

Regional Protected Area Collaboration across Asia

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Discussion paper

- What does Asia need? This should be the major focus of the discussions here in Sendai
- Review other regional PA mechanisms
 - History & motivation for establishment
 - Objectives, programmes & activities
 - Political support
 - Governance
 - Funding model & secrets of sustainability
 - Strengths & weaknesses
- Lessons for Asia
- A way forward

ADB's call for enhanced regional cooperation

For protected areas:

- cementing the gains for protected areas in the last 50 years;
- building bridges to the rest of the world;
- balancing inequities between extremely diverse countries;
- better managing the common heritage of the region; and
- providing a shared approach to dealing with global challenges such as climate change, invasive alien species, tourism impact or human wildlife conflicts

Learning from others

➤ Natura 2000

- Created in 2004 out of the Birds Directive 1979 & Habitats Directive 1992
- Nature 2000 is a legally binding designation process whereas the others are more organizational networks

➤ Europarc Federation

- NGO with 40 years of sustained support – founded 1973
- 400 members in 35 countries

➤ European sub regional networks

- MedPAN – Mediterranean MPA network
- European Green Belt – former Iron Curtain corridor initiative

Learning from others

➤ ASEAN Heritage Parks

- Created 2003. 32 AHPs in 10 members states
- Role of ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

➤ Redparques

- Created 1983. A technical alliance of PA public institutions across 19 Latin American countries
- Support from donors – FAO a foundation donor

➤ CEO Forums

- Focus on IUCN World PA Leadership Forum launched in 2000

➤ PA Associations

- Regional level – e.g. Parks Forum – formed 2004 (Australia-NZ but now expanding to UK , Canada & USA)

Learning from others

➤ International Ranger Federation

- A global Federation of national scale Ranger and Park Warden Associations
- IRF hold global Congresses every 3 years

➤ WCPA Asia

- Focus on the potential of the WCPA to collaborate at the pan-Asia scale
- WCPA Asia reverted to three sub regions following the WCC 2012

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

Embrace diversity

- Asia is extremely diverse and different approaches to addressing protected area issues will be legitimate in different contexts
- The natural sub-regions of Asia (South Asia, East Asia and Southeast Asia) should be accommodated whilst embracing a pan-Asia perspective on protected area issues
- Accommodate the needs of diverse membership (institutions, sites and individuals)
- Existing networks at a sub-regional scale such as the ASEAN Heritage Parks should be accommodated to complement pan-Asian efforts

Site level focus

- Experience shows that building a network around protected areas themselves has a galvanizing effect.
- Sites become emblematic symbols of the network
- Members of the network and other protected area stakeholders are reassured that network efforts are directed at conservation on the ground
- However attention is needed for sites other than those formally recognized in the system

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

Add value

- A collaborative network should foster bilateral cooperation between its members which adds value to what is already underway.
- Network functions such as facilitating, convening, brokering, fostering innovation, setting standards and offering economies of scale are known to be valued by members.
- Be the voice for protected areas across the region

Partnerships & alliances

- Careful partnering can strengthen the network and add legitimacy. Credible regional institutions, especially intergovernmental are seen to add weight to the network.
- Strategic alliances for example with regional and national tourism interests and/or with regional economic cooperation mechanisms such as ASEAN or SAARC can also add significant credibility and influence.

The glue that holds networks together

- Experience has shown that several network services/products are keys to successful collaboration
- Network activities which facilitate exchange of knowledge and the sharing of solutions to common problems are the most highly valued by members
- Regular regional conferences or gatherings of the protected area community
- Web-based knowledge service
- Mechanisms that promote and share innovation

Light touch governance & bureaucracy

- Successful networks have a governance structure that is responsive to the needs of the network without being overly complex and bureaucratic.
- Having a small dedicated secretariat is essential to support other strategic and decision-making governance structures.
- An entrepreneurial capacity is also a valuable asset to successful networks

Financial sustainability

- Even for long established and politically powerful networks achieving financial security is elusive
- Business models which are based on diverse funding sources and income streams seem to be the most resilient
- Significant underwriting of operational expenses via realistic membership fees.
- The separation of an establishment phase from an operational phase with potentially different financing is a positive approach

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. Seven factors for success
6. Call upon Asian regional leaders to commit to action
7. Call upon the global PA community to systematically establish networks around the world

The way forward

- Preliminary analysis to start a process so premature to spell out detailed modalities
- Re-test demand based on more detailed concepts
- Network at pan-Asia scale and linked to 10 yrly WPCs. Five yrly APCs could act as regional mid term reviews
- Network embedded in IUCN's framework and helping to build a stronger WCPA Asia
- Pan Asia Protected Area Collaborative Working Group proposed with an outline workplan focus
- Launch the network at WPC 2014?
- Use key international/regional events to gain momentum
- Message to WPC



Thank you for listening!