| **TERMS OF REFERENCE**Logo, company name  Description automatically generated**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES****PROTECTED AREA DOWNGRADING, DOWNSIZING AND DEGAZETTEMENT TASK FORCE** |
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| **Background.**  |
| Protected and conserved areas (PCAs) are the cornerstone of efforts to conserve biodiversity, and can also support climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development goals and avoiding future pandemics. The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) includes a Target to expand PCAs to 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Yet despite the intent that PCAs are to be governed and deliver conservation outcomes for the long-term, they are not always permanent. Legal rollbacks to protections - protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADDD), the legal tempering, reduction, or elimination of PAs - can compromise PA objectives. Rollbacks may also occur in conserved areas in the future. Unrestrained and poorly-governed PADDD can reduce the effectiveness of PCAs, especially when related to industrial-scale resource extraction and development or large-scale infrastructure. Notably some PADDD events may return rights to access, use, manage, or own lands to IPLCs from which they were previously dispossessed; these types of legal changes are likely to strengthen, and not undermine, conservation outcomes.In recognition of the need to enhance long-term conservation, the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress approved a [Resolution](https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/099) urging a Global Response to Protected Area Downgrading, Downsizing, and Degazettement (PADDD). The resolution “requests the WCPA to provide technical support to defend the integrity of PAs as a means to reduce PADDD events” and calls on all IUCN members to address PADDD in conservation policy and practice through various mechanisms. PADDD is also listed as an indicator in the post-2020 GBF [monitoring framework](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/179e/aecb/592f67904bf07dca7d0971da/cop-15-l-26-en.pdf) as a complementary indicator to Target 3. Moreover, the decisions undertaken during COP-15 highlighted the need for improved nature disclosures for business - Target 15 of the deal requires governments to ensure that large and transnational companies disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity. To implement this IUCN resolution, enhance implementation of Target 3 and the overall GBF, and support durable, effective, and equitable protected and conserved areas, we propose a new IUCN WCPA Task Force to focus on PADDD. The task force will focus broadly on area-based conservation, including protected areas, as well as OECMs and areas stewarded by Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) that may not be recognized as PAs or OECMs. To summarize our theory of change:* Activities (what we will do): We will build and communicate the evidence base, exchange knowledge, provide webinars and training, advocate, and build a coalition around PADDD.
* Immediate results (what we will achieve during the task force): Our activities will **enhance knowledge** about PADDD and solutions to address them, and **build connections and power** among conservation actors in our community that is relevant at all scales (local to global).
* Outputs (what we will see as a result of our activities during and after the task force):
	+ Trained community of practice that is prepared to detect, report, and respond to PADDD events (data collection/research and advocacy)
	+ Recognition of PADDD by key stakeholders (e.g. governments, businesses) and formalized mechanisms to avoid environmentally-damaging PADDD events (e.g. safeguards, policies, processes)
* Outcomes (what changes we will make for the world): In turn, the community’s efforts will lead to enhanced knowledge, transparency, accountability, political pressure, sustained and additional financing, and other supports that will all contribute to avoiding and reducing harmful PADDD events and enhancing long-term conservation.
* Work with UNEP-WCMC to develop a protocol to formally track and report on the extent and trend of PADDD by country

We will consider our task force “complete” when we have:* Completed, delivered, and made accessible a training on how to identify and report PADDD events
* Engaged via advocacy with at least three entities (e.g. private sector actors, coalitions, etc) and influenced at least one to adopt new standards or policies that will lead to the reduction or avoidance of PADDD events
* Formed an engaged network of member with representation from all regions
* PADDD tracking system is in place under Protected Planet (UNEP-WCMC)
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| **Purpose of Task Force/Specialist Group** |
| The overall aim of the task force is to address PADDD by * Providing capacity and technical support to defend the integrity of PAs as a means to reduce unrestrained and poorly-governed PADDD events;
* Encouraging governments and non-state actors to report on PADDD
* Influencing the private sector (e.g. extractive industries) to adopt principles to avoid damaging PADDD and their effects
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| **Integration in GPAP/WCPA’s Quadrennial Programme 2017-2020 (describe but also use checklist below to indicate which areas are covered)** |
| *Note to update this with the new programme; awaiting template from Erinn* |
| **Objective 1: Build capacity** of the conservation community to defend the integrity of protected and conserved areas as a means to reduce damaging PADDD events |
| **Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)** |
| * Convene and steward a diverse **community of practice**, engaging relevant stakeholders
* Create spaces (e.g. listserv, webinars, task force meetings) to promote **knowledge sharing and learning** among members, including about **challenges** (proposed and enacted rollbacks) and **solutions** (private sector, policy, community-based efforts to address PADDD
* Develop and deliver **training** to members and relevant stakeholders to **detect, prevent, and respond** to PADDD events
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| **Objective 2:** **Create, promote, and share knowledge** on threats to permanence of conservation (e.g. damaging PADDD, and similar changes affecting OECMs and IPLC areas) and solutions |
| **Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)** |
| * Develop and prioritize research questions related to PADDD for use by the conservation science community
* Lead and collaborate on relevant **research** papers and reports, including potentially an annual progress report on PADDD
* **Communicate** research findings and insights about PADDD events and solutions through webinars, newsletters, blogs, through IUCN channels and member organizations, and traditional and social media (e.g. @PADDDtracker twitter)
* In collaboration with WWF and CI, contribute to the management of **PADDDtracker** websites (global and Brazil platforms)
* Promote the use of data on PADDD on other **platforms, including the WDPA;** encourage tracking and data contributions by others
* Building on methodology for PAs, develop methodology to monitor downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement in OECMs
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| **Objective 3 Advocate** in policy spaces at international, national, and local levels to support the integrity of protected and conserved areas |
| **Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)** |
| * Produce IUCN WCPA **position paper or technical note** on best practices for avoiding harmful PADDD, drawing from Resolution 084
* Engage in the **CBD COP 15 and its implementation** to highlight the importance of avoiding environmentally-damaging PADDD as a means to realise Target 3
* Advocate for the **integration** of data and best practices to safeguard PAs with businesses, governments, funding agencies, and other communities of practice (specific engagements to be defined as strategic, e.g. mining, oil and gas, industrial agriculture, infrastructure)
* Advocate for governments to report on PADDD in their NBSAPs
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| **Objective 4: Coordinate discussions within WCPA membership, IUCN, and supporters**  |
| **Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)** |
| * Liaise with and secure the support of other parts of IUCN (other commissions, IUCN secretariat, Members) and partners in the conservation and development sector
* Report on progress of the IUCN Resolution to the IUCN Secretariat (i.e. James Hardcastle)
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| **Leadership, membership and organization** |
| Co-chairs: Dr. Rachel Golden Kroner (AAAS (until June 2023) / WWF-US (July 2023-onward)), Dr. Alta DeVos (Stellenbosch University)The Task Force will seek global representation of WCPA membership and diverse scientific and practical expertise relevant to its goals. The Task Force will also rely on the support of the WCPA Regional Vice-Chairs to engage regional members.We propose to form working groups of the task force to carry out activities toward objectives: (1) Training and Data; (2) Advocacy; (3) Outreach and Community of Practice. |
| **Partnerships, funding and fund-raising** |
| Given the scope of the topic, the Task Force will seek collaboration with other relevant WCPA specialist groups (e.g. OECM SG) and other IUCN commissions (e.g. Commission on Environmental Law, CEESP) to collaborate on joint work on this issue, including as related to OECMs and IPLC territories. Potential partners beyond IUCN include: NGOs (WWF, CI, Y2Y, WCS, others), university researchers, UNEP-WCMC, ICCA Consortium, CBD secretariat, regional PA initiatives (Asian Protected Area Partnership, RedParques), and others.CI will provide support to operate the global PADDDtracker website and data storage, and database management support.WWF will provide engagement of its broad network for updating PADDD information globally and for disseminating communication materials and policy briefs with relevant stakeholders, and support to operate the Brazil PADDDtracker website.We will request the support of IUCN communications as appropriate to highlight reports and other relevant products in the media.The Task Force will also request modest IUCN WCPA funding to support additional activities, including design and translation of policy notes and reports and travel to events. |
| **Communication** |
| The Task Force communication strategy is focused to three main audiences which will be reached by different channels/materials:* WCPA and other conservation practitioners through: social media, IUCN channels, Protected Planet Newsletter, blog posts, technical notes and briefings
* Protected Area Practitioners: technical briefings, webinars
* High-level decision makers: key messages, bilateral calls, key events and online petitions
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| **Reporting** |
| The advances and results of the Task Force will be reported in WCPA annual technical reports. The TF will also communicate regularly with the Chair, WCPA, the WCPA Steering Committee and the IUCN Secretariat focal point (GPAP). The Task Force will hold internal calls (every 2 or 3 months) to report progress and discuss relevant issues with its members. |
| **\*SMART goals are specific (who and what?), measurable (how?), attainable (realistic?), relevant (leads to results?) and timebound (within the planning period?)** |
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| **IUCN PROGRAMME GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017 – 2020** |
| IUCN WCPA has the following goals within the 3 programme areas of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. **Please identify which goals your group or region will support by placing an X in the relevant box(es).** Specify only those where you will contribute directly.  |
| **IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 1: Valuing and conserving nature** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.1:**  |
| (i) Protected Planet includes all relevant information to monitor and report on implementation of Aichi Target 11 | **X** |
| (ii) Protected area quality enhanced through Green List of Protected Areas |  |
| (iii) Marine protection towards achieving Aichi Target 11 accelerated |  |
| (iv) Effectiveness of World Heritage Convention and protection of listed sites is enhanced, leadership on performance demonstrated, and nature/culture integration advanced |  |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2:**  |
| (i) Parties to the CBD are supported to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity |  |
| (ii) Institutional and professional capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is developed |  |
| (iii) Financial capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is enhanced |  |
| (iv) The value of protected areas is communicated to key constituencies including urban dwellers and young people |  |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.3**  |
| (i) The ecological and functional connectivity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is enhanced |  |
| (ii) Criteria for the identification of OECMs developed and applied |  |
| **IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.1:**  |
| (i) Governance and equity assessment approaches for protected area systems are developed |  |
| (ii) Pilot governance assessments conducted |  |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.2:** |
| (i) Governance quality and equity of protected areas is enhanced | **X** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.3:**  |
| (i) Legal and institutional approaches for enhancing the role of PAs in natural resource governance are piloted |  |
| **IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1** |  |
| (i) Case studies for nature-based solutions involving PAs in a range of sectors are collated | **X** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2** |
| (i) Dissemination and use of PAs as nature-based solutions across a range of sectors | **X** |
| **WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.3** |
| (i) Cross-sector learning and application of solutions is enabled | **X** |