Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas

Data Request: Assessing the effectiveness of protected areas for biodiversity conservation

The Species Survival Commission and the World Commission on Protected Areas has created a Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas. One of the Task Force's objectives is to conduct a global analysis of what are the best predictors of success for protected areas in conserving biodiversity. This note is a data request to support that global study. This research is being conducted by the IUCN through a WCPA-SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, in collaboration with the Institute of Zoology, ZSL.

Background: Protected areas are recognized as key tools in biodiversity conservation and over the past decade we have also made great advances in understanding issues of protected area management effectiveness. However, we still have surprisingly little data on long-term biodiversity conservation outcomes from protected areas, and what current data we do have is heavily biased towards toward only a few countries and terrestrial systems. To test whether protected areas are working, both on land and in marine systems, we aim to assess protected area outcomes at the population and species level. Success or failure in biodiversity conservation might be measured in terms of (i) genes (ii) individual populations; (iii) species; (iv) communities; or (v) ecosystems. For this study we are using trends in abundance for populations located inside protected areas. Ideally there would be similar population time series located in unprotected areas so we can compare trends both inside and outside protected areas to benchmark effectiveness.

Data Requirements:

- Data can come from species or populations inhabiting terrestrial, freshwater or marine systems.
- Data from within protected areas should come from an IUCN class I-VI protected area or a community conserved area.
- Data must represent some measure of species or population abundance (population size) over time. This includes (but is not limited to) yearly counts, nest counts, biomass, catch-per-unit effort, spawning stock, number of pairs, density estimates or population indices.
- Ideally we are looking for data sets that look at separate populations inside and outside protected areas.
- The time series must be at least 2 years worth of abundance data, but longer time series are preferred.
- Information must be available on data collection methods, units of measurement and geographic location.
- There should be consistent (not necessarily identical) data collection methods and geographic locations used within each data set.

The data used in this analysis will be reported at a broad spatial scale and combined with many other data sources. All sources will be fully acknowledged and credited appropriately. Data can be kept private if necessary. Your help is much appreciated!!

Metadata Template:

Your name_____

Email_____

Telephone_____

Protected Area Name_____

Type of Protected Area_____
(e.g. national park, marine reserve, world heritage site, game reserve etc...)

Data source (publication details if published) _____

_____

Species Common name_____

Genus_____

Species_____

Sampling method used_____

Units_____

Type of data_____

Country_____

Location of Population_____

Years assessed_____

Notes_____

For questions or clarification contact:

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