



The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP): An innovative mechanism to help countries achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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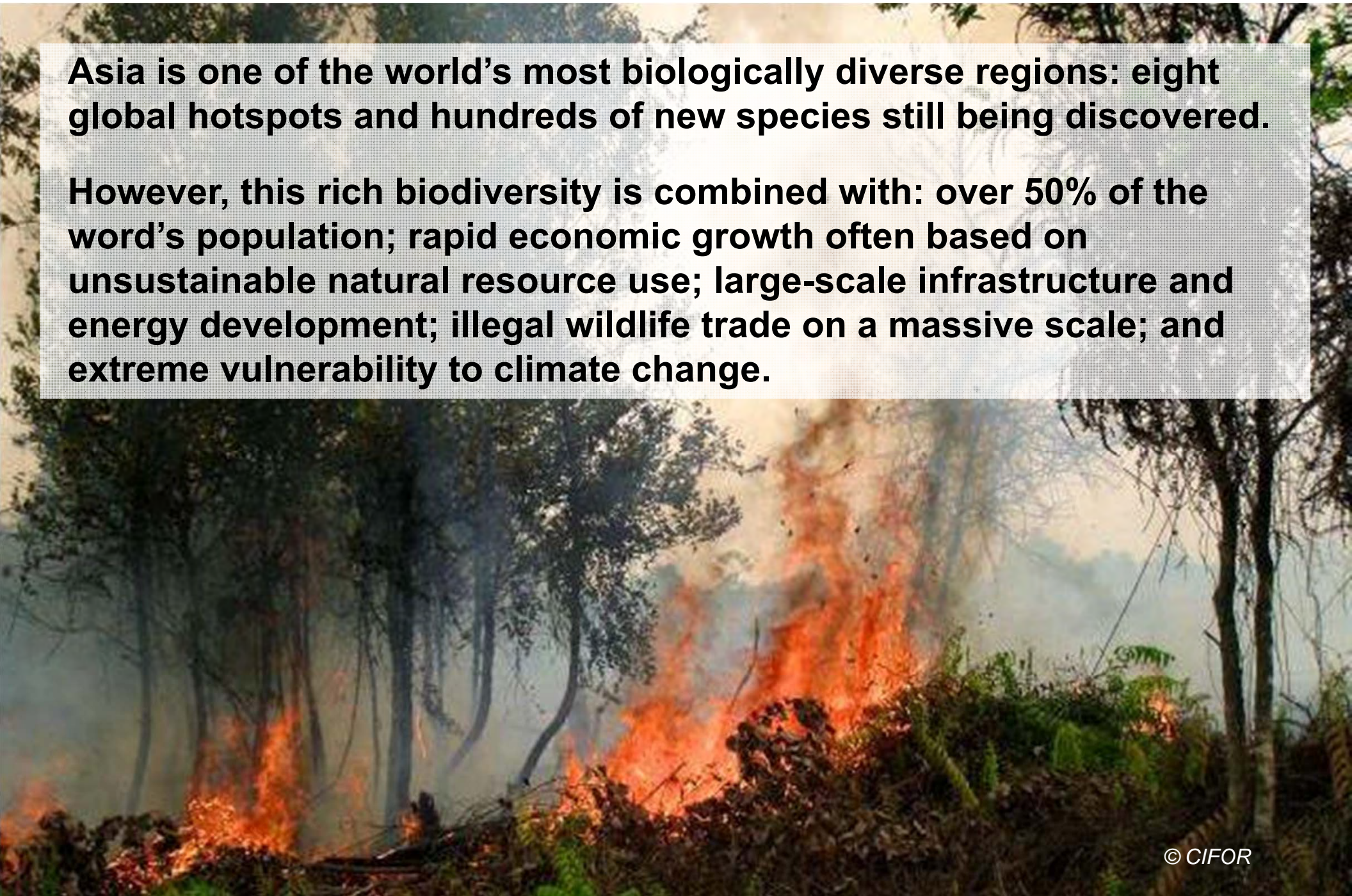
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Promoting regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas

Biodiversity in Asia: Under Increasing Threat

Asia is one of the world's most biologically diverse regions: eight global hotspots and hundreds of new species still being discovered.

However, this rich biodiversity is combined with: over 50% of the world's population; rapid economic growth often based on unsustainable natural resource use; large-scale infrastructure and energy development; illegal wildlife trade on a massive scale; and extreme vulnerability to climate change.



A Growing Need for Collaboration

In recognition of the increasing scale and complexity of these threats, and the growing need for regional collaboration to address them, the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) was launched in 2014.



History

November 2013: The idea for a partnership was raised at the 1st Asia Parks Conference in Sendai, Japan.

April 2014: First International Planning Committee meeting unanimously endorsed formation of APAP

October 2014: Second International Planning Committee held in Republic of Korea

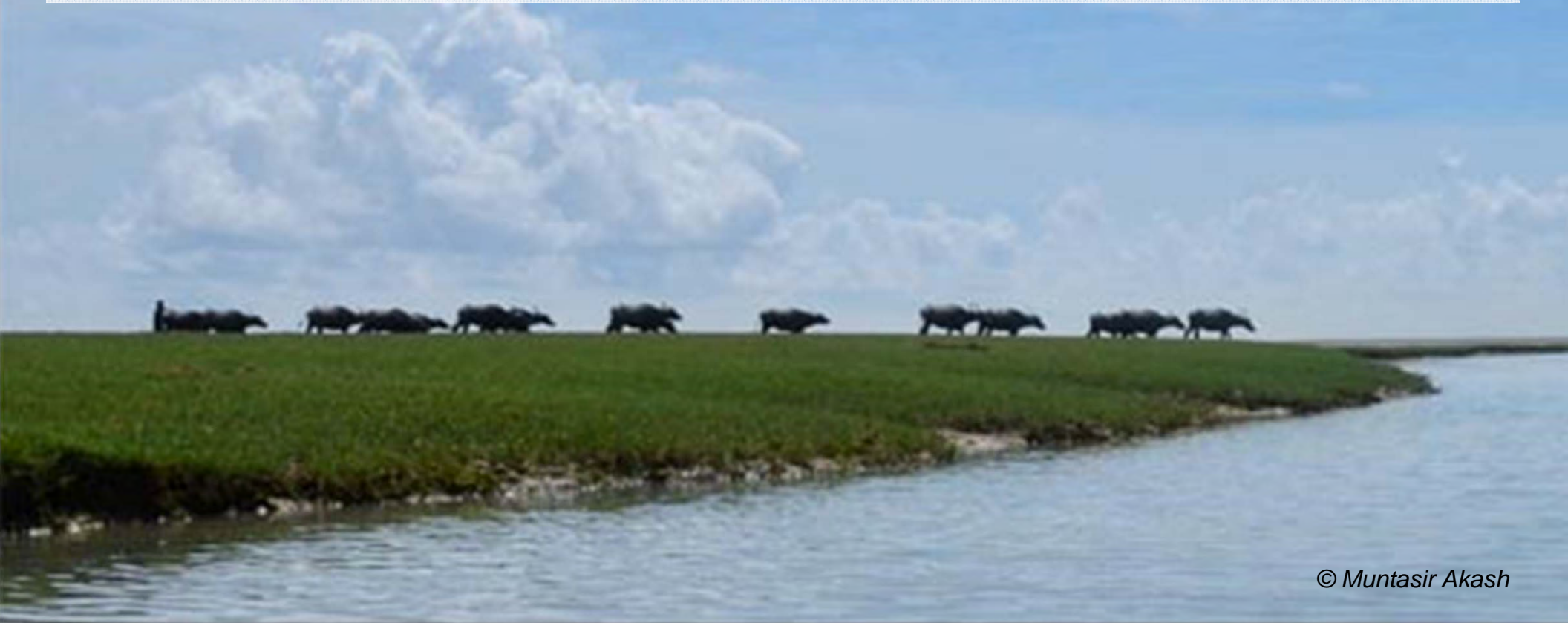
18 November 2014: APAP formally launched at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia; certificates awarded to first members

Status, Membership Criteria and Leadership

APAP is an informal, voluntary network with no membership fees.

Membership is open to government PA agencies at national and sub-national levels and to other institutions that meet APAP's criteria.

APAP is co-chaired by IUCN and a government member on a rotational basis (currently the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea).



Objectives

APAP seeks to:

- **Provide a forum in which Asian PA agencies can share experience**
- **Promote best practices and the development of innovative solutions to the challenges facing the region's PAs**
- **Enhance transboundary and regional cooperation**
- **Raise awareness of the benefits of Asia's PAs**

Governance and Operations

A “Partnership Document” was adopted on 15 July 2016 and provides the governance framework.

A Steering Committee composed of representatives from each member country, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN Councillors and others meets once a year.

The APAP Secretariat is provided by the IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

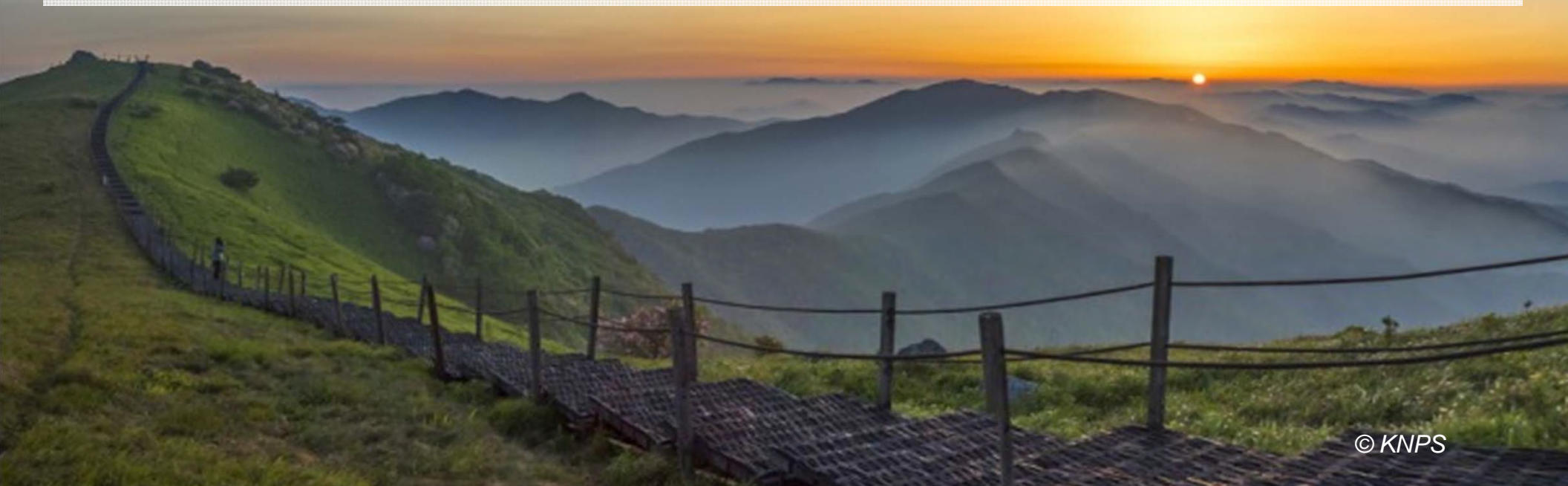
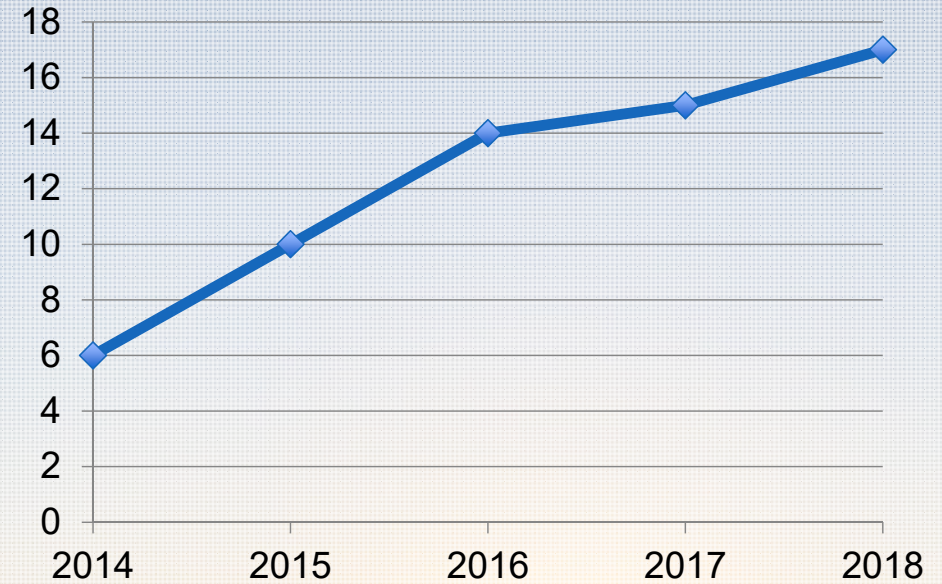
Funding support for APAP is generously provided by:

- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea**
- Korea National Park Service**
- Ministry of the Environment, Japan.**

Membership

Since its launch in 2014, APAP membership has expanded rapidly.

Beginning with six Country Members in 2014, APAP now has 17 Country Members from 14 countries and one Associate Member.



Membership

The 17 Country Members are from:

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan (2)
- Republic of Korea (2)
- Sri Lanka (2)
- Vietnam

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is an Associate Member. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity has also applied for Associate Membership.

Programme and Activities

- **APAP convenes technical workshops and experience sharing events for the Asia PA community, including the Asia Parks Congress**
- **Organises in-depth trainings and Master Classes on specific PA management issues**
- **Promotes access to information and guidelines on best practice**
- **Assists with the development of transboundary programmes and projects**
- **Seeks to strengthen the voice of the Asia PA community at key regional and global events**

1st and 2nd Technical Workshops

Collaborative Management: Japan, 2015 and 2017



3rd Technical Workshop

Human-Wildlife Conflict: Bhutan, 2017



4th Technical Workshop

Managing PAs Effectively: Republic of Korea, 2018



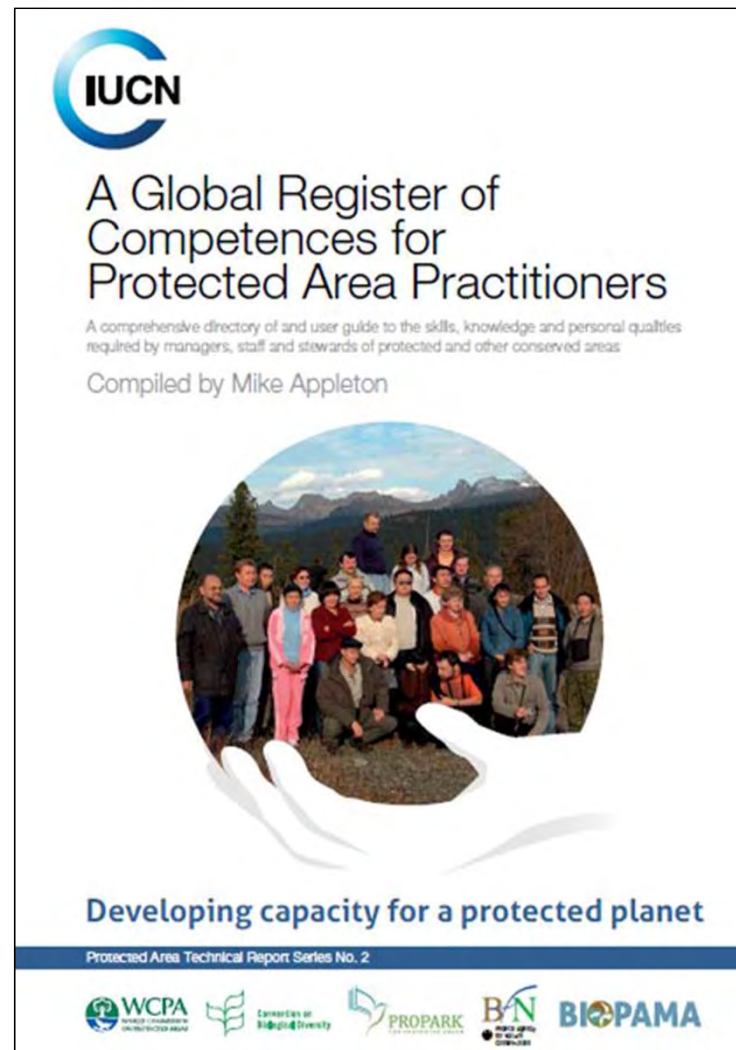
Coming Soon: The 1st APAP Master Class

Prevention and Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict: Feb 2019



Translation of Key Publications on Protected Areas

Currently in the process of translating the IUCN publication, *A Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners*, into Nepali and Myanmar language



Future Priorities

Future priorities will include:

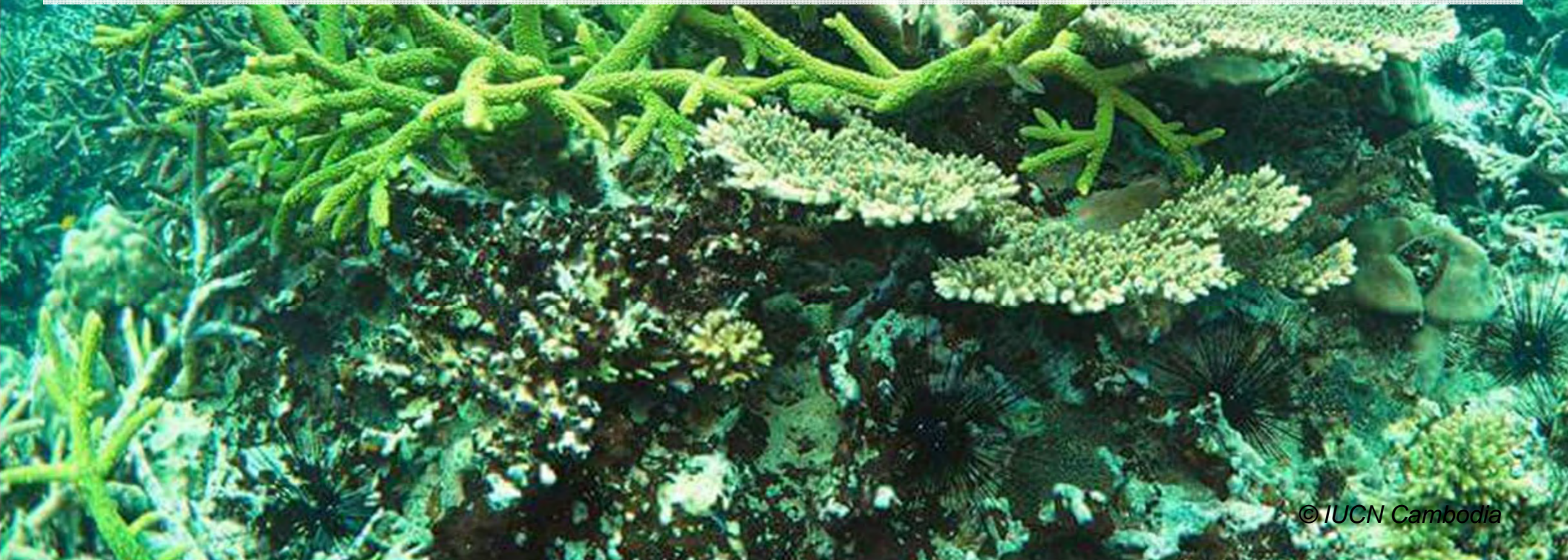
- **Promoting transboundary collaboration**, e.g., by organising technical workshops on IUCN's best practice guidelines on transboundary conservation, establishing a staff exchange programme, and facilitating joint activities between neighbouring PAs
- **Capacity building** on practical, "on-the-ground", PA management issues, e.g., sustainable tourism management
- **Provision of technical support** to Members in adopting tools and standards to enhance PA management, e.g. the IUCN Green List
- **Learning from other PA networks** in different parts of the world

Summary

APAP has developed rapidly, from just an idea in 2013 to a fully-fledged, Asia-wide, partnership in 2018 - and it is continuing to grow.

APAP has already demonstrated that it can serve as a regional platform for building capacity and sharing best practices – through its technical workshops, Steering Committees, translation of guidelines, etc.

But APAP can do much more! It has great potential to build on these foundations and to help countries achieve the Aichi Targets.





Thank you for listening!

www.asiaprotectedareaspartnership.org

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