



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN GLOBAL PARKS AND  
THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS  
CONCERNING THE MENTORING AND COACHING COMPONENT OF  
PROTECTED AREA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**Background**

With close to 1700 individuals from over 140 countries, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is one of the largest Commissions in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The purpose of the Commission is to provide state of the art knowledge and expertise drawn from a wide range of volunteer experts as a contribution to fulfilling the IUCN Mission and Programme.

Global Parks, a protected area volunteer organization based in Washington DC, has a mandate to emphasize sustained mentoring and ongoing assistance between retired protected area professionals and overseas partners who have the responsibility for the management of protected area resources. To date, missions have been conducted by American and Canadian Global Parks' volunteers to The Bahamas, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Kenya, Thailand, Mongolia, Russia and China.

The IUCN WCPA Protected Areas Capacity Development Programme has been established to assist countries to more effectively and equitably manage their systems of protected areas and to meet commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Area and the Aichi Targets. The Programme is headed by the Deputy Chair of the WPCA. Guidance comes from the Protected Areas Capacity Development Advisory Committee that reports to the WCPA Chair.

The IUCN WCPA Chair and Deputy Chair have established an Education and Learning Work Group, under the direction of a Vice Chair, to create capacity development related products. The Group's primary tasks are to produce: a strategic framework for capacity development programs strengthening the professional competences for protected area professionals; an online Body of Knowledge for protected area professionals; certification guidelines for site level protected area

professionals and guidance for the development of protected area mentorship programs. This group will coordinate and develop the Global Partnership for Professionalizing Protected Area Management initiative. The mentorship program will include hands-on consulting, coaching and fostering staff exchanges. Several members of the Education and Learning Work Group have assumed leadership roles for delivery of the primary tasks.

Global Parks has agreed to work with IUCN WCPA in developing and executing the mentoring coaching component of the overall capacity development program. Global Parks will report to the WCPA Deputy Chair through the Vice Chair for Education and Learning. They will also work closely with the Capacity Development Coordinator with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP) who provides support to the IUCN WCPA Capacity Development Programme.

### **Commitments of the WCPA**

WCPA will:

- Provide guidance, through the IUCN WCPA Protected Area Advisory Committee, to Global Parks on the scope and direction of the mentoring programme as requested.
- Provide assistance in identifying additional persons with mentoring and coaching expertise from the WCPA membership to serve on the Education and Learning Mentoring subgroup.
- Coordinate requests to IUCN GPAP to post information, approved by the Vice Chair, Education and Learning and the IUCN GPAP CD Coordinator, about the mentoring/coaching initiative on the IUCN WCPA website.
- Assist Global Parks in identifying and securing funds from donors to provide project management and travel support for the mentors and the mentorees.
- Coordinate requests to IUCN GPAP to use IUCN WCPA newsletters, websites and other media to promote the mentoring project to IUCN WCPA members and partners.

### **Commitments of Global Parks**

Global Parks, working with the Education and Learning Workgroup and the Mentorship Subgroup and under the direction of the WCPA Advisory Committee, will:

- Create the mentorship program by developing policies and operational guidelines, including participation, time commitment, mentor training, code of conduct and mentoring agreements, as well as forms including applications;
- Recruit and register mentors by placing and highlighting the program on the Global Parks' website, by working with the IUCN WCPA leadership to design and build the mentorship program and involving interested WCPA members and by coordinating with Global Parks' part-

ners and associated groups, including existing regional mentorship programs and protected area training institutions;

- Receive requests for mentorship and select and place mentors depending on need;
- Evaluate completed mentorships in an effort to improve the program and place examples of completed mentorships on the Global Parks' website;
- Apply for, receive and administer grants and volunteer resources to assist in connecting mentors with those requesting mentorship.

### **Term of Agreement**

This agreement shall become effective on the date of signature by both parties, and remain in effect unless terminated by the parties. Amendments to this agreement may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

### **Signed:**



**Todd Koenings**  
Executive Director  
Global Parks

**Date:** 6/30/2014



**Kathy MacKinnon**  
Deputy Chair  
World Commission on Protected Areas

**Date:** 7/24/14