabilities of the committed staff of GPAP in collaboration with other areas of IUCN are direly needed.
- Fundraising will be instrumental and the convening and actual capabilities of the future chair will be crucial.
- Efforts to be closer to members and to diversify in several aspects and repopulate our membership have to be expanded.
- The future Chair should have the ability to identify good opportunities to better serve the membership and to empower them to in turn serve conservation globally in their countries and regions.
- Wilderness is the most threatened of all. While the quantitative expansion of protected areas needs to continue and be promoted in a variety of categories a special and urgent effort needs to go to wilderness before it is too late.
- The 2014 World Parks Congress (WPC) represents a tremendous opportunity to move the conservation agenda another leap forward. We need to tap on all support from IUCN, our hosts and supporters such that the GPAP is not overburdened and can continue delivering on the conservation agenda while participating to insure the success of the WPC.
- The threat of climate change to biodiversity has come much faster and in a different form. Globally resources are being massively redirected from conservation to mitigation and adaptation. Schemes like REDD++ or our own “Natural Solutions” are a response but much more needs to be done such that this unfortunate dichotomy is resolved in ways that it addresses both and on the ground and in national policies.
- Quoting Sylvia Earle: “No blue, no green”. It is imperative to advance marine conservation both near shore in national waters and be a strong participant in an international regime for conservation beyond national jurisdiction. WCPA/IUCN is ideally suited for that.

Institutional support

Institutional support will not be a limiting factor. Additionally, funding would be available to support the Chair position in case elected.