



New Developments with the World Database on Protected Areas

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Introduction

- ◆ This report gives discusses various options for redeveloping the WDPA
- ◆ Discussion of current situation
- ◆ Suggested improvements and enhancements
- ◆ Still significant room for amendments to these ideas!

Background on WDPA

- ◆ Established in 1981
- ◆ Only comprehensive global inventory of the world's protected areas
- ◆ WDPA consortium aids in distribution of data for Durban Parks Congress
- ◆ Since 2002, WDPA provides regular statistical and analytical information for the Millennium Development Goals, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Convention on Biological Diversity processes.
- ◆ Data comes in through:
 - UN List Process - every 3-5 years
 - Targeted requests for country data
 - Convention secretariats and advisory bodies for international protected areas including World heritage Sites and MAB
- ◆ Approximately 117,000 records and growing
- ◆ Foundation dataset for conservation

Some of the many issues

- ◆ Internal assessment uncovers technical issues
 - Not fully relational
 - lack of adequate documentation (metadata)
 - Lack of internal management standards
 - lack of automated quality control standards and protocols
 - lack of backend database tools to manage and summarise data
 - External assessment funded by TNC currently underway
- ◆ Huge capacity issue if current system continues
- ◆ Political issues
 - Poor performance threatens usefulness, funding and other support
 - Need for this information continues to grow

Background to Redevelopment

- ◆ First talked about in 2001
- ◆ Funding: Proteus Partnership
 - Began in 2002 between energy and IT companies to support many facets of work at UNEP-WCMC
 - Goal was to transition Centre data holdings into a cohesive set of linked databases.
 - In 2006, UNEP-WCMC begins transition under **new management**
 - Proteus changes to **support WDPA only**
 - Starting June 1, **USD 1 million** to be invested by UNEP-WCMC to support WDPA overhaul

The WDPA and Proteus Project vision...

*To create a **decentralised**, user-friendly, up-to-date system for storing, managing, and **reporting on trends in coverage** for all the world's protected areas - conforming to best practice techniques and providing a platform that allows for the easy **integration of other conservation datasets and user opinion**.*

Discussions have begun to **remove commercial restriction** from WDPA if sustainable funding can be secured.

Redevelopment timeline



Stage 1: Scoping

- June - Dec. 2006
- User needs analysis
 - Online
 - Interview
 - Meetings
 - other fora



Stage 2: Development

- Jan - Sept 2007
- Back-end relational database
- Spatial data management system
- Front-end management tool
- Vastly improved website



Stage 3: Refinements, Launch

- Late 2007
- Redevelopment phase ends at end of year

Key points

- ◆ Need to differentiate between and accommodate for “official” UN List and WDPA
- ◆ WDPA would continue to be the best expert opinion on the world’s protected area system
- ◆ WCPA would be the gatekeepers to that expert opinion
- ◆ New system would accommodate any valid data and provide credit to the source

Suggestions so far...

- ◆ The WDPA must allow for other protected area datasets to be included beyond those from national government authorities (e.g. from WCPA, NGOs)
- ◆ More complete global coverage is necessary to do complete global analysis
- ◆ Boundary information is not adequate
- ◆ More metadata is needed especially in regards to original sources of protected areas data
- ◆ Instruction in the use of the WDPA data must be better explained
- ◆ More web tools for querying the database need to be developed
- ◆ Decentralising management of protected area data to regional entities will alleviate demands placed upon UNEP-WCMC
- ◆ Allowing for other alternative viewpoints from numerous sources to be given on protected areas (Wiki functionality) will empower the conservation community and ultimately improve WDPA content
- ◆ Associating other data sources and projects with the WDPA data (e.g. information on management effectiveness, tourism statistics, community displacement, poverty, etc.) will allow for a much greater depth of analysis to be accomplished and in a shorter time frame
- ◆ Create data warehouse for CBD countries to upload and share Gap Analysis data

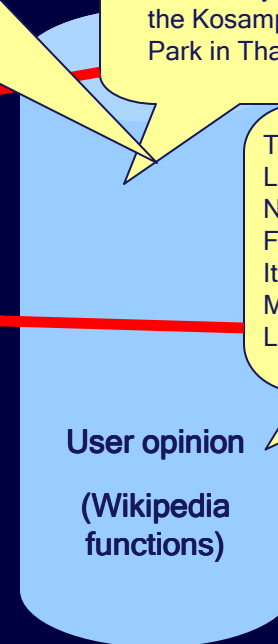
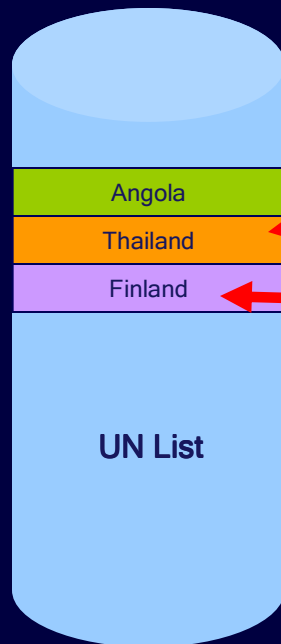
Overview of WDPAs new

Look at my photo of an elephant!



Here is my bird list for the Kosamphi Forest Park in Thailand

The Myllylän Luonnonsuojelualue Nature Reserve in Finland is spelled wrong. It should be spelled, Myllylän Luonnonsuojelualue.



Decentralising WDPA management

◆ Current situation:

- Authority to manage PA info generally resides with **national governments**
- Some countries have **numerous authorities** (USA, Australia, Brazil, etc)
- WDPA contacts database has over **500 records**

◆ Our Vision:

- to **decentralise** the management of updating PA data by allowing countries and regional entities to interact directly with the WDPA.

Decentralising WDPA management

- ◆ Already working with European Environmental Agency to manage all European country data and provide yearly updates to WDPA
 - Still waiting for spatial data
- ◆ Looking to expand this capability within IABIN, looking for other strong partners (?)
- ◆ Following features must be developed:
 - Web enabled application that allows for spatial and non-spatial **data to be uploaded** through the internet
 - Users would be invited to contribute and **validated** through the issuance of a username/password
 - Validation functions to ensure data is **formatted correctly** in terms of spatial attributes, IUCN categories, dates of establishment, etc. would be implemented on uploaded data
 - Archiving, versioning to be built in
 - For regional entities, **databases must communicate directly**
- ◆ Important to note that regardless of hosting arrangements, IUCN-WCPA/UNEP-WCMC must retain **copyright** of the WDPA and management of the data

Other features to be developed

- ◆ Capability to handle zonation within PAs
 - Separate polygons for same protected area could accommodate different IUCN management categories
- ◆ Accommodate Community Conserved Areas
 - Could double the amount (!!) of protected areas in the system
- ◆ Add fields that correspond to governance types (from matrix)

WDPA **new website** functionality

- ◆ Goal is to put power into hands of users
- ◆ The following types of web features are proposed to be developed for the new WDPA:
 - Simple search engine using Boolean operators (AND, OR) and other Google-type functionality to find protected areas.
 - Advanced search engine that allow sites to be discovered based upon multiple criteria including:
 - ◆ Region (UN region, UN Millennium Development Goal region, IUCN World Commission on Protected Area Region, etc.)
 - ◆ country,
 - ◆ IUCN protected area category,
 - ◆ date of establishment,
 - ◆ marine or terrestrial
 - ◆ “official” data or WCPA, etc. data
 - ◆ etc.

WDPA **new website** functionality

- ◆ Online **charting tool showing growth** of PAs customizable by adding or deleting specific country data, using UN regions, UN Millennium Development Goal regions, IUCN World Commission on Protected Area Regions, the trend line, colour, scale (metric or US), interval, etc.
- ◆ Online tool to allow **search engine results to be exported** in spreadsheet format, GIS shape file, or viewed online in web pages
- ◆ Specific **spreadsheets, charts and graphs showing growth** in Ramsar Sites, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Man and the Biosphere Sites and other international designations.
- ◆ Also spreadsheets, charts and graphs of **international sites** by various regions.
- ◆ Options to see PAs in all available **3-D and 2-D viewers** including ArcIMS, Google Earth, ArcGIS Explorer, NASA Whirlwind, etc.
- ◆ **Simple overlay analysis** with other conservation datasets including IBAs, EBAs, Hotspots, Global 200 Ecoregions, etc.
- ◆ Need more ideas from users!

WCPA actions

- ◆ Resolution was given at WCPA Steering Committee last month advocating redevelopment direction
- ◆ Closer engagement with the processes
 - technical (IT Task Force),
 - strategic (Categories Task Force, TILCEPA, etc.)
- ◆ Regional and thematic VCs to become part of data collection, validation process

Still to be resolved

- ◆ Governance of WDPA
 - First meeting about this was last week in Cambridge
- ◆ Sustainable financing
 - Energizing WCPA regions and Vice Chairs to help
 - Looking for financial partners

Thank You!

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