

Protected Areas Programme

Protected Areas of the World

A review of national systems

Nearctic and Neotropical

Volume 4



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Compiled by The World Conservation Monitoring Centre




IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas,
Caracas, Venezuela



The World Conservation Union

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IUCN – THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

IUCN – The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organisations in a unique world partnership: some 650 members in all, spread across 120 countries.

As a union, IUCN exists to serve its members – to represent their views on the world stage and to provide them with the concepts, strategies and technical support they need to achieve their goals. Through its six Commissions, IUCN draws together over 5000 expert volunteers in project teams and action groups. A central secretariat coordinates the IUCN Programme and leads initiatives on the conservation and sustainable use of the world's biological diversity and the management of habitats and natural resources, as well as providing a range of services. The Union has helped many countries to prepare National Conservation Strategies, and demonstrates the application of its knowledge through the field projects it supervises. Operations are increasingly decentralised and are carried forward by an expanding network of regional and country offices, located principally in developing countries.

IUCN – The World Conservation Union seeks above all to work with its members to achieve development that is sustainable and that provides a lasting improvement in the quality of life for people all over the world.

WCMC – THE WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) is a joint venture between the three partners who developed the *World Conservation Strategy* and its successor *Caring for the Earth*: IUCN – The World Conservation Union, UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme, and WWF – World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund). Its mission is to support conservation and sustainable development through the provision of information on the world's biological diversity.

WCMC has developed a global overview database that includes threatened plant and animal species, habitats of conservation concern, critical sites, protected areas of the world, and the utilisation and trade in wildlife species and products. Drawing on this database, WCMC provides an information service to the conservation and development communities, governments and United Nations agencies, scientific institutions, the business and commercial sector, and the media. WCMC produces a wide variety of specialist outputs and reports based on analyses of its data.

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for the

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WORLD CONSERVATION
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