



Endorsements

- **Russ Mittermeier, *President of Conservation International*** - “I believe that Global Parks will be an innovative and much needed addition to biodiversity conservation efforts. An organized cadre of retired park managers is one of the best ways to bring top-level experience and know-how to protected areas quickly and cost effectively. Global Parks will offer practical solutions to protected areas professionals requesting assistance - but maybe most importantly it will provide a uniquely capable source of training to develop the capacity of the next generation of protected areas managers.”
- **Nik Lopoukhine, *Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas and Former Director of the Parks Canada*** has asked Global Parks to consider becoming a new Task Force under the Commission, and believes that retirees from the Canadian National Park Service will be interested in joining Global Parks.
- **Steve Watkins** - “As Vice President for Rare and in my prior work as Global Protected Areas lead with The Nature Conservancy, I have sought out a mechanism to bridge the deep chasm between the enormous US capacity and experience in protected areas with the large and acute need for this in most developing countries. I believe that a successful and independent Global Parks initiative can serve this need, and will be a uniquely effective and timely force needed for conservation efforts world-wide.”
- **Sarat Gidda, *responsible for the Convention on Biodiversity’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas*** (the world-wide framework of cooperation to establish effectively managed protected area systems) - “A robust volunteer cadre of retired conservation professionals working with each country over a sustained period of time will be a unique and invaluable force towards the successful global implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.”
- **Rose Niu, *Managing Director for China at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF US)*** - “I am very enthusiastic about Global Parks because it will be a uniquely powerful force for assisting Chinese protected areas in overcoming an array of challenges as well as accelerating the development of institutional capacity. It is also obvious that Global Parks will be extremely useful to the U.S. as a non-controversial and effective form of soft diplomacy that will be deeply appreciated by countries around the world.”
- **Tamica Rahming, *Bahamas Director of Parks and Science*** - “I was excited to learn about Global Parks because I immediately saw how it could be of great assistance in developing the institutional capacity of the Bahamas to effectively manage our national park system.”
- **Marina Rosales of *Peru’s SERNANP*** - “My institution expresses our gratitude for helping us advance on the management of our new marine reserve system. We look forward to developing a collaborative program of technical assistance projects, workshops, and training involving Global Parks and Peruvian governmental institutions, NGO’s and local communities.”
- **Eduard Muller & Cyril Kormos, *Vice Chairs for the World Commission on Protected Areas for Central America, Caribbean, and North America*** - “Harnessing the vast experience of retired conservation professionals from North America and channeling it to support partnerships and projects with other countries is timely, widely needed, and will be welcomed throughout the Caribbean and Central America.”
- **Rob Milne, *former Chief of the Office of International Affairs of the U.S. National Park Service and long standing member of the IUCN/World Commission on Protected Areas*** - “The concept of highly experienced professionals with collectively thousands of years of real experience in dealing with the full range of long and short term issues facing paper park personnel around the world and sharing this practical know-how on site with their counterparts, goes far beyond the abilities of other organizations to date that have attempted to ameliorate the recognized deficit and discrepancy in effective protected area conservation, and at a fraction of the cost.”