

An aerial photograph of a dense, vibrant green forest. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, mosaic-like appearance. A small, bright yellow patch is visible on a tree in the upper center of the frame. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting a healthy, undisturbed ecosystem.

“Imagine a region of land and sea stretching from the snowy peaks of the Himalayas, through temperate woodlands and sub-tropical mixed forests to the equatorial jungles, great rivers, lakes and mangroves further south. Imagine it is fringed by glorious sandy beaches with strange coves of limestone cave-riddled cliffs and pinnacles.....can we still witness these riches?”

MacKinnon & Villamour 2004

ASEAN's Greatest Parks – the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme













COUNTRY	World Heritage Sites	ASEAN Heritage Parks	Biosphere Reserves	Geoparks	Ramsar Sites
Afghanistan					
Bangladesh					2
Bhutan					2
Brunei Darussalam		1			
Cambodia		2	1		3
China PR	14		32	27	41
India	6		9		26
Indonesia	4	3	8	1	6
Japan	4		5	5	46
Korea (DPR)			3		
Korea (Republic of)	1		5	1	18
Lao PDR		1			2
Malaysia	2	3	1	1	6
Maldives			1		
Mongolia	1		6		11
Myanmar		7			1
Nepal	2				9
Pakistan			2		19
Philippines	2	4	2		6
Singapore		2			
Sri Lanka	2		4		6
Thailand	2	4	4		13
Timor Leste					
Viet Nam	2	5	8	1	5
TOTAL	42	32	91	36	222

Regional Protected Area Collaboration across Asia

Peter Shadie

1st Asia Parks Congress, Sendai Japan

November 2013



The Asian Century

By 2050

- A 6-fold increase in per capita incomes
- 3 billion more Asians affluent by today's European standards
- 7 Asian economies will total 90% of Asia's GDP and 45% of global GDP
- Improved regional collaboration a key to continuing this trajectory and the march toward increased and sustainable prosperity

Other calls for collaboration

- MEAs – by definition all advocate for greater international collaboration. For protected areas especially CBD, World Heritage, Ramsar, CITES, CMS.
- IUCN/WCPA – 3 sub regions have a history of protected area collaboration since the 1990s: sub-regional conferences and regional action plans.
- Nearly 90% support from 2010 survey for some form of regional scale system/cooperation
- Regional Economic Cooperation Mechanisms – APEC, ASEAN, SAARC, ECO etc.
- Move to protected area standards and benchmarking – IUCN's Green List of Well Managed Protected Areas

Benefits of a Pan-Asia collaborative system:

- 1.** enhance regional collaboration, partnership building and capacity sharing;
- 2.** foster a culture of healthy internal competition to improve the quality of protected area management within the region;
- 3.** build stronger pan-Asian tourism branding and marketing of the region's protected areas; and
- 4.** setting and sharing common protected area management standards

Learning from others

- Natura 2000
- Europarc Federation
- European sub regional networks – MedPAN & European Green Belt
- ASEAN Heritage Parks
- Redparques
- CEO Forums - WPALF
- PA Associations – Parks Forum
- International Ranger Federation
- WCPA Asia

Lessons for Asia - seven factors for success

1. Embrace diversity
2. A site level focus
3. Ensure a network adds value
4. Build partnerships and alliances with care
5. Nurture the glue that holds the network together
6. Light & effective governance & bureaucracy
7. The challenge of financial sustainability

Where to from here?

- Introductory presentation - plenary
- More detailed presentation and discussions at 'International Collaboration for Protected Areas' WG
- Draft WPC Message on Regional Collaboration
- Seek feedback & degree of engagement
 - WG 5 drafting revisions to message
 - MOE-J informal meeting of interested parties
 - Regional collaboration will be an undercurrent of other WG discussions
 - Side meetings such as Korean National Park Service on 15th Nov
- Suggested roadmap within the Discussion Paper - Pan Asia Protected Area Collaborative Working Group

APC Message to the WPC

1. Regional scale support makes sense
2. Urge WPC organizers to be sensitive to regional contexts
3. Regional collaboration driven by move to set standards
4. Objectives for regional collaborative networks
5. Highlighting the seven factors for success
6. Call upon Asian regional leaders to commit to action
7. Call upon the global protected area community to systematically establish regional scale networks around the world

In conclusion

- Start small, learn and grow – Protected area institutions and Ministries of Environment
- Take advantage of other networks and especially ASEAN Heritage Parks
- Respect existing networks so operate at a pan-Asian scale linked to cycle of WPCs
- We need a few committed partners (Governments, NGOs, international organisations etc) to provide the necessary momentum
- Seize the moment

Thank you for listening!

