

UNEP-WCMC Proteus Partnership and CSBI Workshop on Protected Areas 14th May 2014

UNEP-WCMC's Proteus Partnership and the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative

This joint workshop between the Proteus Partnership and the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) is being convened to discuss industry operations in or near protected areas, approaches for screening and mitigation activities, and opportunities for companies to support protected area management.

The Proteus Partnership between UNEP-WCMC and leading extractives industry members has focussed on improving data and understanding of protected areas networks for over 10 years. A key objective of Proteus is to deliver data and information on protected areas to support implementation of robust protected area networks and pragmatic impact mitigation approaches. UNEP-WCMC has a core team of protected area experts, working to support the monitoring and achievement of Aichi Target 11¹ on protected area coverage and effectiveness, and build and maintain the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

CSBI was created to develop and share good practices and practical tools to apply the mitigation hierarchy, especially in relation to implementation of IFC Performance Standard 6. CSBI aims to share experiences and to create a culture of learning and continuous improvement. Its members span the finance, oil and gas, and mining sectors, and include many of the Proteus Partners.

As part of the 2014 annual Proteus Partnership meeting, and the CSBI annual meeting, UNEP-WCMC, the Proteus members, and CSBI are collaborating to hold a joint workshop to discuss in more detail the issue of business operations in or near protected areas. This collaborative approach allows for broader participation from the extractives sector and, additionally, involvement from the finance sector.

This workshop will provide a closed forum for discussion on development activity in and around protected areas, with a focus on industry perspectives and case studies to understand better current approaches being taken by companies and how these can contribute to conservation goals. The workshop will be run under Chatham House rules and no information regarding specific case studies or individual company approaches will be shared externally without the specific permission of the relevant company.

¹ CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: By 2020, 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, are conserved 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.

In anticipation of the World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney in November this year, the partners are keen to generate discussion around key topics which are envisaged to be high on the agenda of the event in reference to development activity. UNEP-WCMC will be heavily involved in the World Parks Congress and is keen to take balanced, informed and pragmatic ideas to the various sessions, especially those focussed on business activities, and allow industry views and perspectives to be well understood and represented at this global platform.

Workshop Objectives

Combining the various interests from UNEP-WCMC, the Proteus Partnership and CSBI, the key objectives of this workshop are:

- To provide information on protected areas that supports the development of company biodiversity management and impact mitigation approaches (linked to one of the key objectives of the Proteus Partnership)
- To provide a secure forum for industry to share and learn from mutual experiences of operations in or near protected areas, facilitated by the protected areas experts of UNEP-WCMC and feeding into discussion of these topics at the World Parks Congress
- To support the CSBI work streams through the sharing of knowledge and experience from industry and the protected areas community, contributing to the body of information on good practice approaches for screening, impact mitigation and managing activity in and around protected areas

The workshop will be run through the following three sessions:

1) Demystifying protected areas

- Providing information on protected area definitions, designations and categorisations
- Understanding the approaches of the financial sector regarding interpretation of protected areas and requirements for development in or near protected areas
- Considering the use of protected areas information in company screening processes

2) Mitigation approaches in and around protected areas

- Considering the different approaches currently available to and used by companies to mitigate impact in protected areas

3) Opportunities for industry to support protected area management

- Considering activities undertaken by companies to support the development and management of protected areas

Expected Outputs

A confidential / Chatham House rules report for internal use will be prepared by UNEP-WCMC.

Although still in discussion, a white paper has been considered for either internal or external use, potentially as a joint product from Proteus and CSBI. This paper would detail challenges and opportunities of different approaches discussed throughout the day, the feasibility of implementation by companies, and the benefit for protected area management and the achievement of conservation goals.

UNEP-WCMC would like to ensure that the valuable perspectives from industry participants are reflected (albeit anonymously and/or generically) in discussions relating to industry that take place at the World Parks Congress.

From the CSBI side, the outcomes from the workshop will feed into a discussion session at the CSBI members-only meeting on 15th May, during which participants will consider how best to utilise the workshop outputs from the CSBI perspective (i.e. to support cross-sector learning and continuous improvement).