



## Improving Governance of Protected areas through payments for ecosystem services and self-financing mechanisms

Friday, May 29 2015

14.00-15.30

Hainburg, Donau-Auen National Park, Austria

**Event Organizers from LIFE MGN project and LANDS NGO:** Pierluca Gaglioppa (Lands NGO), Davide Pellegrino (CURSA, Sapienza University), Davide Marino (Molise University)

**Speakers:** Davide Pellegrino (CURSA, Sapienza University), Brian MacSharry (UNEP-WCMC), Kelvin Peh (University of Southampton), Marta Subira (Government of Catalonia), Oliviero Spinelli (Comunità Ambiente), Victoria Alonso (Tierra Austral)

**Round table discussants:** Davide Pellegrino (CURSA, Sapienza University), Brian MacSharry (UNEP-WCMC), Kelvin Peh (University of Southampton), Marta Subira (Government of Catalonia), Oliviero Spinelli (Comunità Ambiente), Victoria Alonso (Tierra Austral), Kakha Nadiradze (Association for Farmers Rights Defense)

**Rapporteur:** Sarah Lucas (IUCN WCEL/WCPA)

**Moderator:** Catie Burlando (IUCN-CEESP)

**Little Sydney Support expert:** Kathy MacKinnon (IUCN WCPA Vice-Chair)

Exclusionary conservation approaches in protected areas have met several challenges, including low effectiveness in biodiversity conservation, increased pressure from use of natural resource, as well as ethical and equity concerns (Lele et al., 2010). Recently, payment-based schemes for ecosystem services (PES or PES-like schemes) have been seen as a way to address or mitigate these challenges, to directly address the divergence between social and private benefits, as well as bypass government inefficiency, bureaucratic procedures and scarcity of budgetary resources (Wunder, 2005). Yet, their real implementation requires addressing issues such as the marketization and privatization of nature, high transaction costs, inequities in decision-making and redistribution among local and external actors (Corbera, 2007).

New relationship models between public institutions and local actors, more flexible regulatory systems, as well as legislation and governmental action are essential prerequisites for establishing and developing effective and efficient PES schemes (Matzdorf et al., 2014). Further, the socio-cultural environment and existing institutional settings contribute to influencing outcomes. Thus, one of the main challenges regards the governance of PES schemes in protected areas, and specifically the integration of local communities and other stakeholders. The inclusion of all relevant stakeholders on both the buyer and the supplier side is crucial for uncovering the key factors influencing willingness to participate and to pay, as well as to heighten the motivation and trust of the parties involved (Matzdorf et al., 2014). However, the involvement of different stakeholders is challenging and new transdisciplinary methods are needed for integrating collective decisions (Garcia-Nieto et al., 2014). As successful PES are often developed “bottom up”, attention to the role of intermediaries, the players mediating between service providers and beneficiaries, is crucial. For example, public institutions often act as regulators, co-financers or buyers on behalf of their citizens, in an attempt to serve public interest goals (Matzdorf et al., 2014).

The first part of the session will feature six case study presentations focusing on the key emergent issues of PES and conservation financing mechanisms in the governance of protected areas. The second part will feature a round table involving interaction between speakers and the public, and discussing the following three questions:

1. What are the risks associated with the valuation and commodification of nature when a PES schemes is introduced and developed?
2. What role do public institutions and other stakeholders play in the governance of protected areas when a PES-scheme is introduced and developed?
3. How can participatory approaches be integrated in the definition and implementation of a PES scheme?

