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Picture: Roberto Liniken/UNESCO

Ilha do Cardoso State Park, a World Heritage site in Brazil's Atlantic Forest South East Reserves.

OUR GIFT TO THE FUTURE

“WHEN we talk about protected areas, this all-embracing term is a way of defining all those places — numbering more than 44,000 worldwide — given special protection and which put together cover an area as large as India and China combined.

Country by country they have many different titles. They may be called national parks, state parks, *parcs naturels*, marine reserves, areas of outstanding natural beauty, nature reserves, regional parks, historic sites, special landscapes and so on.

At an international level we have tried to put some sort of framework around them and the 1994 IUCN's *Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories* defined six categories according to their primary objectives.

Those in Category I are strict nature reserve and wilderness areas managed mainly for science or wilderness protection, while

PROFESSOR ADRIAN PHILLIPS, *Senior Advisor and Vice Chair for World Heritage (WCPA) gives his overview of the present status and longer term future development of the world's protected area network.*

Category II areas are managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation. These are often known as national parks, being modelled on the ideas that came first from North America, although national parks in the UK and many other countries do not fall within this category.

Category III covers natural monuments, areas managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features. Category IV is for protected areas managed mainly for habitat or species conservation, like the UK's national nature reserves. Category V embraces protected landscapes and seascapes which are managed for conservation and recreation, and



WELCOME to this first issue of NPIB . . .

which will be read by people working in national parks and other protected areas in more than 40 countries across the world.

While we have tried to build up a comprehensive reader database, we would like you to let us know of any individuals or organisations who might wish to become NPIB readers too.

NPIB'S GROWTH LIES IN YOUR HANDS.

Articles and news began flowing into our editorial offices as soon as news of our planned launch was discovered, and we hope many more readers will contact us with stories which they would like to share with colleagues worldwide.

The single purpose of NPIB is to stimulate an exchange of information and ideas between all those involved in the work of national parks and other protected areas throughout the world.

NPIB's publishers, UK-based Powdene, are not part of an international or multinational conglomerate. We are a small independent company, established in 1985, which specialises in producing wildlife and countryside publications.

Initially, the sole source of revenue for NPIB will be through reader subscriptions. **ITS LONG-TERM SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU AS MUCH AS US.**

NPIB will be published bi-monthly and posted to readers by air mail.

For details of subscription rates, please turn to back page.

Editor – Stewart Bonney

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Category VI is for protected areas managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

When protected areas are mentioned people often think first of their role in safeguarding wildlife and scenery, but they serve many different purposes. For example, numerous cities around the world obtain a very large amount of their water supply from protected areas.

Others protect biodiversity values. Apart from wildlife this may involve plants used for medicine or safeguarding wild relatives of crops vital for local food needs.

I would argue that the creation of protected areas is the most incredibly important investment we can make in the environment. Perhaps the most important gift the 20th century has passed on to the 21st century is that we have achieved real protection over quite a large amount of the land surface and, if future generations are to survive in anything like a civilised way, I think we are going to need these places more than ever.

The problem we face is that when it comes to the management of some protected areas, the real-

ity does not live up to the rhetoric, and that is due to three inter-related causes.

The first is that in those countries, particularly in the developing world, which are politically unstable or where there is inequality or difficulty in accessing resources, it is extremely difficult to invest in and manage protected areas properly.

The second problem involves external threats such as encroachment, poaching, mining, infrastructure development and a long list of other dangers to which we must now add pollution and climate change.

The third is the consequence of inadequate or ineffective management. This might be due to too few staff, insufficient funding or not having the right management plans. The people involved have no clear idea of how it is all going to work and they end up with what we call a 'paper park'.

For all these reasons many protected areas — mainly, but not only, in the developing world — now face a crisis, and that is why a tremendous amount of thought is going into reshaping the approach to creating protected areas.

In the past there was a standard model national park where central government went out and bought a bit of land and employed staff to manage it. That model, for all sorts of reasons, doesn't often work now. It is seen as too 'top-down' and often opposed by local people. Furthermore, the responsibility for creating and managing protected areas is increasingly shared with many different agen-



Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, Bolivia.

NEW Natural World Heritage Sites inscribed by the World Heritage Committee in December 2000 were: Argentina — Ischigualasto-Talamaya Natural Parks; Australia — the Greater Blue Mountains Area; Bolivia — Noel Kempff Mercado National Park; Brazil — Jau National Park and Pantanal Conservation Area; Italy — Aeolian Islands; Malaysia — Kinabalu Park and Gun-

NEW SITES ON THE LIST

ung Mulu National Park; Surinam — Central Surinam Nature Reserve; and Sweden — The High Coast.

The Committee also listed one new Mixed World Heritage Site (inscribed for both natural and cultural values) — the Drakensberg Park in South Africa.

This December, from a total of 17 nominated natural sites, the committee will be given IUCN/WCPA recommendations to inscribe a further three: Switzerland — Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn; Russian Federation — Volcanoes of Kamchatka; and United Kingdom — Dorset and East Devon Coast.

(A report will be carried in Issue 3 of NPIB.)

cies ranging from provincial and local government, the public and private sectors, non-governmental organisations, community-based and indigenous initiatives.

So the whole notion of protected areas has in some ways been stood on its head in the last 20 years.

In PAs once managed mainly with tourism and landscape protection in mind, the emphasis is now much more on working with and giving local people a role in helping to run them, and a greater emphasis on strong economic and social activities that complement conservation.

Where protected areas were once treated as islands of ecological integrity, they are now increasingly managed as networks physically linked with the land around

opportunities to create more Category V and VI areas.

Indeed, that's where I would expect a lot of the growth to be in the years ahead, increasingly creating protected areas where people live and seeking partnership models with an emphasis on multiple use.

Many countries have joined the World Heritage Convention but the spread of World Heritage sites is uneven and strategies are currently being discussed to create a better network of global protection.

Once a state has signed up to the World Heritage Convention, one of its obligations is to nominate sites of 'outstanding universal value' of cultural or natural importance.

On behalf of IUCN, WCPA eval-

process in more detail, we use four natural criteria to determine whether a site is of outstanding universal value. These relate to geology, ecological processes, natural beauty and biodiversity.

In the first place, for a site to get on to the list it would have to satisfy one or more of those criteria. Secondly, it would also have to be satisfactory from the perspective of what we call 'integrity' — is there a good management plan in place, is the site properly protected, are sufficient resources available?

Once all written submissions have been examined, an expert visits the site to ask questions and make a reality check, and then we get a group of experts on different topics in the area to give their opinion. The evaluation is then reviewed by the IUCN World Heritage panel, whose recommendation is made to the World Heritage committee.

Each application is thoroughly tested but the whole process is an art, not a science. The easy nominations are the outstanding and the hopeless. The difficult cases are the border-line ones.

If World Heritage status is to have any credibility we have to take a tough line and insist on very high standards and areas achieving the integrity that is required. So quite often we recommend a rejection which, of course, will disappoint the country that made the nomination.

The one new mixed natural and cultural World Heritage site to be recently inscribed is Drakensberg Park in South Africa, which has great cultural significance for the Bantu people.

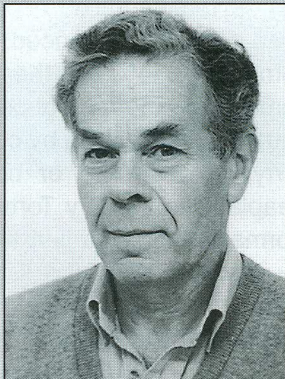
But this new paradigm that separates culture and nature is not always helpful. Many sites of great natural wonder have very strong cultural values too.

Now the World Heritage Convention has developed an interesting area in the middle, called 'cultural landscapes'. Two being proposed for nomination in the UK are the Lake District and the New Forest. It will be very interesting to see whether they make it."

PROFESSOR ADRIAN PHILLIPS

The Director General of the UK Countryside Commission for 10 years, Adrian Phillips was appointed Professor of Countryside and Environmental Planning at Cardiff University, Wales, in 1992 and between 1994-2000 he chaired the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Professor Phillips is currently Senior Advisor and Vice Chair for World Heritage (WCPA), a trustee of WWF/UK, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, Green Alliance and an advisor to the UK Heritage Lottery Fund. He was honoured as a Companion of the Order of the British Empire for services to the countryside and the environment in 1998.



them, using the buffer corridor concept or planned as part of a national or international system of heritage sites where the system is more than the sum of the parts. (Natura 2000 in Europe is a good example.)

Although scenic preservation is still important, scientific, economic and cultural reasons and the practice of ecological restoration are increasingly important in many protected areas.

About 10% of the world is covered by protected areas but their distribution is very irregular. Only 1% of the marine environment is given special protection and in some countries the total area under protection is less than 1%. So I believe there is a real need to create more highly protected areas, but there are also many

uators such as myself undertake an assessment of nominated natural sites and make recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. Our recommendations may be positive, negative or 'yes, but...', meaning we think protection should be strengthened before the site goes on the World Heritage list.

Once a site is inscribed, we maintain an overview on what happens there. Some have been subject to major problems, for example several World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo are now absolute disaster zones where all the wildlife, all conservation work and local community interests have been destroyed by the ghastly conflict there.

Looking at the evaluation

