

## CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

(Issued on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008, at the Ad Hoc Open-  
Ended Working Group on Protected Areas, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Meeting, Rome)

As civil society organizations gathered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CBD Working Group on Protected Areas, we express serious concern, in the context of protected areas, about the continued overall loss of biodiversity and the continued violation of human rights, and the lack of progress with achieving agreed targets to reduce and halt biodiversity loss. There remain serious threats from extractive and other industries such as logging, mining, and industrial agriculture/fishing/aquaculture, new processes such as the promotion of agrofuels, and other such factors that are drivers of biodiversity loss. The loss of biodiversity also continues to have serious impacts on the survival, livelihoods, and cultures of indigenous peoples and local communities. ***The CBD parties must announce a moratorium on extractive and other industries in areas considered important for biodiversity conservation, and on territories of indigenous peoples and local communities without free prior informed consent.***

Ironically, some the most effective means of reaching the targets to reduce and halt biodiversity loss remain neglected aspects of the CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work (PA POW). This includes, especially, the recognition and support of the rights and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in community conserved areas and the rest of their traditional territories, and through the involvement and recognition of rights of such communities in the establishment and management of government protected areas. Destruction of biodiversity in the high seas also needs to be halted; the establishment of PAs in such areas needs to take into account the direct and indirect impacts on the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, and be coherent with the UN Fish Stocks

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Agreement. Finally, in the move to establish protected areas as sites of special focus, there is neglect of the fact that the rest of the landscape continues to be degradation.

We also point to the recently adopted United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The rights enshrined in this declaration should guide the implementation of the Programme of Work on PAs and all other aspects of the CBD. This is crucial because our experience shows that in most countries, protected areas continue to be established and run in violation of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, despite the commitment to change which is embedded in the PA POW.

We recognize that there has been some progress on implementation of the PA POW, but our concerns remain on the following points:

- The rush to meet the targets of the PA POW through narrowly defined 'scientific' criteria without considering their social, cultural, and equity aspects, and without diversifying PA governance, continues to undermine the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Many of the targets of the PA POW could be effectively reached if governments were to put a moratorium on industrial and commercial extraction of resources in areas of biodiversity importance, and in territories of indigenous peoples and local communities without prior informed consent, while simultaneously recognizing the rights of IP/LCs in PA establishment and management. ***Criteria for identifying and establishing protected areas need to include social and cultural issues, and indigenous knowledge; expansion of the protected area systems must rely on diversification of governance in particular community conserved areas.***
- Most countries appear not to have put in the policies, laws, and institutional mechanisms needed to implement the recommendations regarding governance, equity, and benefit-sharing committed to in Element 2 of the PA POW. ***Governments should put in effective legal, policy and institutional***

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*mechanisms to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to PAs, and to fully redress the imbalance between local and national/global costs and benefits. There is also a clear need to build capacity within government agencies on governance, equity and rights, and we strongly recommend a series of regional workshops dedicated to this.*

- Reporting by governments on the implementation of the PA POW remains very weak, with very few parties having sent in their reports, and many of them not reporting on the governance and social aspects of PAs. In most countries, reports have not been prepared through participatory ways despite relevant COP decisions on this. We admit also that civil society reporting on this needs to be stronger and more independent. ***Parties must be made accountable for adequate and participatory reporting; we also urge the need to support and recognise independent reporting by indigenous peoples, local communities, and other civil society organizations.***

- PA schemes and poverty/livelihood schemes in most countries are still delinked, creating artificial shortages of finances for conservation and driving governments towards private sector funding and management of PAs, which even further undermines IP/LC rights. Additionally intensification of land uses around PAs continues to threaten biodiversity and communities. It must be kept in mind that conservation of biodiversity is much more than just the establishment of PAs.

- ***There is a need to link various programmes of the government, to democratize their planning and implementation with IP/LC participation, to stop destructive land use practices outside and within PAs, and through all these steps to support PAs as the 'commons' that are critical for ecological security and for the livelihood security of Indigenous peoples and local communities.***

- So-called 'innovative mechanisms' for financing PAs such as carbon and biodiversity offsets are of serious concern to us, when they enable those most responsible for the destruction of our planet to evade their responsibilities, and when they are used by governments to continue carrying out activities in violation of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, as is often the case. ***Governments and donors need to commit to putting in the funds needed from public funds first and foremost, and where relying on other innovative mechanisms, to ensure ecological sustainability, equitable sharing of costs and benefits, and the full respect of the rights and participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities.***



Now, that's ironic: We've just received a request for donations from the WWF...

Finally, we support the following draft recommendations made in the Secretariat note UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/2, but would like to stress that IP/LC participation in these has to be central:

- (i) establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination committees in each country, to help implement the POW, with the proviso that IP/LCs be recognized as rightsholders, not mere 'stakeholders';
- (ii) improvement and diversification of PA governance and in particular co-management and community conserved areas.

*(Issued by civil society organizations gathered at a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, Rome)*

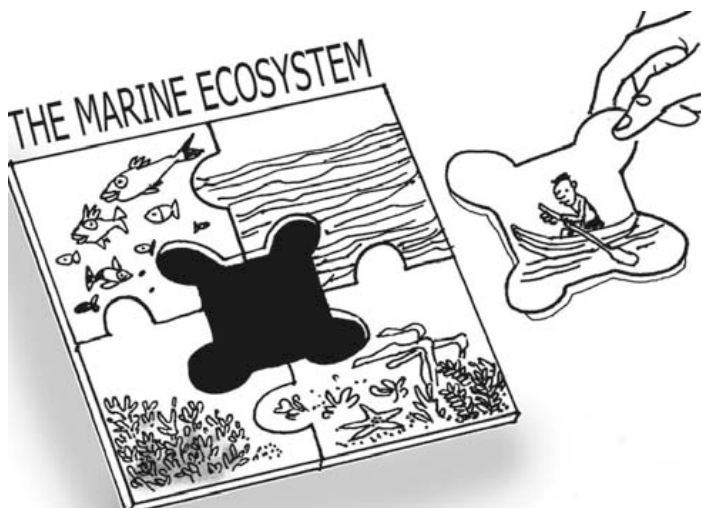
## **MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: SMALL-SCALE FISHING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES**

On 8 and 9 February 2008, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) organized a two-day workshop on Social Dimensions of Marine Protected Area (MPAs), with specific relation to fishing communities. The six studies facilitated by ICSF in India, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Thailand and Tanzania, drawing on on-the-ground experiences of fishing communities, were presented at this workshop. A study undertaken by WALHI in Indonesia drawing on five MPA experiences in Sulawesi and Komodo-NTT, and experiences on initiation and implementation of protected area programmes from France and Spain were shared. Inputs were received as well from the representative of the World Forum of Fisherpeople (WFFP) present. The issues identified, and related

proposals, draw from the discussions at this workshop. These are:

**1. Prioritizing process:** Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have set themselves a target of bringing at least 10 per cent of the world's marine ecoregions under protection by 2012. While conservation initiatives certainly need an impetus, we need to be aware that in the quest for meeting quantitative targets, the nature and quality of community participation in governance is being compromised, curtailing the very effectiveness of this programme of work. In our experience, the process of ensuring effective and meaningful community participation in management and protected area implementation is challenging, and needs, above all, time. However, it should be recognized that only genuine participatory processes would ensure long-term and sustainable outcomes, balancing biodiversity conservation, with environmental and social justice.

**2. Human rights:** Undemocratic and non-transparent processes in protected area implementation, particularly top-down, target-oriented MPA implementation, supported by governments, financially powerful conservation NGOs and international financial institutions, are displacing and undermining livelihoods of fishing communities, compromising in many instances the human rights of these communities. This is especially the case where the focus is on no-take reserves rather than on conservation within a sustainable use framework. If coastal and marine conservation initiatives are to be effective from a biodiversity, livelihood and poverty alleviation perspective, the starting point for conservation initiatives must be fishing and other marine resource dependent communities and their organizations themselves.



**3. Community conservation initiatives:** In this context, we need to be aware that fishing communities across the world have been taking a variety of initiatives, traditionally and more

recently, to protect and manage their resources, within a sustainable use framework, including through establishing protected areas. It is essential to adopt a dynamic and flexible approach to defining and recognizing protected areas (in keeping with decision VII/24). Community initiatives need to be seen as conservation initiatives in their own right and accorded due legal recognition and support. Recently introduced MPAs have often been imposed on these systems, undermining them as well as the social institutions that sustain them. In contrast, in countries such as in Brazil, Spain and France, community-initiated and community-driven processes that have drawn on traditional knowledge of local fishing communities, have received support from government, and are proving effective.

The following are specific proposals for WGPA2:

- 1. Participation in PA-related processes:** The *direct* participation of fishing community representatives in all CBD workshop and meetings related to protected areas should be facilitated. In order to make this participation meaningful and effective, preparatory processes prior to meetings need to be organized and supported, and translation of documents/ interpretation ensured. A policy on effective participation of indigenous and local fishing communities in such meetings needs to be developed and implemented.
- 2. Governance and capacity building:** To increase awareness on the provisions of PA programme of work and to ensure its implementation, particularly of Programme Element 2, there is need to organize specific capacity building workshops on governance and social issues, with participation of indigenous and local fishing community representatives, governments, and natural and social scientists, at the national and regional level. Such processes should ensure that management plans developed for MPA implementation, which presently tend to be biological in focus, have a specific socioeconomic focus.
- 3. Reporting:**
  - Reporting by governments on protected areas implementation should specifically include reporting progress achieved on implementing Programme Element 2 of the PA POW (in keeping with decision VIII/24, para 4) and on meeting MDG targets. The reporting format needs to be accordingly be modified to enable qualitative and meaningful reporting on these goals.
  - National reports need to be prepared through a participatory process, where communities in protected areas are part of the process of monitoring effectiveness of protected area

implementation. Civil society needs to be supported in conducting evaluation of PAs.

- There is need for specific reporting on marine protected areas. This would also enable governments to review governance frameworks in use for management of marine protected areas, given that, in several countries, terrestrial frameworks and institutions are used for the management of marine protected areas, despite the unique nature of the coastal and marine ecosystems as well as the social institutions that relate to these resources.
4. **Socioeconomic data:** While the initiative to develop the World Database on Protected Areas is commendable, it is imperative that gender-segregated baseline socioeconomic data is be part of the reporting framework that goes to develop this database.
  5. **Toolkits:** There is need to develop specific toolkits for evaluation and implementation of marine protected areas, suited to the specific context of fishing communities and the marine environment, and with a focus on socio-economic components.
  6. **Social and cultural criteria:** There needs to be greater focus on social and cultural aspects of protected area planning and implementation, balancing the current predominant focus on biological aspects. Local, traditional and indigenous knowledge should be included in all stages of the identification, planning and implementation of conservation and management initiatives, and in monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of these initiatives. In this context it is unfortunate that the regional capacity-building workshops on Gap Analysis and Management Effectiveness did not make any attempt to integrate social and cultural aspects and knowledge systems.

**Civil Society meetings will be held everyday between 8.45 a.m and 10.00 a.m at the Cuba room, building B**

**Indigenous Peoples Committee on Conservation would meet everyday between 8.00 am and 10.00 a.m in the Red Room, building A**

***Please note that the Cuba room will be used as the NGO hub for WGPA 2***

*Due thanks to the CBD Secretariat for all their help and support!!*

#### ***Heard in the corridor.....***

The Ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas may also wish to recommend that the COP encourages parties to ensure that conservation activities in the context of protected areas should provide benefits to poor people affected by those activities or, where that is not possible, should not harm poor people or, where that is not possible, should compensate or mitigate the harms suffered or, where that is not possible pay for their funeral!

**These statements are also available on [www.WGPA-2.blogspot.com](http://www.WGPA-2.blogspot.com)**

**ECO and the CBD Alliance thank Swedbio, Hivos-Oxfam Novib Biodiversity Fund, and CIDA for their on-going support**

#### **SIDE EVENT**

**TILCEPA and TGER (Expert groups of IUCN commissions CEESP and WCPA) in collaboration with the GEF**

**Governance As Key For Effective And Equitable Protected Area Systems**

**MONDAY 11 February  
13:15 - 14:45, Room: MEXICO (D-211)**

