

Priorities for Protected Area Research

<https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2018.PARKS-24-1.en>

For which topic were research priorities identified?

protected areas

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

The rapid growth in number, extent and variety of protected areas implies that the demand for new and improved management expertise, knowledge and resources is increasing. Carefully planned research, undertaken in collaboration with protected area managers and local communities (Hockings et al., 2013), can yield important new information with immediate practical application to support management. A concise overview of protected areas research priorities therefore has the opportunity for wide application within the academic and research community.

What was the objective?

to explore what a series of specialists believe to be the most important research topics needed to support protected areas and to start a conversation about whether academic researchers are generally addressing the subjects most important to those dealing with the practical issues of protected area designation, planning and management on a daily basis

What was the outcome?

a list of 100 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: survey: participants were asked to submit proposals for two pressing research questions relating to protected areas with one to two sentences about why they are important. Step 2: data processing: review of submissions: 100 priorities selected and grouped under four categories

Which stakeholders took part?

Professional researchers and people with hands-on experience in protected area designation, management, governance and support

How were stakeholders recruited?

Purposive sampling: A list of potential participants with expertise in protected areas, or disciplines directly related to protected areas, was drawn up by the lead authors primarily from highly experienced practitioners who were members of the IUCN WCPA, and academics with a strong research focus on protected area issues.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.