National Action for Protected Areas

Key messages for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

UNEP

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Contents

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity received 105 formal submissions from countries for Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA. These plans are available at http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/. This brochure showcases a number of examples from the action plans as well as from the PoWPA web portal: specifically from the Implementation Highlights webpage at http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/ and from the E-Learning Curricula, hosted by ConservationTraining, at http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/. In addition, contributions from Sub-Regional Capacity Building Workshops for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA were also highlighted.

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Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
ISBN: # 92-9225-442-1 (English print version); ISBN #: 92-9225-443-X (English web version)

Citation: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2012. National Action for Protected Areas: Key messages for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada. 60 pages.

Foreword

Protected areas are a vital policy mechanism and management tool to protect and preserve the worlds' natural, cultural, social and economic assets. The flows of economically valuable goods and services that are derived from protected areas enhance human health and well being. For example, 33 out of 105 of the Earth's largest cities obtain their clean water from protected areas. Securing viable systems of protected areas across landscapes and seascapes ensures ecosystem goods and services, enables adaptation to climate change, conserves biodiversity, facilitates sustainable livelihoods, and allows the continuation of traditional socio-cultural practices.

As Parties work towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, there is a need to showcase examples that drive implementation. This brochure reveals progress on the programme of work on protected areas through an exploration of cases that demonstrate positive paths for implementation.

The programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) is cited as being one of the most implemented programmes, but rarely are direct connections made between national or on the ground action and accomplishment. The formulation and submission of Country Action Plans for the Implementation of the CBD PoWPA provides an opportunity to present examples that demonstrate the political will necessary to transition from policy to realization.

We thank all those who have contributed in the preparation of this document, especially the 105 countries for the formal submission of Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA and for the wealth of information they have chosen to share with us. I express my deepest gratitude to the European Union for making available the resources for organising the regional capacity building workshops and also to publish this brochure in time for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. We trust that the examples expressed in this publication will be of value to many and inspire action.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Introduction

Currently some 13% of the world's terrestrial surface and 4% of marine areas (0-200 nautical miles) under national jurisdiction is protected. These areas serve to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. However, it is well known that they face multiple drivers of change and threats that contribute to their decline and degradation. As our conceptions of the roles and functions of protected areas evolve over the coming decade, we expect that corresponding adjustments in policy will allow protected areas to continue contributing to livelihoods and cultural practices, generating tourism revenues, bolstering local and national economies, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and providing habitat for populations and species.

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas or PoWPA of the CBD is an international agreement establishing a flexible framework for the designation and management of ecologically representative, integrated, participatory and sustainable systems of protected areas that stretch across landscapes and seascapes. The PoWPA is a cornerstone for viable systems of protected areas and for the cooperation—between many stakeholders such as governments (at all levels), donors, international conservation organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local and indigenous communities—needed to create this over the coming decades.

The international protected area community and the Parties to the Convention have hailed the PoWPA as the most implemented programme of the CBD and as a successful initiative[1]. Implementation of the PoWPA contributes to achieving the objectives of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Millennium Development Goals, the pursuit of sustainable development, including poverty reduction, and has lead to success:

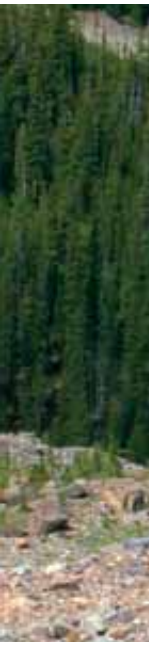
» Protected area growth was the only biodiversity indicator in the third Global Biodiversity Outlook (2010) that showed a positive trend.
» 49% of the 588 Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and 41% of 10,990 Important Bird Areas are under protection.
» The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species shows that while the status of the world's mammals, birds and amphibians is declining, the trends would have been considerably worse without establishing protected areas.

With over 150 designated national focal points and almost 50 partners in the PoWPA Friends Consortium, the PoWPA not only fosters cooperation and partnership but also coordinates implementation. Following a series of regional capacity building workshops held with focal points and partners from 2011-2012, over one hundred countries developed and formally submitted National Action Plans for the Implementation of the CBD PoWPA. This brochure summarizes the status of implementation of the PoWPA as well as a number of case examples extracted from these action plans and the PoWPA website[2]. Status and examples are showcased by 15 themes that reflect the goals of the PoWPA.

[1] Decision VII/28, annex.

[2] http://www.cbd.int/protected/

The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** sets a number of targets including **Aichi Biodiversity Target 11** which aims to conserve at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes by 2020.



To translate Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the **Philippines envision** achieving the following by 2020:

1. 50% of the protected areas established under the National Integrated Protected Areas System are joined by 3 ecological corridors and new protected areas should cover 80% of threatened species;
2. 50% of protected areas have full time Protected Area Superintendents and core staff effectively implementing their respective management plans through the direction of their respective management boards;
3. The policy environment and mechanism for recognition of community conserved areas as another mode of protecting biodiversity are in place and 10 community conserved areas are duly registered in the world database and monitored;
4. At least 75% of the core funding for protected areas is secured and sustainably managed through a trust fund and that other modes of funding mechanisms are initiated in at least 30 protected areas; and
5. At least 10 of the priority protected areas are integral component of the national climate adaptation strategy.

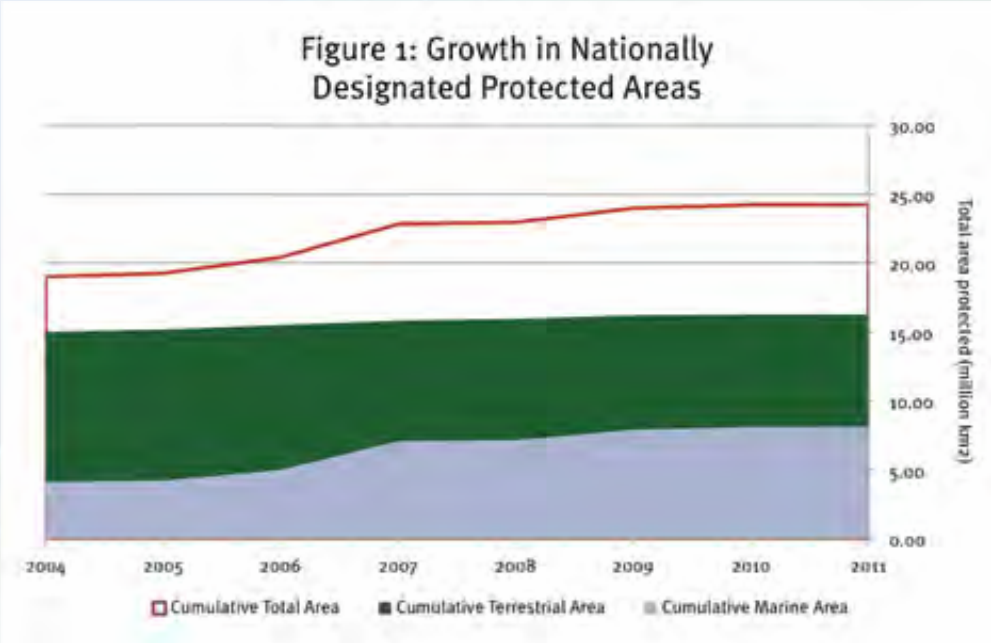
Source: Philippines's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

Establishing and Strengthening Protected Area Sites and Systems

THEME 1:

Increase in Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas

From 2004 (when PoWPA was adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties) to 2011, coverage for terrestrial protected areas increased by over 1,29 million sq km and marine protected areas by 3,97 million sq km. Working towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, 50 Parties to the Convention have 17% or more of their terrestrial surface area under protection, 30 Parties have 10% or more of their territorial sea area protected and 17% of the area for 7 of 14 terrestrial biomes is protected across the planet. Furthermore, by 2011, 17% of the area in 33% of the world's 823 terrestrial ecoregions is protected and 10% of the area in 13% of the world's 232 marine ecoregions is protected.



Ecuador designated a new marine protected area "**Puntilla de Santa Elena**" on 23 September 2008. The new protected area covering 47,000 ha including littoral and coral systems will protect rich marine biodiversity including some 120 migratory and resident bird species such as pelicans, albatross, flamingos, sterns, and marine mammals, including whales and sea lions. The area also promotes sustainable tourism and facilitates the generation of resources to strengthen livelihood security of local people through public-private partnerships.

Source: Government of Ecuador. "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/

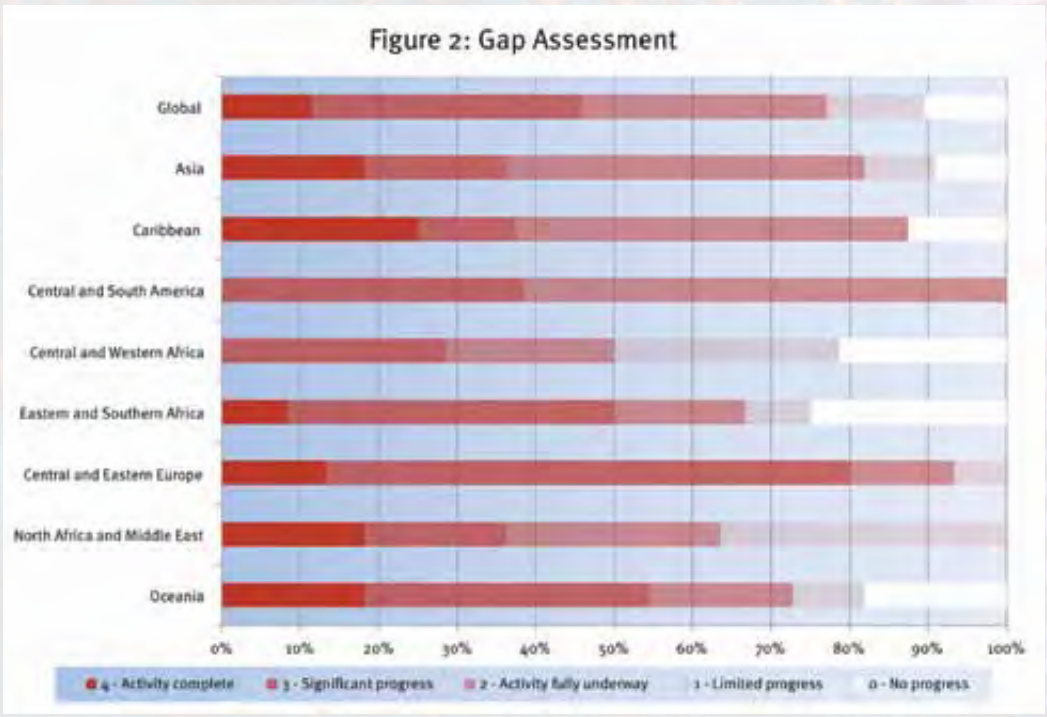
In 2009, the Government of **Canada** expanded **Nahanni National Park Reserve** to 30,000 sq km, more than six times its previous size, making it one of Canada's greatest conservation achievements in a generation. Nahanni National Park Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located in the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories in the traditional territory of the Dehcho First Nations. Parks Canada and the Dehcho First Nations have worked together over many years to better protect the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem.

Source: Government of Canada. "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/

THEME 2:

Gap Assessment

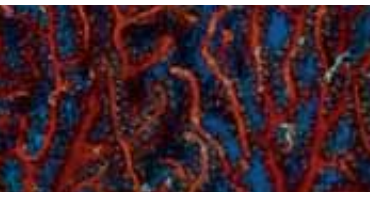
In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 46% of countries reported significant or greater progress in establishing and strengthening national systems of protected areas and 55% reported having completed an ecological gap assessment (additionally, 5 assessments are underway). This represents a 15% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 2 demonstrates that Central and Eastern Europe (80%), followed by Oceania (54%) and Eastern and Southern Africa (50%) exceed the current global average.

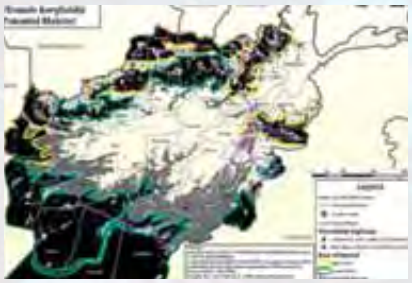


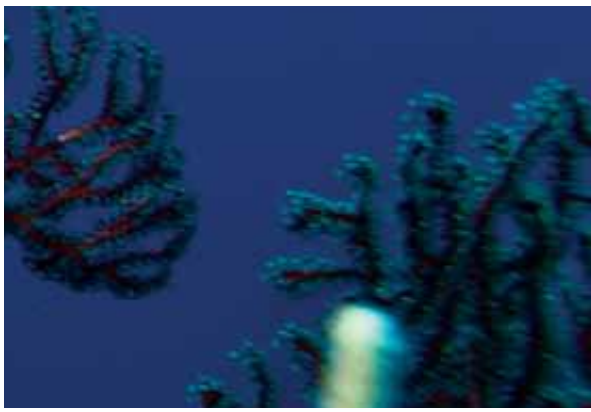
Jamaica's marine gap assessment aimed to design a marine protected area (MPA) network that conserves species, communities and ecosystems, guides conservation actions, and provides a scientific basis and methodology for island-wide conservation planning and sustainable development. The first step was to stratify the marine environment in order to account for spatial and genetic variation and to ensure representation and resilience. Working with a variety of stakeholders, the team identified a range of species and ecosystems, mapped these using the best available data or methods, and set conservation and protection goals for each. Marxan software was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the current MPA network in representing biodiversity and determining what the most efficient configuration of protected areas would be to meet the protection goals. It was found that current marine protected areas encompass more than 10% of the marine shelf and that existing protected areas were generally too small and spatially disconnected to capture large seascape functions. Several potential solutions were reviewed by stakeholders and a final suite of areas was selected to meet conservation goals.

Reference: Corrigan, C., J. Ervin, P. Kramer, and Z. Ferdaña. 2007. "A Quick Guide to Conducting Marine Ecological Gap Assessments." Protected Area Quick Guide Series editor, J. Ervin. Arlington, VA: The Nature Conservancy. 21 pages http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/patools/resources/gapassessment/gapdocs/marinegapquickguide/view.html

Source: Programme of Work on Protected Areas, Module 18 Marine Protected Areas, Lesson 1: An Overview of MPA Network Design, available at http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/default.shtml







In **Afghanistan**, to build upon the one existing protected area, the **gap assessment** team began by identifying areas of high biodiversity within the country. The analysis included ecoregion distribution and definition of land units that contain distinctive combinations of climate, ecological features, flora, and fauna. The team then looked at Afghanistan's plant communities, including data on elevation and location, and faunal communities, including data on species ranges, habitat preference, feeding preferences, historical studies, and projected ranges. The team also factored in areas of high risk from war and civil unrest.

Source: Programme of Work on Protected Areas, Module 1 Protected Areas Design, Lesson 2: Conducting a Gap Assessment, available at http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/default.shtml

THEME 3:

Integration into Broader Landscapes and Seascapes

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 15.6% of countries reported significant or greater progress in integrating protected areas into broader landscapes and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function and 13% reported having completed integration and mainstreaming assessments for protected areas (additionally, 7 are underway). This represents a 1.7% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 3 demonstrates that Central and Eastern Europe (33%), Oceania (27%), and Central and Western Africa (21%) exceed the current global average.

In 2011, the **Fiji** Department of Environment released a draft **Integrated Coastal Management** (ICM) Framework as stipulated under the *2005 Environment Management Act* (EMA), Section 3(8). The ICM Framework reviews current coastal conditions in the context of tourism development, coral reef degradation, siltation and erosion, harvesting of marine resources, waste management, coastal reclamation, construction, and natural disasters, among others, as well as assesses the current legal and institutional governing framework so as to recommend proposals for action and policies towards sustainable coastal resource management. It describes how protected areas can be integrated into coastal zone planning as a strategy for sustainable management of coastal resources.

Source: Fiji's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

In 2000 **Ukraine** adopted the **National Programme on Econet**. Extending until 2015, the Programme is part of the Pan-European Ecological Network and operates within the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (www.peblds.org/) that aims to ensure a full range of ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes of European importance is conserved; habitats are large enough to place species in a favourable conservation status; there are sufficient opportunities for the dispersal and migration of species; damaged parts of the key environmental systems are restored; the key environmental systems are buffered from potential threats. This framework is one of the main determinants of spatial planning in Ukraine. Currently, 9 large corridors of national importance are designated and for 5 of them draft schemes have been developed. At the district level, 21 regional schemes for Econet have been developed, of which 4 are approved. For example, the Planning Chart of the Lviv Region outlines the development of two ecological corridors of national importance: Galytsko-Slobojanskiy (latitudinal) and Dnistrovskyi (longitudinal).

Source: Ukraine's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

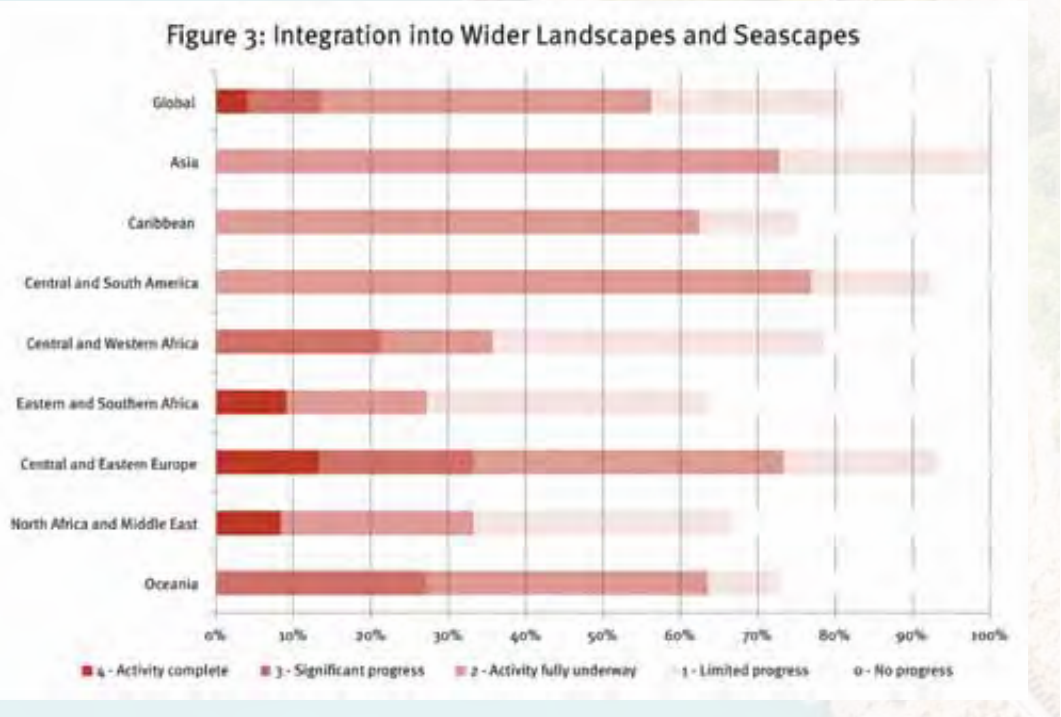


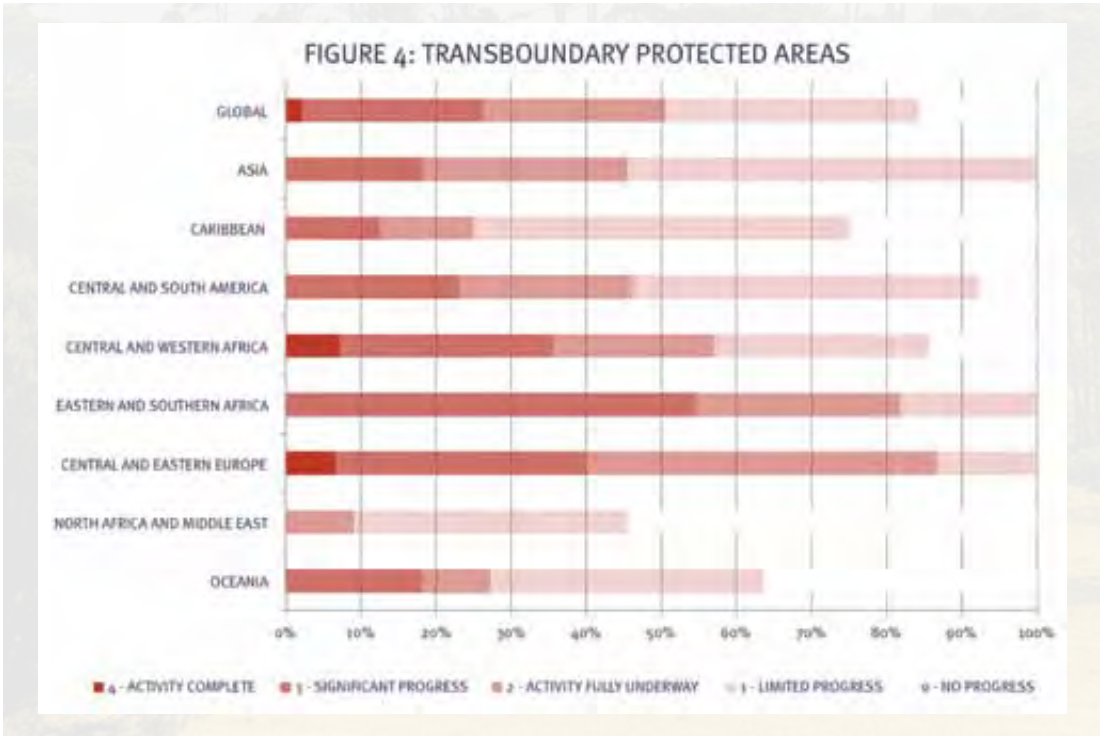
Figure 3: Integration into Wider Landscapes and Seascapes
Global
Asia
Caribbean
Central and South America
Central and Western Africa
Eastern and Southern Africa
Central and Eastern Europe
North Africa and Middle East
Oceania
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
4 - Activity complete
3 - Significant progress
2 - Activity fully underway
1 - Limited progress
0 - No progress

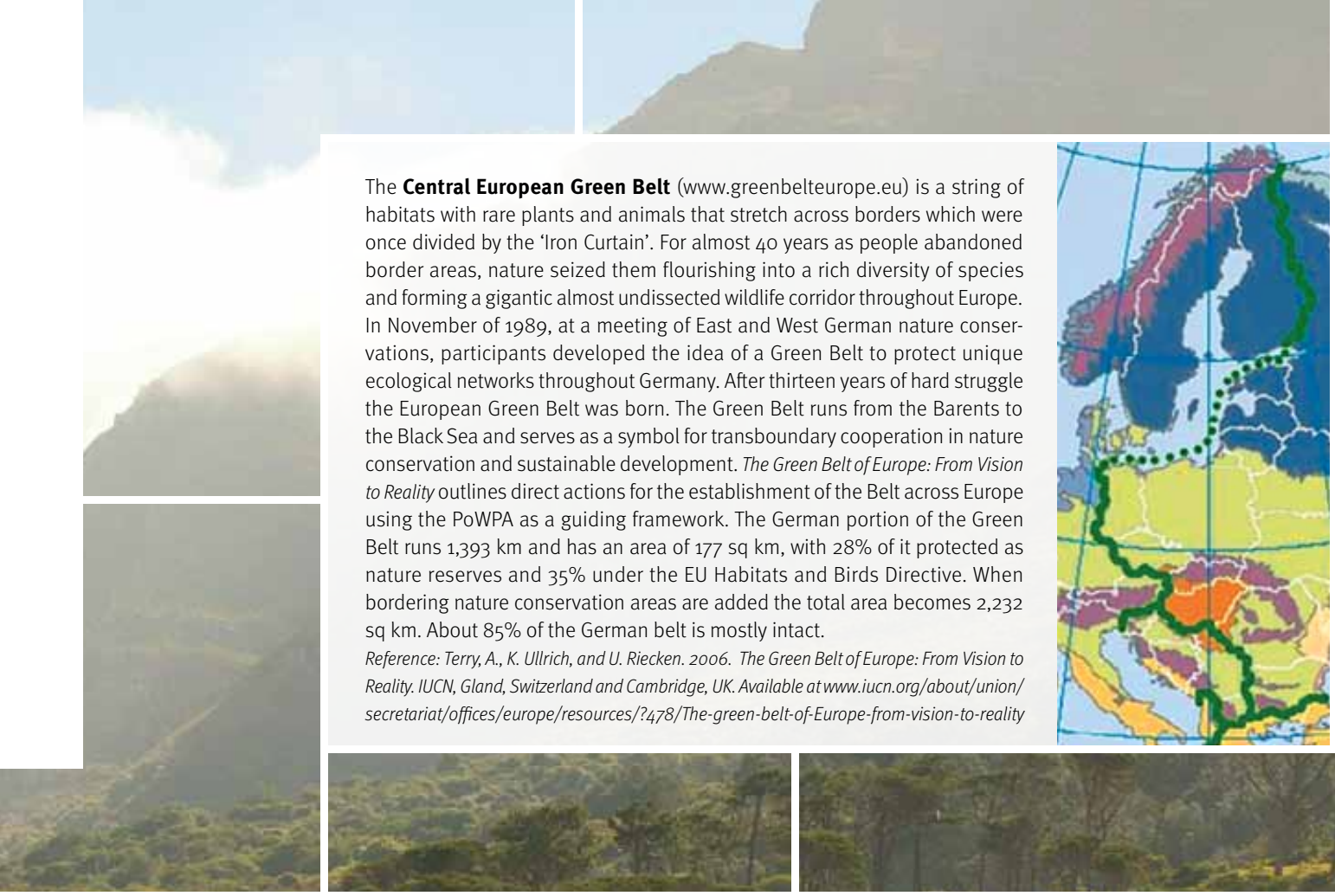
THEME 4:

Transboundary Protected Areas

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 25% of countries reported significant or greater progress in establishing and strengthening regional networks, transboundary protected areas and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries. This represents an 8.2% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 4 demonstrates that Eastern and Southern Africa (54%), Central and Eastern Europe (40%) and Central and Western Africa (36%) exceed the current global average.

Some regional protected area networks include the Meso-America Regional Network, the Alpine Protected Area network, the Pan European Ecological Network, the Central Africa Network of Protected areas, the Marine Protected Areas Network for the Western Indian Ocean Countries, and Transnational River Basin Districts on the Eastern Side of the Baltic Sea Network. Some transboundary initiatives include *inter alia*: KAZA (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia) initiative; the Gobi desert reserves and Altai mountain reserves between China and Mongolia; Danube Delta and Prut river initiative between Romania, Ukraine and Moldova; and the Eastern Carpathian migratory corridor (Polish-Slovak-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve).





The **Central European Green Belt** (www.greenbelteurope.eu) is a string of habitats with rare plants and animals that stretch across borders which were once divided by the 'Iron Curtain'. For almost 40 years as people abandoned border areas, nature seized them flourishing into a rich diversity of species and forming a gigantic almost undissected wildlife corridor throughout Europe. In November of 1989, at a meeting of East and West German nature conservations, participants developed the idea of a Green Belt to protect unique ecological networks throughout Germany. After thirteen years of hard struggle the European Green Belt was born. The Green Belt runs from the Barents to the Black Sea and serves as a symbol for transboundary cooperation in nature conservation and sustainable development. *The Green Belt of Europe: From Vision to Reality* outlines direct actions for the establishment of the Belt across Europe using the PoWPA as a guiding framework. The German portion of the Green Belt runs 1,393 km and has an area of 177 sq km, with 28% of it protected as nature reserves and 35% under the EU Habitats and Birds Directive. When bordering nature conservation areas are added the total area becomes 2,232 sq km. About 85% of the German belt is mostly intact.

Reference: Terry, A., K. Ullrich, and U. Riecken. 2006. The Green Belt of Europe: From Vision to Reality. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. Available at www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/resources/?478/The-green-belt-of-Europe-from-vision-to-reality

Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) between Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe include the Greater Limpopo TCFA and ZiMoZa TFCA. The establishment of corridors between three national parks (Limpopo, Banhine and Zinava) within the Greater Limpopo TFCA is important for the maintenance of the historic migratory patterns of wildlife especially elephants that migrate seeking water and other resources. Mozambique plans on continuing conservation efforts in this regard to improve the ecological integrity of the National Parks and for the expansion and creation of additional TFCAs.

Source: Mozambique's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

THEME 5:

Site-Based Management Plans

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 34.7% of countries reported significant or greater progress in substantially improving site-based protected area planning and management. Figure 5 demonstrates that Eastern and Southern Africa (58%), Oceania (45%) and Central and South America (38%) exceed the current global average.

Egypt has prepared and implemented **site-level management plans** for 13 protected areas: El-Burulus, El-Zaranik, El-Omayed, Wadi El-Germal, Wadi-El-Rayan, Nabq, Elba Mountain, Saint Katherine, Qaroun, White Desert Degla, Taba, and Pertified Forest. As efforts of the Nature Conservation Sector were hampered by the unstable political situation arising after the 25th January revolution, the NCS placed (temporary) standard forms for protected area annual work plans in all protected areas. The annual work plans helped the NCS and protected area managers to develop their own activities until circumstance allowed the continuation of site-level management plans and their development. Considering the present situation, this is regarded as a major achievement for NCS to have annual work plans in all protected areas in Egypt.

Source: Egypt's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

The **Bangladesh Forest Department**, to arrest degradation of forest in protected areas, has developed and implemented scientific management plans, with the following milestones:

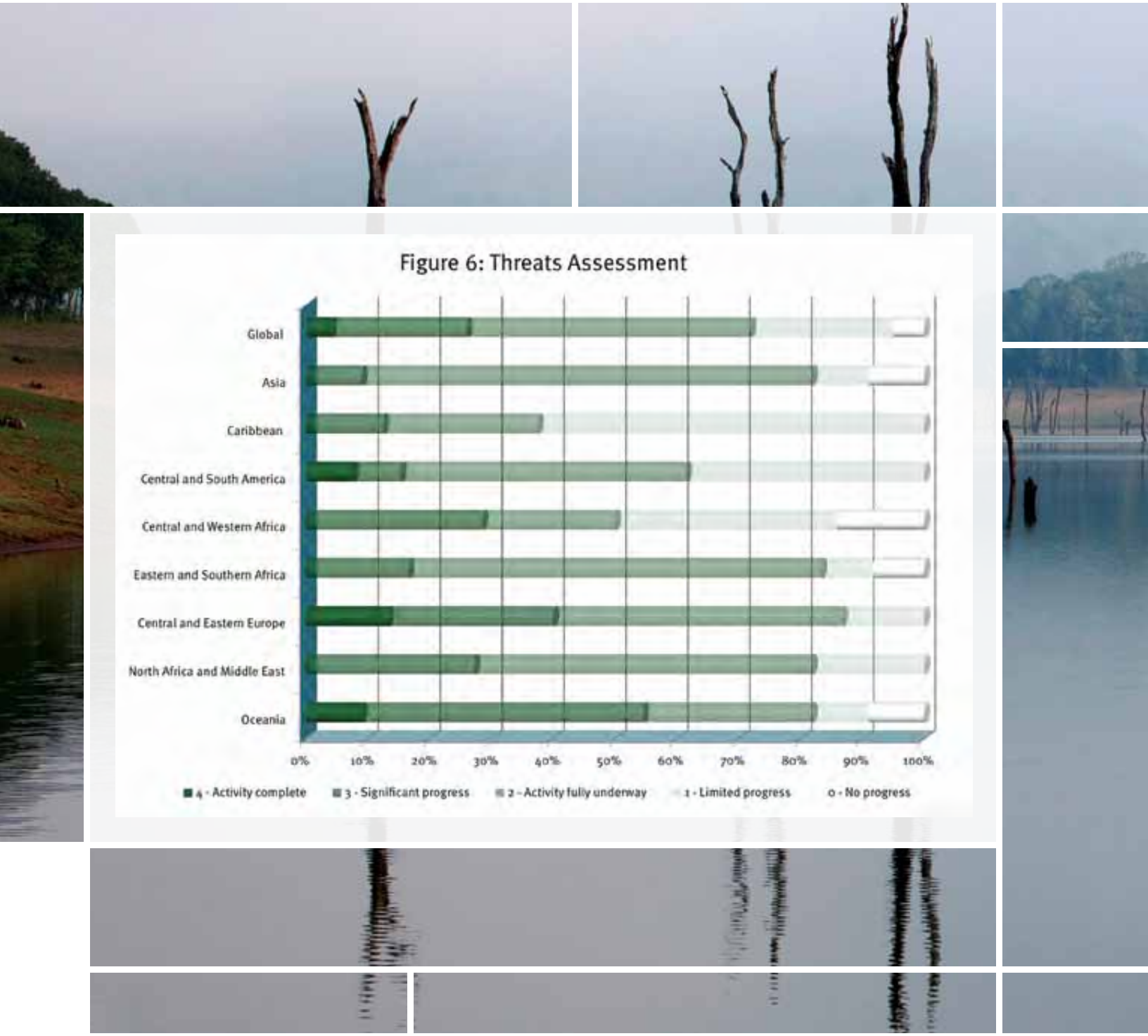
1. Developed and implemented approved Conservation Management Plans for 9 protected areas including Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Sundarbans;
2. Established Protection Working Circles along with Production Working Circles in the Management Plans of Sylhet, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest Divisions;
3. Prepared guidelines for the development of Conservation Management Plans;
4. Developed Participatory Management Plans for Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary, Lawachara National Park and Satchari National Park under Nishorgo Support Project;
5. Passed the Bangladesh Tiger Action Plan (2009-2017); and
6. Developed Integrated Resources Management Plans for the Sundarbans.

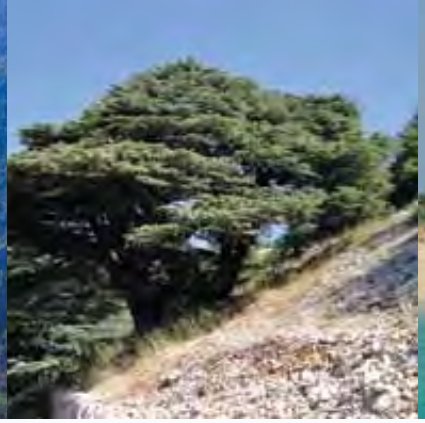
Source: Bangladesh's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

THEME 6:

Threats Assessment

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 26% of countries reported significant or greater progress in preventing and mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas. Figure 6 demonstrates that Oceania (54%), Central and Eastern Europe (40%) and North Africa and the Middle East (27%) exceed the current global average.




In **Lebanon, management effectiveness assessment** was recently conducted for two marine nature reserves (Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and Palm Islands Nature Reserve). Analyses employed the METT (Management Effective Tracking Tool). The two reserves ranked in the intermediate management effectiveness category. In terms of threats, the assessment revealed that illegal fishing is the most serious problem for the two nature reserves. Specifically, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve faces threats from agriculture and human settlement (such as refugees' camps) in a way that may lead to serious environmental problems especially for marine life.

Source: Lebanon's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/




Barriers for effective implementation in **South Africa**: In general, the assignment of management responsibility for protected areas is based on historical factors and does not follow an ecosystem or bioregional approach. At a bioregional level across provinces, the allocation of responsibility for management of protected areas remains highly fragmented, with many areas falling under different management authorities. An analysis of the financial and human resources issues related to effective management of conservation agencies and the ability to implement action plans, suggests a 30% aggregate underfunding of conservation. Conservation functions in provinces appear seriously underfunded largely because they must vie for provincial allocations along with other critical social functions such as health, education and social welfare. However, the biggest barrier towards implementation could be distressed protected areas management authorities that are less likely to be able to engage with an increasingly complex management mandate and to deliver sufficient socio-economic benefits to local communities or negotiate with major stakeholders; thus, placing their portion of the protected area estate at risk of being reallocated to alternative land use types.

Source: South Africa's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/


Governance and Participation

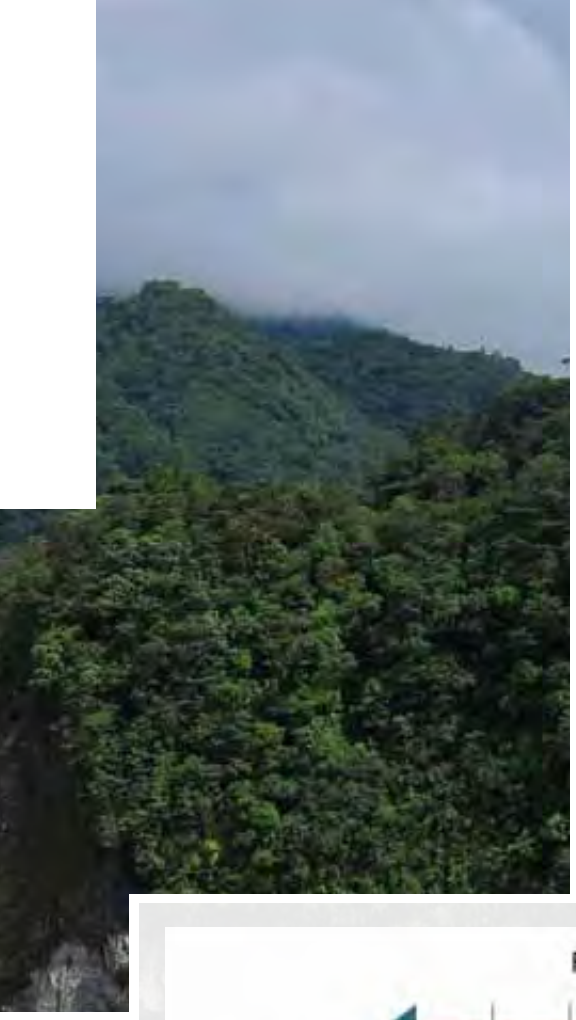
THEME 7:

Governance

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 18.4% of countries reported significant or greater progress in assessing and implementing diverse protected area governance types. Figure 8 demonstrates that Oceania (44%), Eastern and Southern Africa (40%) and Central and Eastern Europe (21%) exceed the current global average.

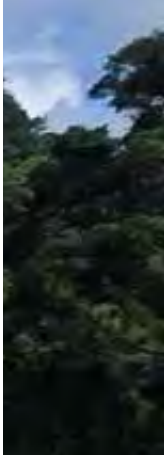
In 2001, the "**Communal Reserve El Sira**" on the western slopes of the Andes in **Peru** (616.000 ha) was established through the joint efforts of scientists, indigenous representatives, private entities, and government institutions. The reserve preserves the outstanding natural and cultural diversity of the region, with four ethnic groups that depend directly on its biodiversity: the Asháninkas, Ashéninkas, Yanesha and Shipibo-Conibo. To enhance active participation of the local community, a co-management scheme was set up: an "administration contract" was signed by the protected areas service of Peru, SERNANP, and the indigenous association, ECOSIRA, which brings together the 69 communities surroundings of the Reserve. Each of the four indigenous groups has its own local organizations and federations. Their representatives form part of the Management Committee (Comité de Gestión) – an important space of negotiation and consensus building. Agreements are reached regarding responsibilities of joint monitoring of the protected area and options for local income generation.

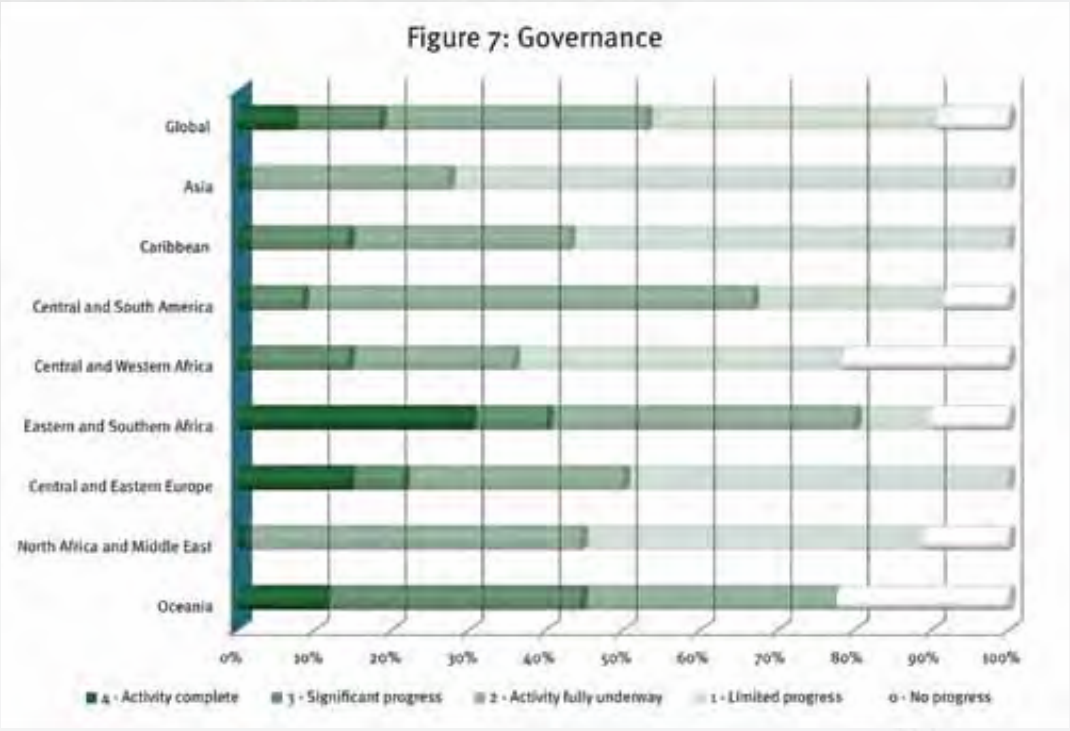
Source: Amend, Thoramaria. Sub-Regional Workshop for Latin America on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBPA-LA-01



Namibia's national community-based natural resource programme is a result of multiple actors and efforts including the non-governmental organization Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation. Namibia's 66 registered communal area conservancies, a co-management model in Bwabwata National Park involving 5,000 park residents organized into a residents trust, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism are all stakeholders playing an important role in devolving ownership to local users of resources, directing involvement of communities, providing legal and institutional management and governance frameworks, and linking rights and benefits to responsibilities.

Source: Jacobsohn, Margaret. Sub-Regional Workshop for Central, South and East Africa on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBPA-CSEAFR-01



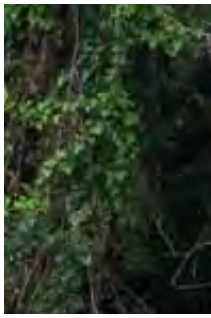


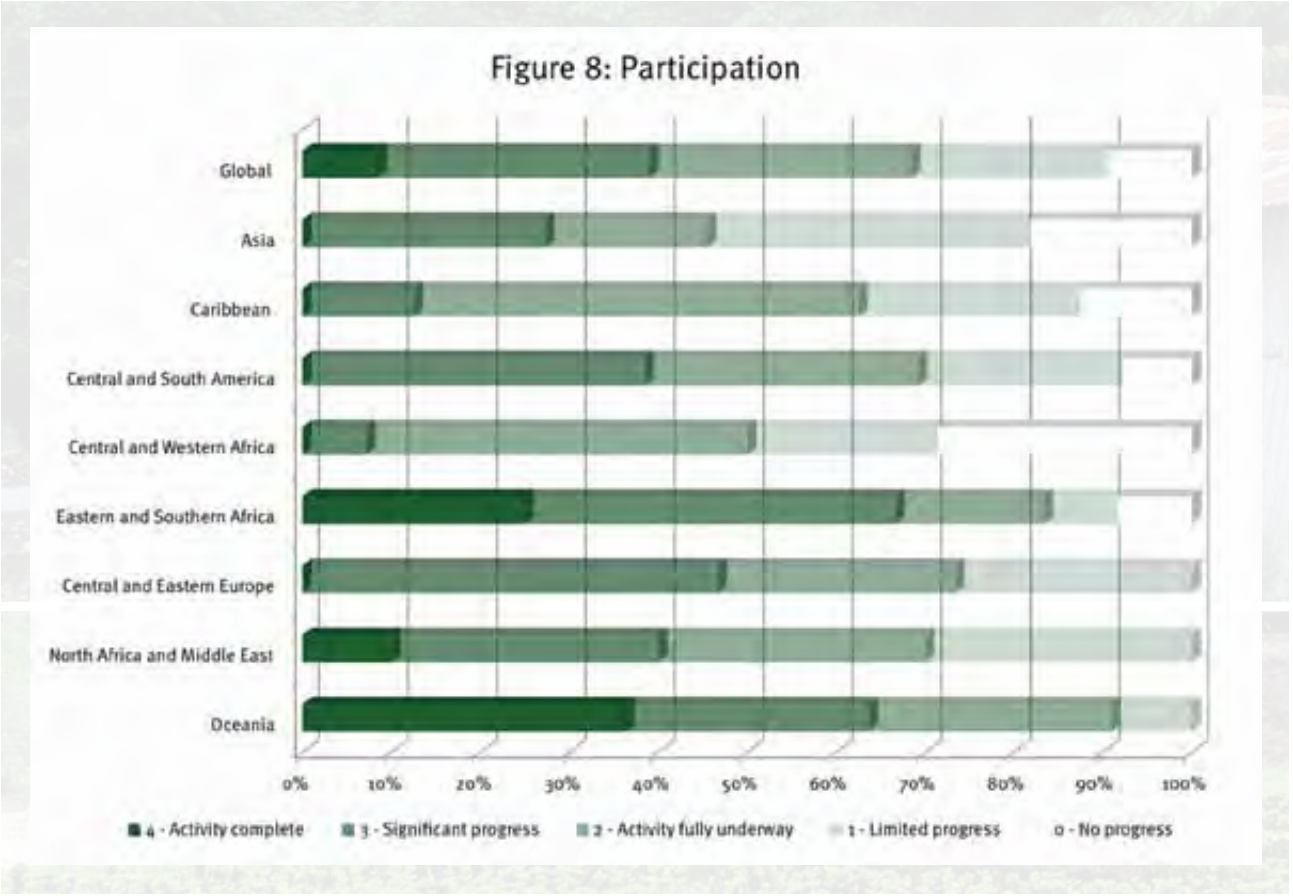
THEME 8:

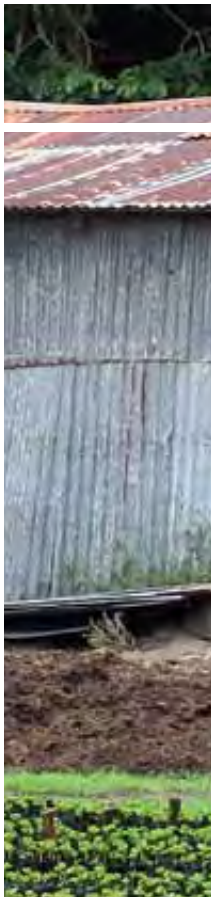
Participation

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 39% of countries reported significant or greater progress in enhancing and securing involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders with 64% of countries having established multi-stakeholder committees. This represents a 6% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 7 demonstrates that Eastern and Southern Africa (66%), Oceania (63%) and Central and Eastern Europe (46%) exceed the current global average.

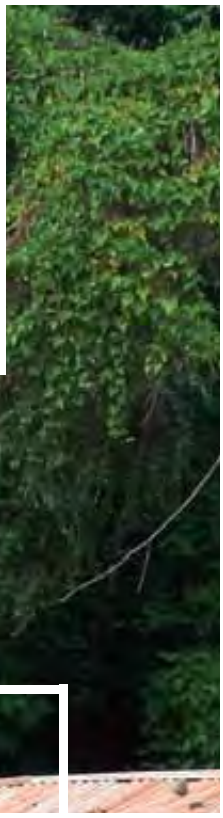










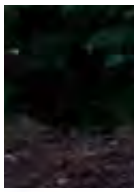


Located in the north-eastern Arnhem Land Region in **Australia**, **the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area's** (IPA's) natural environment and rare flora and fauna are virtually intact. Declared in September 2006, the 690,000 hectare IPA protects internationally significant wetlands and coastal landforms. Laynhapuy is administered by the Laynhapuy Homelands Association Incorporated. Next to Laynhapuy are Dhimurru and Anindilyakwa IPAs; the three groups of Traditional Owners are linked by family, ceremonial and other cultural connections. Members of the three land management groups share information and cooperate on management and training programs. The communities are committed to protecting culture sites, controlling feral weeds, pigs and buffalo, and managing the sea and coast, including removing marine debris and monitoring turtle habitats. The local Yirralka Rangers assist with these activities, addressing threats to cultural and environmental values.

Source: Government of Australia, "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/

Yaijogé Apaporis National Park is the 55th protected area of the **Colombian** National Park System, thanks to the funding of Fundación GAIA, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the initiative of ACIYA - the indigenous organization that groups the traditional authorities from the Macuna, Tanimuca, Letuama, Cabiyari, Barazano, Yujup-Macu and Yauna peoples. These indigenous peoples have cared for this land and its life from the dawn of their spiritual memory, and their shamanistic practices still revere the meaningful places where the deities left the signs of their labour of creation: hills, backwaters, lakes, torrents, rivers, caves, springs and plains. The park protects both the diversity and culture of its people and the biological manifestations of what they still hold sacred. It covers a unique mosaic of diverse rain forest types and physiographies from floodplains to rocky formations, mountain ranges, and hilly and strongly dissected landscapes.

Source: Government of Colombia. "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/



Enabling Activities

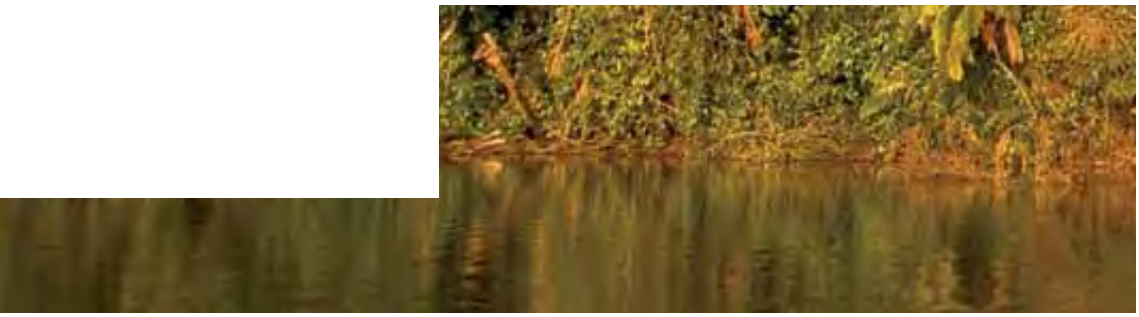
THEME 9:

Policy Environment

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 40% of countries reported significant or greater progress in providing an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas and 21% reporting having completed policy environment assessments, with 3 countries doing so on a periodic basis (additionally, 14 are underway). This represents an 11.4% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 9 demonstrates that the Caribbean (62%), Eastern and Southern Africa (58%), Central and Eastern Europe (50%) and Oceania (45%) exceed the current global average.

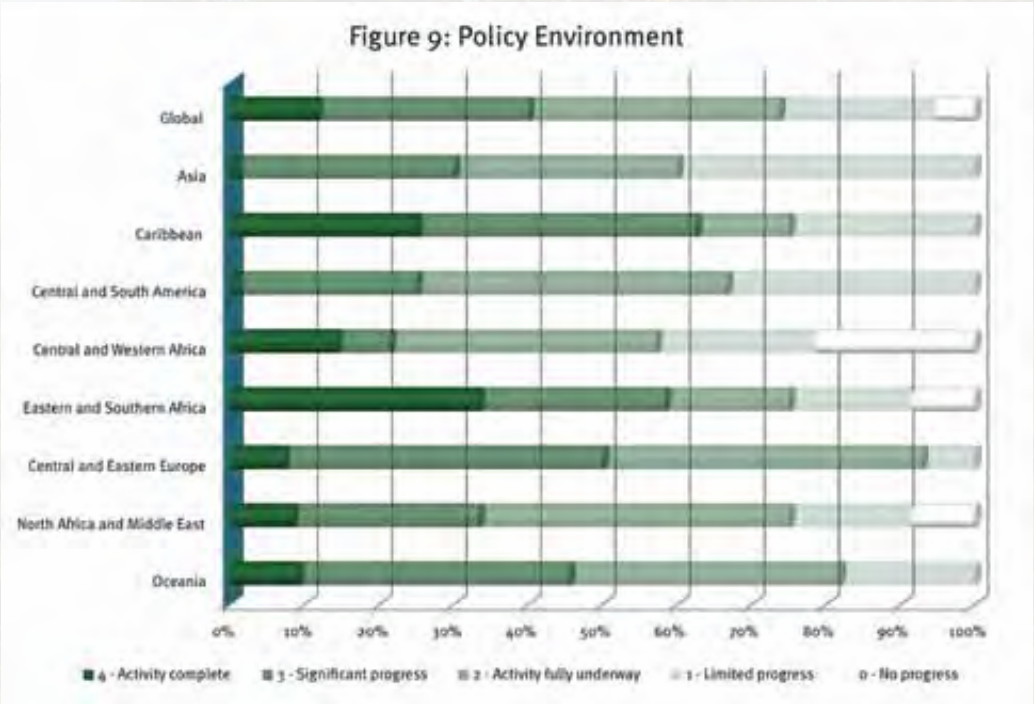
In March of 2010, the **Government of Solomon Islands strengthened its legal framework** by passing a landmark bill that provides for the establishment, effective management and sustainable financing of protected areas across the country. The bill includes provisions for the formation of a multi-advisory stakeholder committee, the declaration and gazettement of new protected areas, a national protected areas trust fund, measures to regulate bioprospecting, improve management and strengthen law enforcement. The Minister of Environment, stated that the bill was not only important for conserving biodiversity, but also an integral part of the country's national strategy for climate change adaptation, a key element for coastal protection and fisheries management, and a major contribution to poverty alleviation and human welfare in the country. He called the protected areas legislation one of the important steps initiated under the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

Source: Government of Solomon Islands. "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/



In **Uganda**, there are a number of **Community Wildlife Areas** found on both public and private lands. Community Wildlife Areas are usually run under collaborative management through a partnership agreement between District Local Government, Uganda Wildlife Authority, District Wildlife Associations, the private sector and local communities. The partnership agreement serves to define roles and responsibilities of each party in the management of the protected area, in accordance with relevant laws. The Uganda Wildlife Authority conducts law enforcement services in collaboration with the other partners while Local Governments enforce existing laws, develop and pass by-laws pertaining to wildlife management and conservation. District Wildlife Associations are responsible for enforcing environmental conservation and wildlife by-laws within the community while the local communities participate fully in selling food and other raw materials and in all activities of wildlife conservation and collaborative management.

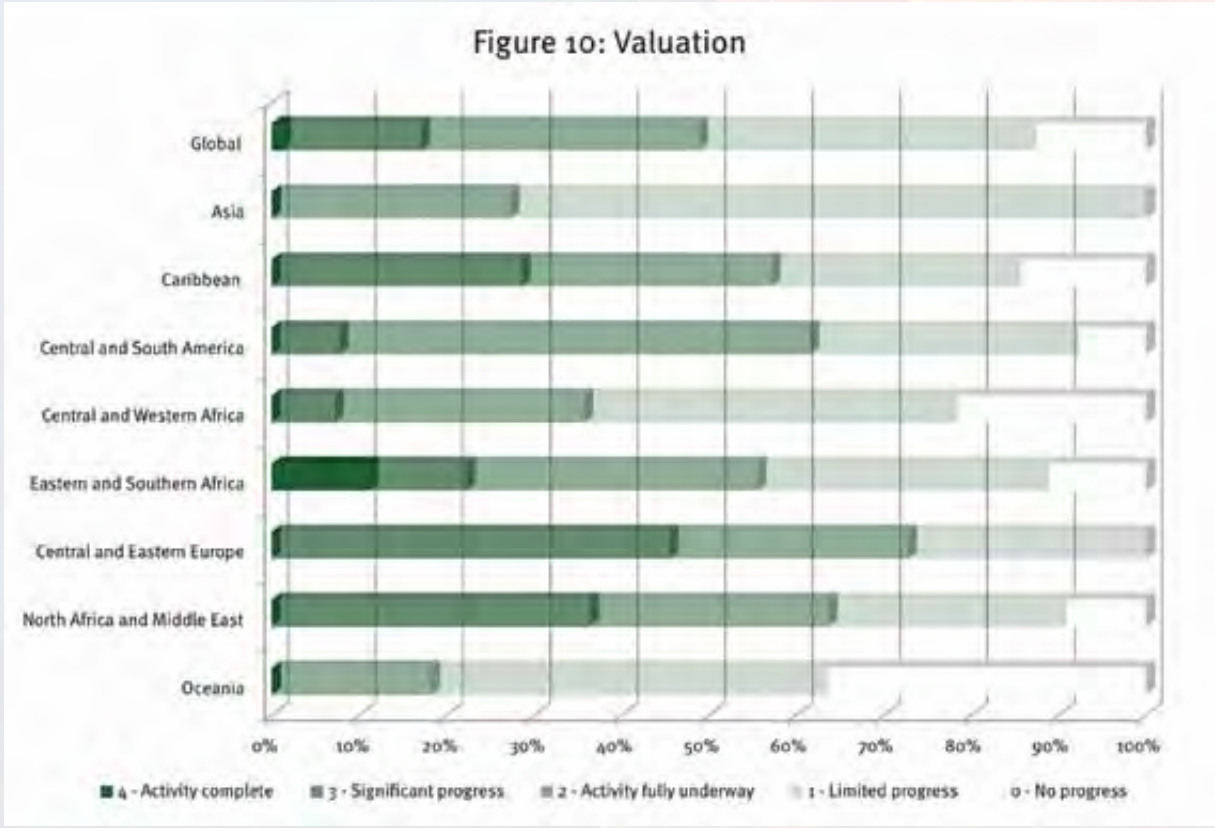
Source: Uganda's Action Plan for Implantation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

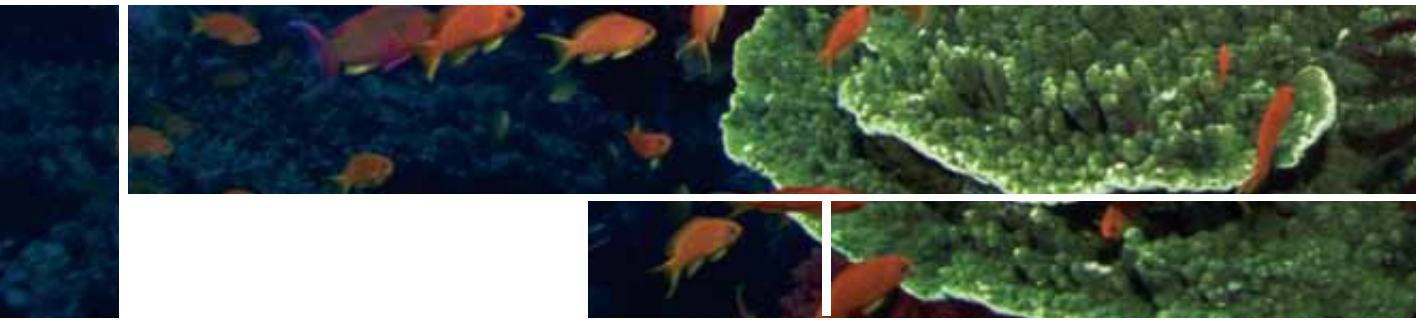


THEME 10:

Valuation

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 17% of countries reported significant or greater progress in assessing the contribution of protected areas to local and national economies and 17% also reporting having completed a protected area valuation assessments (additionally, 6 are underway). This represents a 9.1% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 10 demonstrates that Central and Eastern Europe (45%), North Africa and the Middle East (36%), the Caribbean (28%) and Eastern and Southern Africa (22%) exceed the current global average.

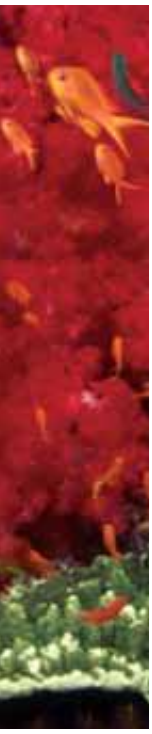




In **Croatia** protected area **valuation assessments** were recently conducted for Northern Velebit National Park and Velebit Nature Park. It was concluded that the two parks provide indispensable services that sustain the economic benefits of tourism and nature-based tourism in Velebit. The shift from business as usual to sustainable ecosystem management in fresh water ecosystems management is vital to secure water flow, savings (from avoided replacement and maintenance costs), and economic benefits from hydropower generation. Water resources from Velebit Nature Park provide the essential natural resource (of fresh water) to support a promising subsector of the economy in the region: beer production. Pollination services from sustainable ecosystem management are crucial to sustain the current and potentially increased production of plums and apples in Velebit. Sustainable forest management is essential to save costs or minimize the economic impact of natural disasters. Ecosystems services from both parks are indispensable to improving livelihoods in and around the parks.

Reference: Flores, M., and I. Ivicic. 2011. Valuation of the Contribution of the Ecosystem of Sjeverni-Velebit National Park and Velebit Nature Park to Economic Growth and Human Well-being. Croatia.

Source: Croatia's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/



Based on a 2002 **socioeconomic analysis** in **Costa Rica**, the contribution generated by protected areas to development is U.S. $832 million. In 2009, the project "*Systematization and analysis of the contributions of the National Parks and Biological Reserves Economic and Social Development in Costa Rica, Benin and Bhutan*" was carried out, funded by the Netherlands and managed by Fundecooperación. It demonstrated that certain economic activities benefited most from national parks and biological reserves: nature tourism and related services, hydroelectricity projects, park jobs and salaries, income entrance fees, payments for environmental services, and research on biodiversity (relating to bioprospecting). The contributions of these activities were approximately US $1,357 million. The total contributions of income generation and investment attributable to protected areas and biological reserves compared to the national economy was about 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in Costa Rica in 2009.

Source: Costa Rica's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

THEME 11:

Sustainable Financing

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 14.6% of countries reported significant or greater progress in assessing financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas. Specifically, 33% reported having completed sustainable finance assessments and 5 are underway. Figure 11 demonstrates the large variance by region in striving to attain this goal.

The **Green Fee of Palau** is a departure tax of US $30 that is funnelled towards financing efforts under the Protected Areas Network. In a 2001 Rapid Ecological Assessment conservationists from sites with rich biodiversity habitat identified the need for a sustainable financing mechanism for protected areas. From November 2009 to March 2012, the Green Fee (which started at US $15) raised approximately US $2.26 million in revenue that has been allocated to achieving goals under the Micronesia Challenge, including effective conservation of near-shore marine resources (30%) and terrestrial resources (20%), and supporting 11 community conservation efforts. As part of the funding application process, communities are required to submit management plans before a Board of Directors to review before awards are granted for community conservation efforts. Future plans for the Green Fee include improving water and sewage systems of Palau.

Source: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP). 27 March 2012. "The Green Fee supporting conservation efforts in Palau."Available at www.sprep.org/biodiversity-ecosystems-management/the-green-fee-supporting-conservation-efforts-in-palau

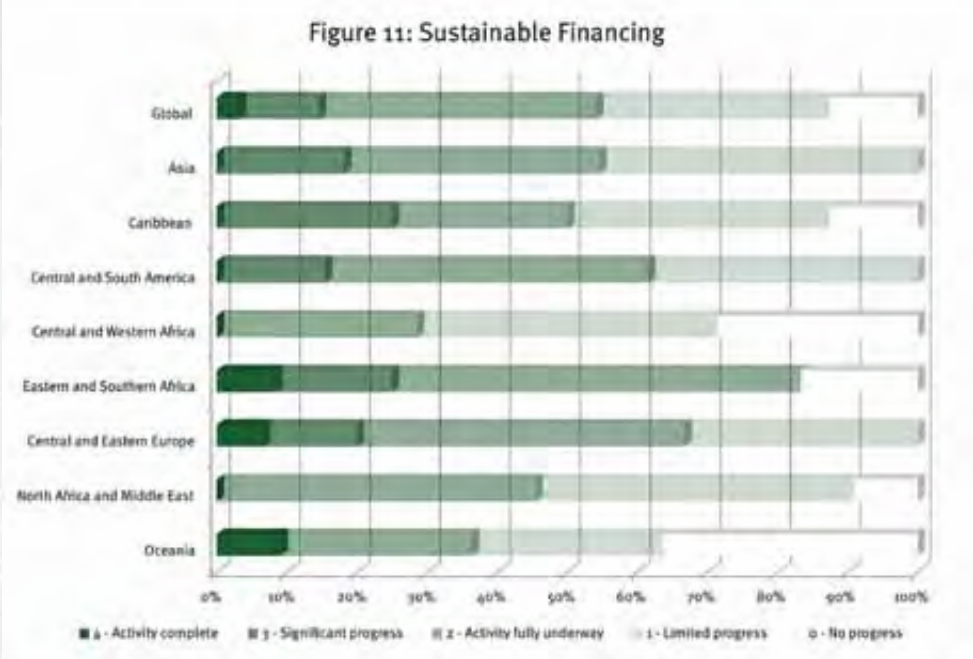
Trinidad & Tobago supports one of the largest populations of nesting **leatherback sea turtles**. Also hawksbill and green turtles are frequently seen in the waters, and loggerhead turtles and olive ridleys are rarely reported on both, land and sea. Due to increasing tourism they needed to strike a balance between protecting sea turtle populations and maximizing the economic potential for ecotourism. Five community groups came together (Nature Seekers, Fishing Pond Turtle Conservation Group, Grande Rivière Nature Tour Guide Association, SOS Tobago, M2M Network) to address the common challenges experienced in the conservation of sea turtles: difficulties to access to funding, lack of trained staff, standardizing conservation protocols, and building an organizational infrastructure. They approached a private sponsor of the tourism sector (BHP Billiton), and in 2006 a trust was set up. The "Turtle Village Trust" is dedicated to fostering partnerships between community groups, corporate entities and government, aiming at establishing Trinidad as a premiere turtle-watching destination.

Source: Amend, Thoramaria. Sub-Regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBPA-CAR-01 and http://www.turtlevillagetrust.org

The **LifeWeb Initiative** was created in 2009 in response to the current lack of sufficient funding and lack of recognition of the absolutely crucial role protected areas play in meeting environmental, social, and economic goals. The Initiative's goal is to increase available funding and channel it into strategic, efficient, and coordinated investment in protected area projects and networks, that are based on national long term strategies and action plans, to strengthen implementation of the PoWPA and lead the way toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In order to meet this challenge LifeWeb aims to support and strengthen the 3 main pillars that lead to effective implementation:

1. Detailed National Action Plans: LifeWeb promotes and profiles national and regional projects and financial needs based on NBSAPs and PoWPA Action Plans;
2. Sustainable capacity and coordinated technical support: LifeWeb helps to mobilize and align technical support networks with national priorities;
3. Access to additional funding: LifeWeb strengthens and builds partnerships with donor agencies and recipient countries for funding implementation.

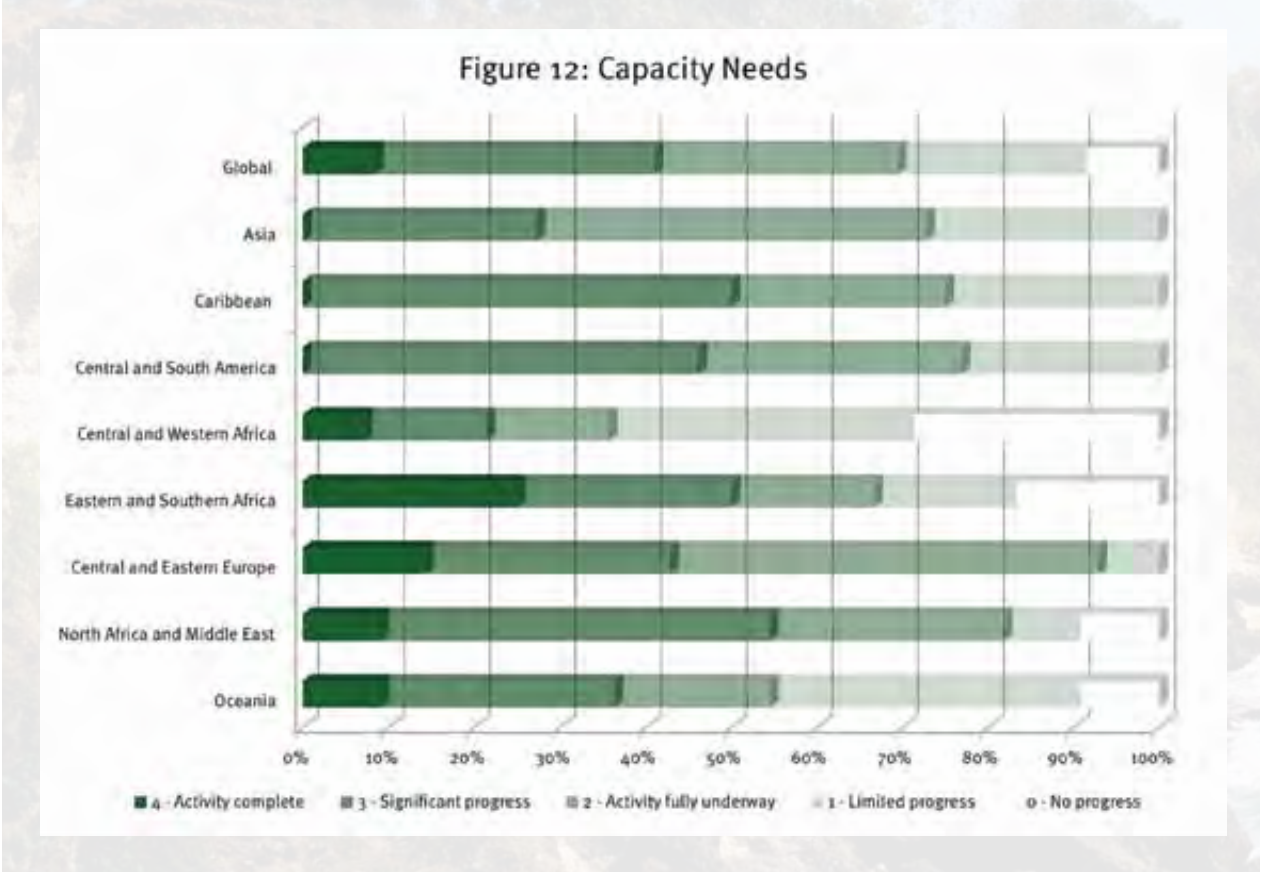
To date, the LifeWeb Initiative in its role as a matchmaker to strengthen partnerships and bring together public and private donors with recipient countries has helped facilitate 62 funding matches, totalling close to 200 million Euros from 17 donors for projects in 43 countries.



THEME 12:

Capacity Needs

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 41% of countries reported significant or greater progress in building capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas and 29% reported having conducted capacity needs assessments, with 3 countries doing so on periodic basis (additionally, 7 are underway). This represents a 15.3% increase in the status of implementation compared to 2009 reporting. Figure 12 demonstrates that North Africa and the Middle East (54%), the Caribbean (50%) and Eastern and Southern Africa (50%) exceed the current global average.



In the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, an opinion survey to determine training needs was carried out through field visits, meetings and interviews with current or potential managers in 30 institutions linked to 49 protected areas. The report developed from the survey data recommended the creation of a Programme on Training. Subsequently, 5 priority training workshops were held in the first quarter of 2011 in 4 regional centers (Skopje, Bitola, Stip and Strumica), covering 85 units of local self-governments. Workshops covered:

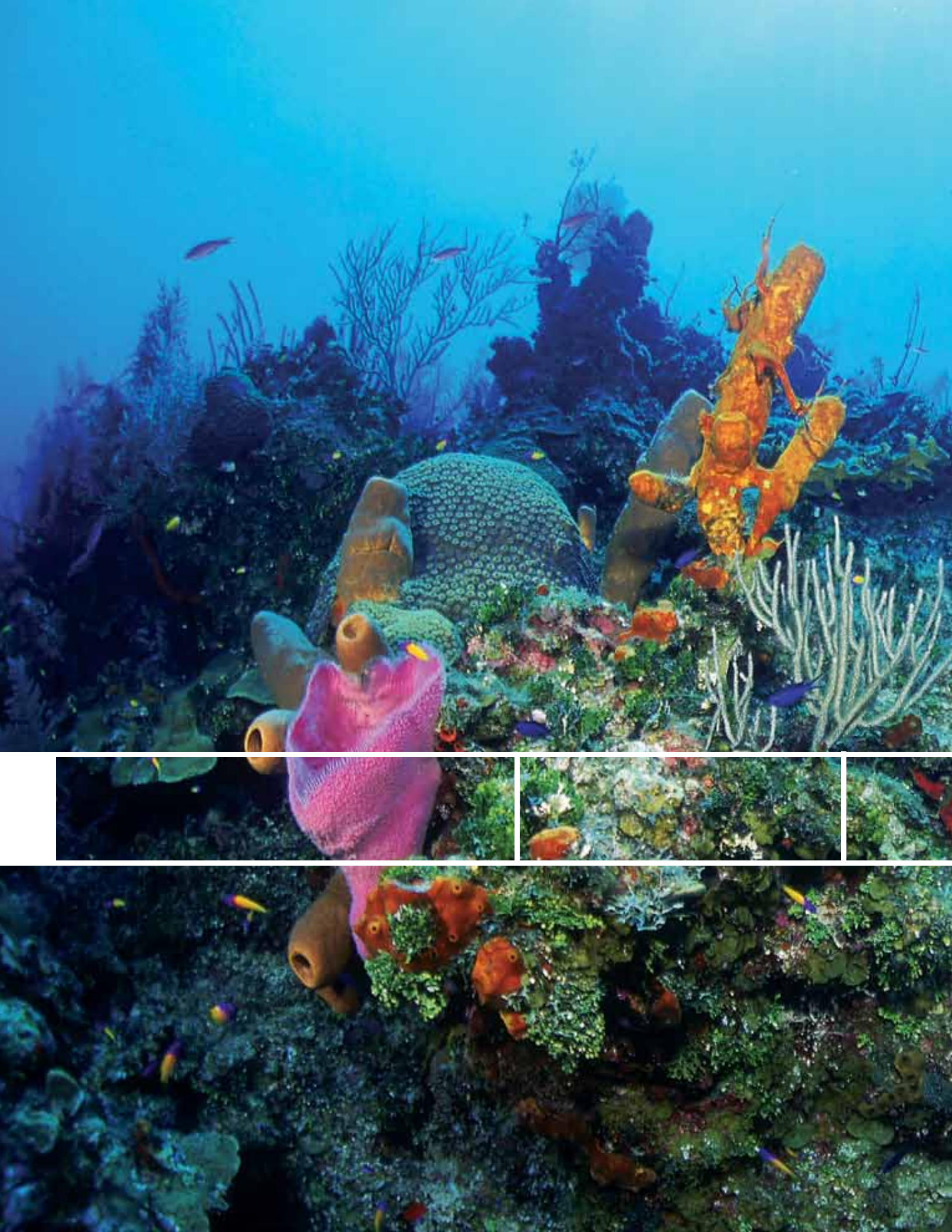
» Legislation and institutional aspects of the valorization, proclamation, planning and management of protected areas;
» Basic notions about biodiversity exploration and skills for monitoring and managing nature conservation;
» Communication, awareness raising and public relations;
» Financing, donations and effects on the local economic development, with emphasis on tourism; and
» Communication, technology and information training.

In addition, basic training (3-day workshop) in Geographic Information Systems was given to meet the needs of the staff in the Nature Protection Department. Furthermore, unique opportunities were created for networking between the individuals who are responsible now or will be so in the future for managing the protected areas in the country.

Source: Macedonia's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

Participants of the **Sub-Regional Workshop for Central, South and East Africa on Capacity Building for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA** held in Cape Town, South Africa, recognized, in a needs identification exercise, the following priorities: management effectiveness, governance, climate change adaptation and mitigation, improving access to sustainable protected area funding, restoring or maintaining connectivity opportunities, and managing conflicts between humans and wildlife. It was agreed that capacity building needed to target all levels from field rangers and local communities to policymakers. Consequently, any capacity building strategy needed to be multi-faceted and to make use of existing training centres and materials as well as developing new capacity building tools. Possible follow-up actions could include convening a meeting of the main capacity building institutions and other relevant organizations to work out capacity building programmes corresponding to priorities identified for PoWPA implementation. Further to this, 22 countries indentified specific actions for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, including: increased protected area coverage; improving the representativeness of ecosystems; improving effective and equitable management; and integration into broader land- and seascapes and other sectors.

Source: Report of the Sub-Regional Workshop for Central, South and East Africa on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBPA-CSEAFR-01



Monitoring and Management Effectiveness

THEME 13:

Management Effectiveness

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 19.1% of countries reported significant or greater progress in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of protected areas management and 43% reported undertaking management effectiveness assessments. Figure 13 demonstrates that Europe (33%), the Caribbean (25%) and Eastern and Southern Africa (25%) exceed the current global average.

Tiger conservation is under great risk from multiple directions and sources. In the aftermath of **India** losing all its tigers in a prominent reserve, the Prime Minister set up a Tiger Task Force (TTF). The TTF recommended a paradigm shift that entailed an ability to envision conservation at a landscape level in a transparent, participatory manner with local stakeholders and relevant beneficiaries. The Government of India has also set up a National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), established the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), delineated the core critical habitats for tiger conservation and also enacted The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006. In pursuance of Goal 4.2 of the PoWPA, India has carried out the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 28 tiger reserves and another cycle of MEE is currently underway for 39 (28 pre-existing and 11 new) tiger reserves in the country.

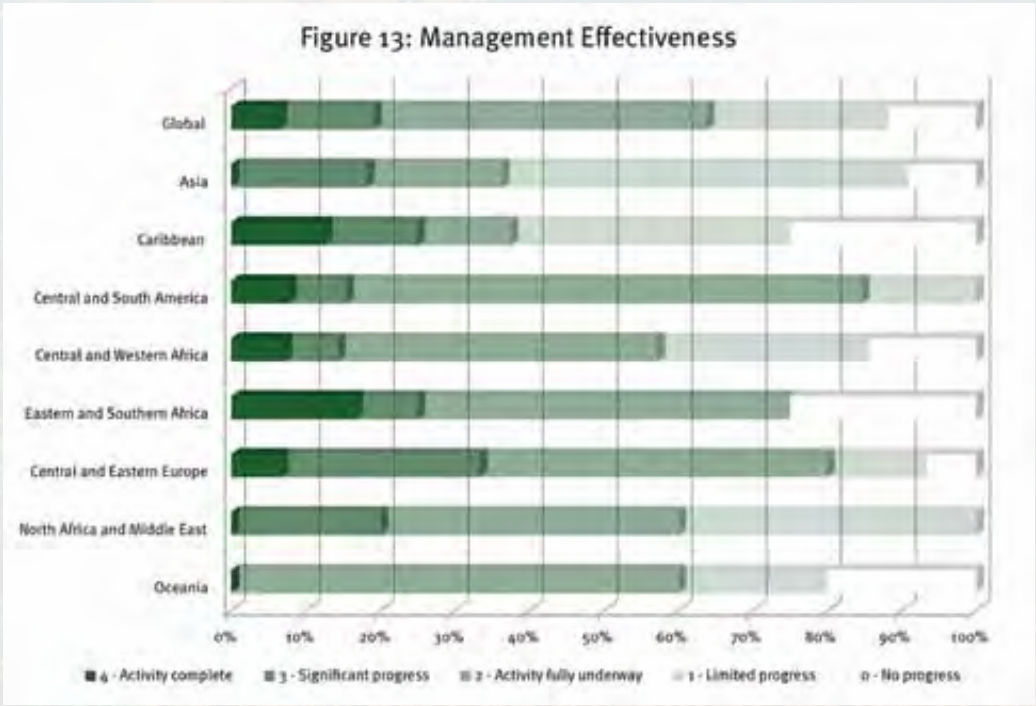
Source: Government of India. "Implementation Highlights" at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/highlights/

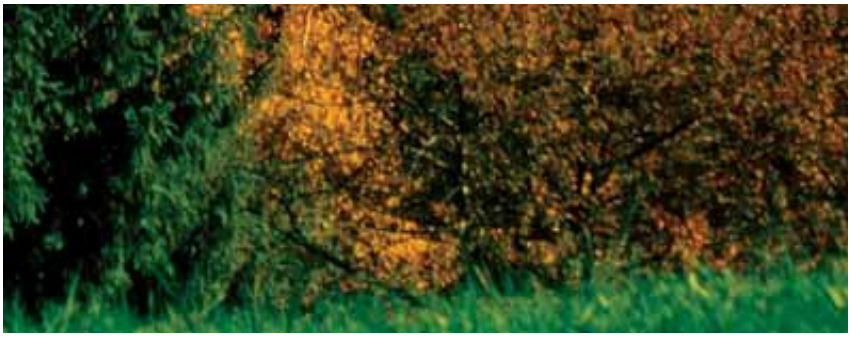
Management effectiveness of the protected area system in **Finland** was evaluated in 1994 and 2004 and the "State of the Parks" report was published in 2007. A reassessment of management effectiveness (PAME) of 35 Finnish National Parks was conducted by the Natural Heritage Services (NHS) in 2010-2011, using a customised questionnaire adapted from the model developed by the State Parks Agency in New South Wales, Australia. One of the main objectives of the assessments was to engage parks managers and staff involved in management planning and monitoring in self-evaluation of the work processes and outcomes in each National Park to find points of adaptive management. The assessments were conducted in teams and approved by regional directors of the NHS. The comprehensive results of these assessments will be incorporated into the State of the Parks Report of the Finnish protected area system, which is currently being drafted and will be published later in 2012 (in Finnish with a summary in English).

Source: Finland's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

From 2005 to 2010, the **University of Queensland** undertook **a global study to evaluate the management effectiveness** in protected areas. The study covered over 9,000 assessments across 140 countries. Data was 'translated' into a common reporting format and combined into one database and analyzed. The average score of the 4,151 'most recent' assessments with available data was calculated at 0.53 on a zero to one scale. It was considered that overall scores of less than 0.33 indicated "clearly inadequate management", while average scores above 0.66 represent "sound management". The study concluded that protected areas management leaves much to be desired with 13 per cent of areas in the clearly inadequate range (scoring less than 0.33), 62 per cent having "basic management" (scoring between 0.33 and 0.67) and only 24 per cent having sound management (scoring over 0.67).

Reference: Leverington, F., K.L. Costa, J. Courrau, H. Pavese, C. Nolte, M. Marr, L. Coad, N. Burgess, B. Bomhard and M. Hockings. 2010. Management Effectiveness Evaluation in Protected areas- a global study. Second edition 2010. The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.



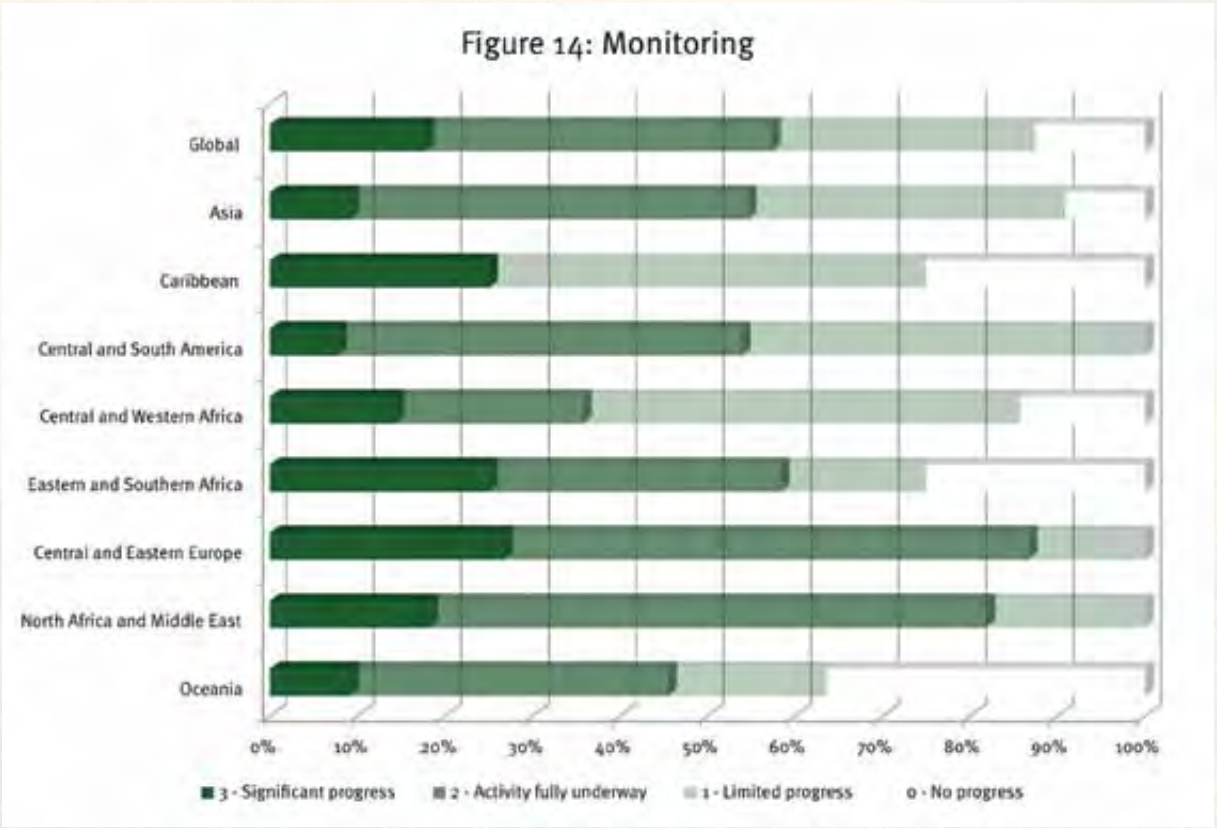


THEME 14:

Monitoring and Coverage

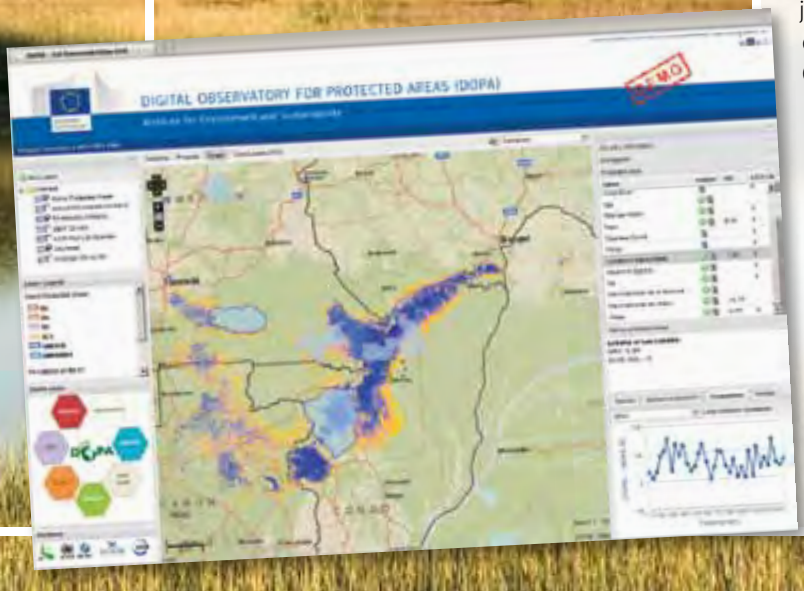
In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 17.7% of countries reported significant or greater progress in assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends. Figure 14 demonstrates that Central and Eastern Europe (26%), the Caribbean (25%) and Eastern and Southern Africa (25%) exceed the current global average.

There are different approaches for determining coverage. BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org) identifies Important Bird Areas as sites that are significant for bird conservation, for species with restricted ranges and for critical long key migration routes. Alliance for Zero Extinction (www.zeroextinction.org) identifies sites where, according to IUCN criteria, species are evaluated to be endangered or critically endangered. The World Database on Protected Areas (www.wdpa.org) identifies sites using the IUCN Category System to create a global spatial dataset for marine and terrestrial protected area.



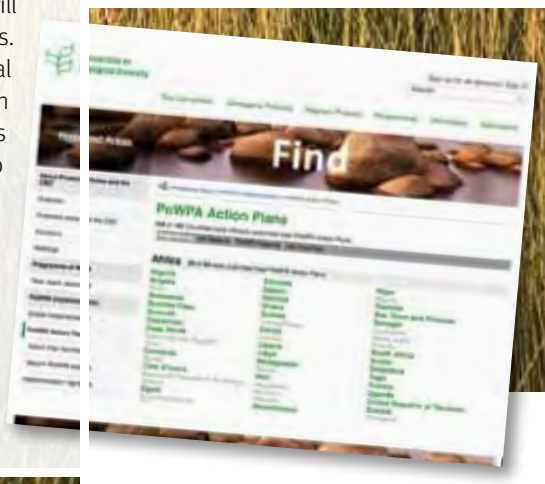
In **Bulgaria**, the **National Biodiversity and Protected Areas Monitoring System** (monitoring.biodiversity.bg/), carried out by the Environmental Executive Agency, implements a national monitoring framework for the gathering of information on the conservation of species and habitats, in compliance with European directives. The framework covers the main principles of monitoring (such as national policy, objectives, indicators, and definitions) and monitoring schemes. Most of the monitored habitats and species are located within protected areas. Monitored species within particular protected areas were identified from preliminary studies. The program for Complex Environmental Monitoring also monitors abiotic components, such as waters (lakes and rivers) and soils, as well as the state of the forests, grazing patterns, and the flow of tourism and its impact on the environment.

Source: Bulgaria's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/



The **Digital Observatory for Protected Areas** (DOPA, dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu) is a biodiversity information system currently developed at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. Based on a set of interoperable web based services managed by JRC as well as by other international organizations, including the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), BirdLife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), DOPA is designed to ease the access and use of essential data, monitoring and modelling tools by a broad range of end-users involved in the management of protected areas, from park-managers to researchers and policy makers. More recently, web based applications were developed to support the capacity building programmes of the PoWPA, encouraging further the technology transfer and cooperation required to improve the management of protected areas.

The **PoWPA Online Reporting** provides services for Parties to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on national priorities and progress achieving the PoWPA and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Reporting progress online can be done more frequently, easily, and in a standard format and will instantly provide accurate and reliable information that will support and benefit decision makers, other stakeholders and the factors of success. For example, online reporting can provide the ability to forecast regional and global funding and capacity needs and trends which will greatly help to prepare and align donors, technical capacity networks and national governments for enhanced levels of cooperation and implementation, which will no doubt be necessary in order to meet Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other global commitments. The analysis and search functionality of the PoWPA Online Reporting can help visualize global or regional or national needs and explore coordination and collaboration opportunities in ways that can reduce costs of and build capacity for implementation. The benefits of online reporting can only be realized with enhanced commitment and participation of all Parties to collect and supply reliable and standardized information. The PoWPA Online Reporting System is an opportunity for Parties to move toward more effective and enhanced implementation of the PoWPA.



THEME 15:

Incorporating Climate Change

In 105 Action Plans for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, 8.8% of countries reported significant or greater progress in incorporating climate change aspects into protected areas and 23% reported having carried out climate change resilience and adaptation assessments (additionally, 9 are underway). Figure 15 demonstrates that Sub-Saharan Africa (15%), Central and Southern America (15%) and Oceania (12%) exceed the current global average.

In **Kiribati** there have been a number of **vulnerability and adaptation assessments** to identify adaptation programs or projects to increase island resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. For example, in 2000, the World Bank undertook an economic and environmental assessment and found potential significant losses Kiribati would face to its land and economic resources due to climate change and sea level rise. In addition, sector-specific vulnerability assessments (e.g. water, coastal zone) were conducted on South Tarawa and some outer islands. The result of these assessments informed the design of adaptation projects and programs, including the Kiribati Adaptation Project. Some of the key areas covered by adaptation initiatives include seawall infrastructures, mangrove planting, ecosystem monitoring, and water services rehabilitation.

Source: Kiribati's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

The Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources of **Kenya** has formulated a **National Climate Change Response Strategy**. The aim of this strategy is to respond to the challenge that climate change poses to Kenya's socio-economic development. The strategy will be implemented over the next 20 years at an annual average cost of US $3.14 billion. At an institutional level, Kenya Wildlife Service is investing US $3 Million for drought mitigation in wildlife management across the country as a way of combating the negative impacts of climate change. At the same time, Kenya Wildlife Service has trained 60 of its staff and stakeholders on climate change. On the Kenya Forest Service side, the organization is currently undertaking wall to wall mapping of forests in Kenya. A major objective of this exercise is to give Kenya a strong foothold when negotiating for carbon credit funding.

Source: Kenya's Action Plan for Implementation of the CBD PoWPA, available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/

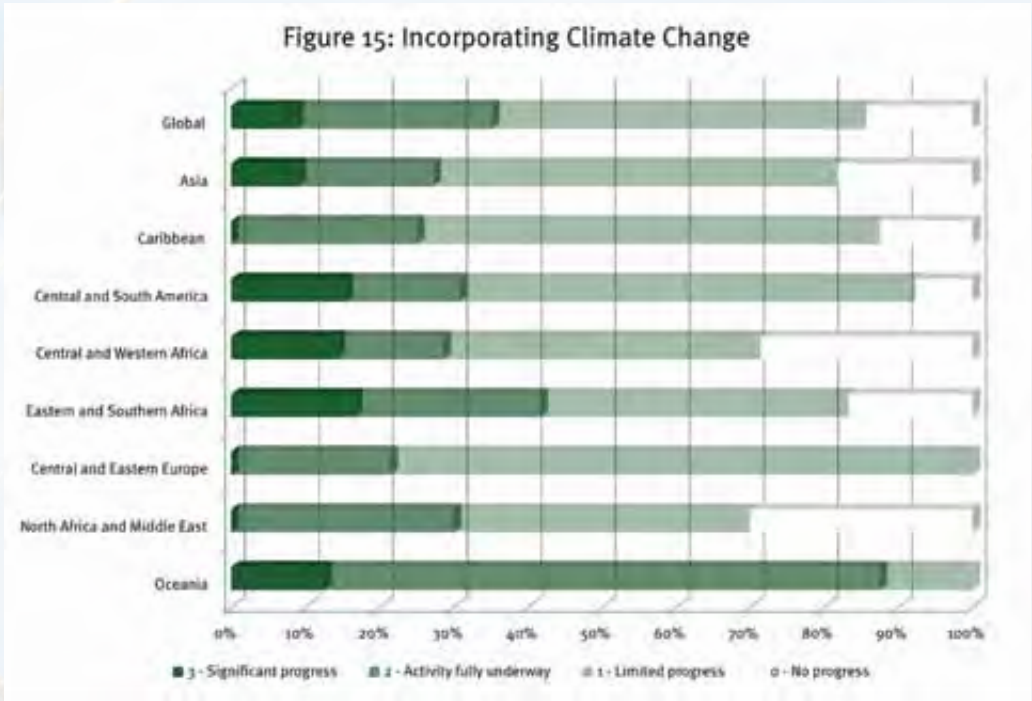


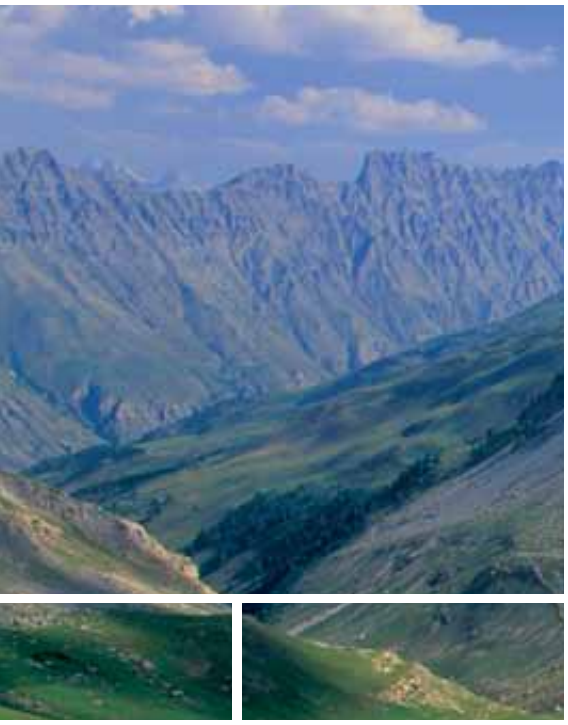
Figure 15: Incorporating Climate Change
Global
Asia
Caribbean
Central and South America
Central and Western Africa
Eastern and Southern Africa
Central and Eastern Europe
North Africa and Middle East
Oceania
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
3 - Significant progress
2 - Activity fully underway
1 - Limited progress
0 - No progress

Factors of Success

Factors of Success

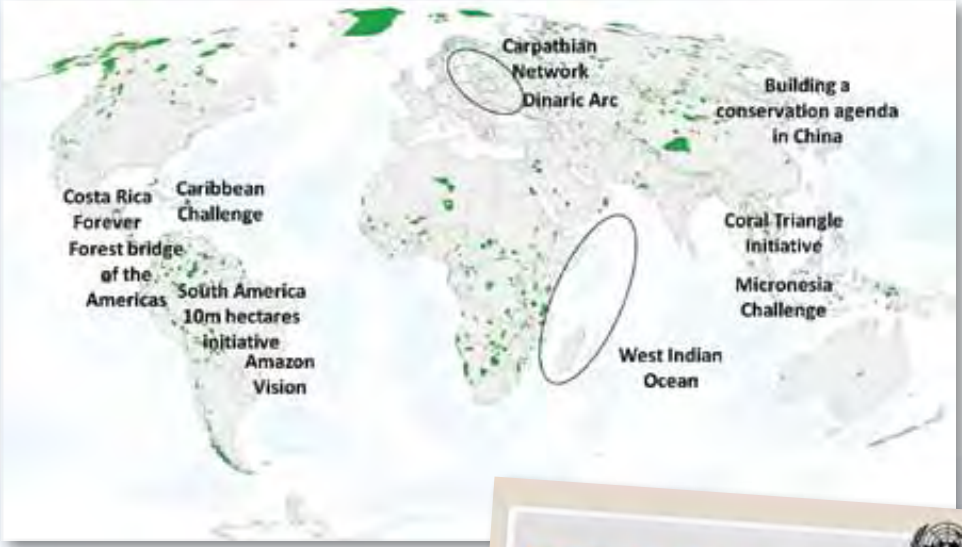
Concerted effort and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, expert organizations, civil society, indigenous and local communities, donors and business are key factors of success for PoWPA implementation. Six key elements are:

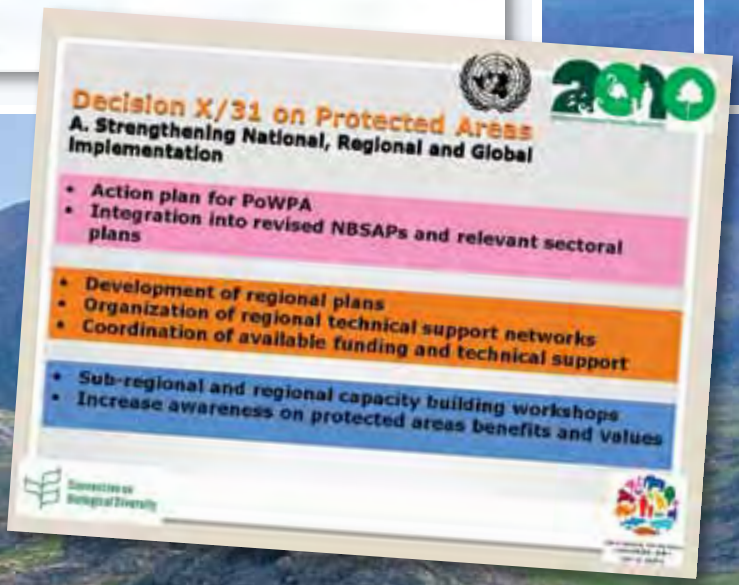
- national and regional-level commitment,
- financial capital,
- human and societal capacity,
- coordination among multiple agencies and sectors,
- cooperation among key stakeholders at multiple levels, and
- communication at all levels.



Commitment, political will and strategic alignment

The launch of regional protected area initiatives such as the Micronesian Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, the Dinaric Arc Initiative, the Amazonian Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative, and the Carpathian Network of protected areas, strengthened political will, secured financial commitment, and catalyzed national and regional action for implementing the PoWPA. Successive decisions of the Conference of the Parties (VII/28; VIIII/24; IX/18 and X/31) provided a conducive environment for global policy that catalyzes national action. For example, the preparation of over 100 PoWPA action plans in a span of 15 months is a remarkable achievement. These plans are the first step towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and showcase the commitment of Parties. As a next step, Parties have begun integrating PoWPA action plans into revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans.





Capital

Significant (yet still inadequate) bilateral and multilateral funding and donor commitment have targeted protected area implementation in the last decade. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has channelled investments of US $1.89 billion towards the creation and management of over 2,302 protected areas, covering more than 634 million hectares. In its fourth and fifth replenishment cycles alone, GEF programmed US $1.15 billion for protected areas. The LifeWeb Initiative – launched by the Government of Germany when it hosted the Conference of the Parties in 2008 to support and strengthen implementation of the PoWPA through financial resources – has facilitated channelling of over 200 million Euros over three years to support protected area projects. The numbers of other donors that have expressed interest in supporting projects brokered by LifeWeb have diversified the programme allowing it to become a 'one stop shop' for information and opportunity on protected areas financing.

GEF 5 Focal Area Allocations

- Protected areas
- Mainstream biodiversity
- Cartagena Protocol
- Access and benefit-sharing
- Integration into national planning
- Sustainable forest management

Capacity

Structured and systematic capacity building efforts by all partners focusing on an array of protected area themes and based on localized needs with a coherent national or regional plan of action helped in developing professional and institutional capacity.



The CBD Secretariat held eight **sub-regional capacity-building workshops** between 2011 to 2012, with the generous financial assistance of the European Union, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and host countries. About 135 countries and 320 protected area practitioners attended. Prior to workshops, the Secretariat sent background information, documents and preparation materials to country representatives. In response they worked on indentifying actions that lagged behind and prioritizing them, with a view to discussing these in the workshop. Workshops provided participants with practical training and examples centering on valuation of protected areas, marine protected areas, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, governance, funding opportunities under the biodiversity allocation of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and developing national action plans for the implementation of the PoWPA. In response to post-workshop surveys delegates voiced their overwhelming appreciation for these workshops, and called for more such practical support to be provided. Outcomes include:

- Facilitation of regional dialogue, cooperation and coordination;
- Identification of 122 national targets for Aichi Target 11; and
- Submission of almost 100 draft action plans.

"I have come away enriched and a little better equipped to manage the PoWPA process here in Fiji. In addition I have made some valuable contacts of colleagues who are engaged in similar work and I look forward to strengthening this relationship over time."

—Elizabeth Erasito, PoWPA FP, Fiji

The CBD hosts a comprehensive, centralized **user-friendly website** for the PoWPA that was launched courtesy of funding from the Government of Germany. It showcases national and global implementation of the PoWPA such as implementation highlights and country PoWPA action plans, online reporting, and comprehensive information on the PoWPA, including access to view, learn and download information on the PoWPA's 16 goals. The PoWPA website also hosts a suite of resources, tools and services:

- Tools database: a searchable database of approximately 2000 tools (documents, links, etc.) sorted by theme, PoWPA goal, language and more to help implementation;
- Consultant database: a roster of consultants and experts, who are experienced in one or more aspects of the PoWPA, sorted by region, expertise or PoWPA goal that serves to help countries find the expertise they need to implement the many actions of the PoWPA;
- Collaboration section: a blog, links to other collaboration sites, and PoWPA Friends page with member's logos; and
- E-learning curricula freely available and in languages on each PoWPA goal plus climate change and marine protected area themes.

The **E-learning curricula or modules** of the PoWPA are short courses that simplify the overwhelming material available into key terms, concepts, resources, approaches and case examples. Thirteen modules are currently freely available in English and other languages with more to come. Topics cover the 16 goals of the PoWPA, such as protected area network design or protected area integration, and related issues including climate change and marine protected areas. Modules are accompanied by manuals that can be downloaded to computers and mobile devices in both Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader formats for use in the field. So far over 2,300 online registrations have taken place for the modules with a 14% completion rate. User satisfaction for module content is rated 4.7 out of 5 based on 165 responses.

Coordination

Over 65 countries have established multi-stakeholder coordination committees, which provide a mechanism for ensuring successful PoWPA implementation and often involves natural resources agencies (forestry, wildlife, fisheries), key sectors (tourism, land use planning), key donors and funding agencies, and a variety of other actors, such as conservation organizations, NGOs, and academics. Committees can provide stable means of coordination and lead to sustained cooperation and communication.

Communication

The sub-regional capacity-building workshops for implementation of the CBD PoWPA helped facilitate regional lines of communication. The workshops emphasized that the 150 currently-designated national PoWPA focal points play an important role in establishing effective communication channels between NBSAP and PoWPA stakeholders, key societal decision makers, and other stakeholders. Communication between PoWPA, CBD, and other conventions' focal points, including the GEF, fosters coordination and a stronger call to action for policy makers and other stakeholders, making a case for protected areas by clearly communicating their value and importance, including addressing climate change issues, their contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and their broader ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits.

Cooperation

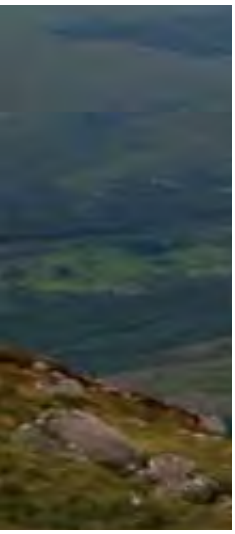
The IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, organizations of indigenous and local communities, and relevant international organizations and technical networks, collectively called the "Friends of PoWPA", played an important role in facilitating implementation of the PoWPA at national and regional levels. Adopting PoWPA implementation as the primary framework of action, they fostered regional cooperation and implementation strategies, and through ongoing efforts they work with PoWPA focal points promoting PoWPA implementation.

The **Micronesia Challenge** is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. It serves as a model for conservation initiated by a coalition of regional governments, endorsed at the international level and implemented on the ground with local communities. The Micronesia Challenge demonstrates the six 'C' elements.

- **Capacity**: A regional technical support team includes a wide range of partners supported by a technical working group to ensure that there is adequate capacity among all countries.
- **Capital**: The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International have jointly pledged $6 million to leverage an additional $12 million for the first phase of the Challenge. The leaders and their partners are working to secure matching funds for this pledge. The Global Environment Facility has promised a $6 million match as part of a new Pacific Alliance for Sustainability initiative. These developments have led to the establishment of the Micronesia Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Coordination**: The Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee and partners have developed a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure coordination by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner.
- **Cooperation**: There is a high level of cooperation among all partners, including participating Governments, NGOs, and local communities.
- **Commitment**: Each government has made a strong public commitment. There is clear commitment among stakeholders at sub-national levels, including local communities and locally managed marine areas.
- **Communication**: A dedicated working group has developed a regional communication strategy, local communication plans and a regional inventory of outreach materials to gain publicity at the global level.

Conclusion and Key Messages

Conclusion



PoWPA and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

The objective of the PoWPA is to establish and maintain comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas. The PoWPA outlines 16 broad goals which address a range of protected area issues including integration into wider landscapes and seascapes, connectivity, equity, governance and management.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, calls for globally expanding terrestrial and inland water protected areas by 17% and coastal and marine protected areas by 10% by 2020, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to conserve areas through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. A closer look at the specific goals of the PoWPA, adopted in 2004, and at Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, adopted in 2011, reveals that the PoWPA comprehensively addresses all the elements of Target 11.

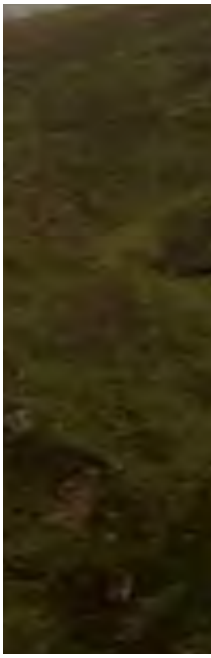
Current status of achieving Target 11

Beginning with global coverage, we can examine the current status of each element of Target 11. According to the World Database on Protected Areas (2011) dataset, 12.7% of the world's terrestrial surface and 7.2% of its coastal waters (0-12 nautical miles) are protected. However, considering the limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone, marine protection amounts to only 4% of this area.

Regarding "ecological representation": 414 out of the world's 823 terrestrial ecoregions have more than 10% of each protected and a further 149 ecoregions are close, with between 5 to 10% of their area under protection. However, in 84 terrestrial ecoregions, less than one per cent of the area is protected. In the case of marine ecoregions, 30 of the 232 marine ecoregions attained the 10% target. However, more than 50% (137 out of 232) have less than one percent of their area protected. Considering areas of particular importance for biodiversity, 49% of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and 51% of Important Bird Areas are entirely protected, still leaving large gaps.

Regarding "effectively managed" status: less than 30% of the world's protected areas have a management plan and only 24% of protected areas of 4,151 assessments undertaken in a 2010 global study have sound management in place. Information on other elements of Target 11 (equitably managed, other effective area-based conservation measures, well-connected and integrated into wider land- and seascapes) is not yet available in a comprehensive manner.

Given the above information, the world community is on track to meet the terrestrial area component of Target 11. However an increased focus on expanding marine protected areas, together with efforts on other requirements including representativity, management effectiveness, connectivity and integration into wider land- and seascapes, and equitable management, including other effective area based conservation measures, will be required.



What is needed?

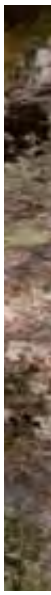
The world is reeling under a severe economic crisis. Now, as never before, there is an unequivocal recognition of the potential of natural capital to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the planet, rather than losing it forever to unsustainable development. Investments in the global network of ecologically representative and effectively managed protected areas as a part of efforts to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, will contribute to sustaining our natural capital.

As the PoWPA comprehensively addresses all the elements of Target 11, its effective implementation will make a significant contribution to achieving not only Target 11 but other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets (including 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18).

Achievements in PoWPA implementation, although modest, trigger hope and provide useful examples for others to modify and emulate. Three core enabling factors that facilitated implementation of the PoWPA, which build on the above six C's, include:

- Broadening political support and commitment;
- Aligning available funding with country action plans; and
- Establishing better global, regional and national technical support networks.

Focusing action within these three enabling factors in a coherent and mutually supportive manner is a prerequisite for achieving Target 11 through effective implementation of the PoWPA.



Key Messages for Successful Implementation

Simply put, focused action facilitated by political will and linked with available funding, structured capacity development and public responsiveness leads to implementation on the ground. If this statement is truly adhered to, then the international protected area community and society as a whole can implement the PoWPA and enable the transition from policy to realization.

» All relevant partners, including relevant government ministries and departments, GEF implementing agencies, regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, private foundations, private sector, and conservation and community organizations, should consider aligning their activities towards supporting implementation of PoWPA action plans and revised NBSAPs as the primary framework of action at national, regional and global levels and, thus, approach implementation together in a concerted manner.

» Bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, private foundations, the private sector and other donor agencies should consider aligning their funding programmes with PoWPA action plans and revised NBSAPs to ensure commonality from global to national and local implementation.

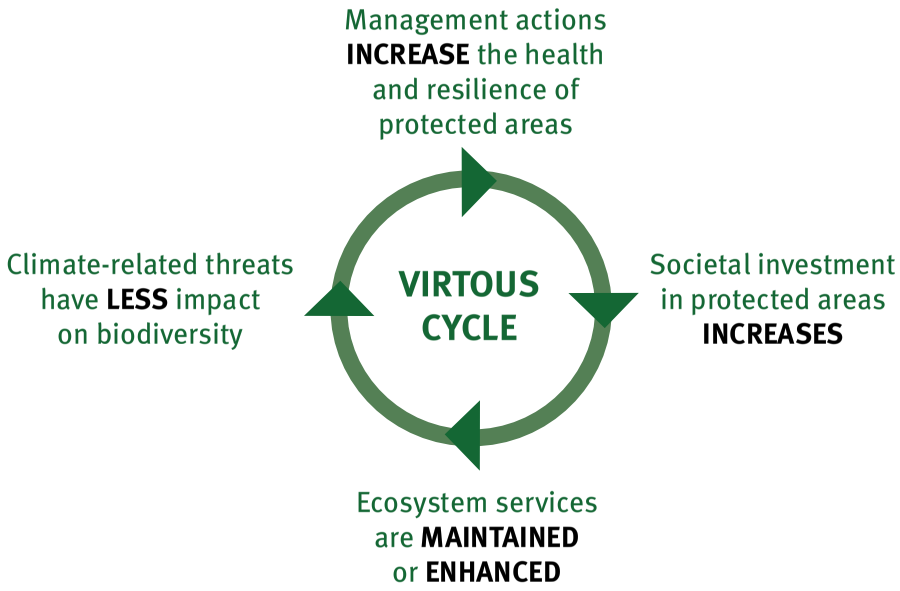
» All partner agencies, e.g. Friends of PoWPA, should continue enhancing professional capacity development initiatives including, *inter alia*: organization of sub-regional and regional workshops on common priority actions identified in the PoWPA action plans, conducting e-learning, holding training of trainer workshops, making available tools for implementation, and providing technical guidance to enable more focussed and systematic implementation.

Successful implementation of the PoWPA can lead to a virtuous cycle of supporting protected areas, addressing climate change and providing ecosystem services as well as reaching Target 11 and contributing to the realization of many other Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

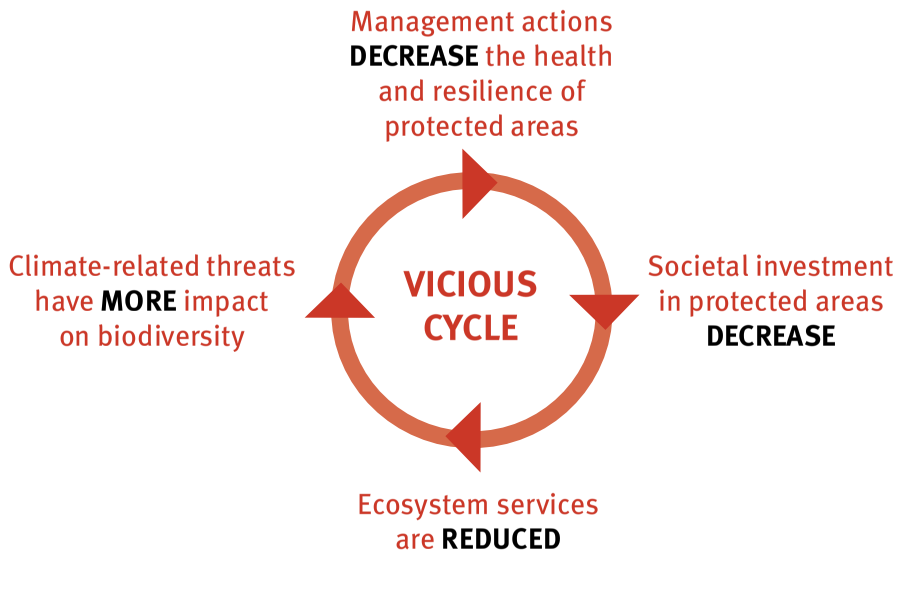
Elements of Target 11

- Completion of Gap analysis and implementation of results
- Sustainable finance plans and implementation
- Management effectiveness assessments and implementation of results
- Diversification and implementation of Governance Types
- Valuation of PA benefits and goods
- Integration of PAs into wider landscape and seascapes

achieve



fail to achieve



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Convention on Biological Diversity

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2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity

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