



Committee: General Assembly Middle School

Topic: THE CREATION OF A GUIDELINE TO ESTABLISH THE  
PATRIMONIAL PROTECTED ZONES

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## **Introduction**

Established in 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly is the main policymaker and is also the representative organ of the UN (United Nations). It provides a unique gathering for discussions of international issues. It also delivers a significant character in the procedure of standardization of international law. The organization deems current concerns of critical importance internationally, in the form of upper-level topical debates organized by the President of the General Assembly.

The aim of these Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation is to indemnify this state of affairs and to support national governments in establishing appropriate legislation to meet these challenges and opportunities. Protected areas are absolutely essential for the preservation of biological multifariousness, to warrant significant environmental services, and for meeting a range of community ambitions. But ensuring that suitable management is in place to realize the potential benefits rests a major problem in numerous places.

Over the past few decades the global extent, distribution, and quality of management of protected areas have expanded despite the ongoing loss of global biodiversity. Meanwhile, the

use of protected areas as an effective tool for conservation has remarkably improved in both policy and practice worldwide. As recently as October 2010, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity attuned to brand-new and extra-challenging aims for protected area coverage. Furthermore, developing emphasis has been arranged on the quality of administration, governance and sustainable financing. New and heightened threats to biodiversity have led to a new and enlarged interest in protected areas and their function in lessening and aiding adaptation to these threats. While these developments have resulted in a plentiful body of supervision regarding the management of protected areas, there persists a need to correlate best management methods with the law that governs protected areas and the legal structure within which such areas are organized and managed.

## **Body**

An assessment done by RAC/SPA in 1971 remarked that the staff in SPAs is usually little for the management needs, with an estimated at 46% of the optimum. As the areas grow in importance and elaboration of the original staff may not receive any formal training in protected area management. The qualifications of SPA staff are considered to be moderate, while the training opportunities for MPA managers are very limited, they only exists in 27% of the countries. In 1980, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre published IUCN's first guidelines on protected areas legislation. Since then, ecosystems have faced growing threats from factors such as habitat loss, extractive activities as well as climate change, among many others.

During this time, it has also been recognized all around the world that protected areas play an important role in securing ecosystems and their economic and social value. After more than

three years, experts from IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law, World Commission on Protected Areas, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, and Global Programme on Protected Areas have collaborated with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre to produce what we believe is a tool to help all those working on protected areas legislation to ensure that all aspects of protected areas, including ongoing, new and emerging issues, are properly addressed in law. Emerging issues, in particular, require special consideration in protected areas of legal frameworks.

Ten years after UNCED, the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, reaffirmed the Rio Principles in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002). The Declaration proclaimed "environmental protection" as one of the three reinforcing pillars of sustainable development—along with economic development and social development—at the local, national, regional and global levels (para. 5). On a global scale, the Johannesburg Declaration recognized that the environment was one of the key challenges facing the world's nations in their commitment to sustainable development, characterizing that challenge in this way:

" The global environment continues to suffer. Loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating, and developing countries more vulnerable, and air, water and marine pollution continue to rob millions of a decent life."

## **Conclusion**

The need for collaboration between lawyers and protected area professionals will increase in the years ahead. GA offers this information in support of this essential cooperation, along with a commitment to continue facilitating such efforts. These ongoing efforts should continue to elaborate elements that are important to include in protected area legal frameworks. This is essential if the law is to remain effective in supporting national protected areas and bolstering their critical global role in nature conservation and sustainable development.

- Coastal and marine protected areas need to be integrated into land use and marine spatial planning, and more attention must be given to deepwater marine protected areas within national jurisdictions.

- New types of governance for protected areas, such as private protected areas, and indigenous and community conserved areas, require new approaches that need to be enabled by law.

- Transboundary protected areas offer opportunities for inter-state cooperation that involve national law as well as international agreements.

- Climate change demands flexibility in the design of protected area legal frameworks to accommodate both adaptation and mitigation, including by creating corridors that ensure

connectivity within and among ecosystems.

- Protected area systems require sustainable financing, which involves an array of innovative instruments and mechanisms implemented by institutions that are often not responsible for protected areas.

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