

Regulating Biodiversity Corridors: Lessons and Issues

Presented by

Patricia Moore

IUCN Regional Environmental Law
Programme, Asia

- Context – International experience regulating biodiversity corridors
- Issues to be considered in regulating biodiversity corridors

Combat main threats to biodiversity:

- Habitat loss
- Habitat fragmentation – accelerated by climate change

- Mitigate habitat fragmentation
- Improve connections between protected areas
- Provide land *or water* pathways
- Allow plants and animals to move and migrate

- Systems of core protected areas
- that are functionally linked and buffered
- to maintain ecosystem processes and
- allow species to survive and move
- to ensure that species populations are viable and
- that ecosystems and people can adapt to land transformation and climate change

- UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme
 - Biosphere Reserves may be part of corridors
- CBD
 - Ecosystem approach guiding principles
 - Programmes of Work
- Convention on Migratory Species
 - Framework for maintaining species habitat on migration routes
- WSSD
 - National & regional corridors to meet 2010 targets

- Biodiversity connectivity initiatives
 - from early 1990s
- Establishment of corridors
 - increasing since 2000
- Earliest law enabling biodiversity corridors
 - 1993, Lithuania
- Earliest law on biodiversity corridors
 - 1996, Ukraine
- Since 2000, 9 countries have adopted laws enabling or creating biodiversity corridors

- 17 countries have national or sub-national legal instruments enabling corridors
 - 14 have national laws
 - 1 has national regulations
 - 2 have sub-national legal instruments

- Specific law on connectivity conservation
 - Ukraine Law specifically links corridors to land use planning and requires periodic review

4 Countries

- Legal instrument creating a specific corridor
 - Nature conservation law

3 Countries

- Protected areas law

2 Countries

- Biodiversity law
- Land use planning law

1 Country

- Wildlife law
- Forestry regulations

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE – ASIA



- Initiatives, including BCI, in 10 countries
- Legal instruments in 3 countries – Bhutan, India, South Korea
- Cambodia – South West Elephant Corridor
- Thailand – Western Forest Complex
- Japan – National Land-use Plan

Europe

- Central & Eastern Europe pioneered ecological networks
- 50+ countries have connectivity initiatives
- 8 countries have legislation enabling connectivity conservation

Latin America

- 100+ corridors in 16 countries
- 20+ corridors involve 3 or more countries
- 3 countries have national legislation enabling corridors
- 2 countries have sub-national regulations enabling corridors

Institutional Arrangements

- National-level authorities
- Supra-regional authority
- Provincial/state-level authorities
- Municipal authorities

Lessons Learned

- Protected areas alone cannot conserve biodiversity
- Connectivity conservation requires a mix of:
 - policy + regulatory regime
 - incentives
 - awareness-raising
- Most conflicts come from contradictions among existing laws

Biodiversity corridors require:

- National vision and strategy + high-level political commitment
- Regulatory regime that enables corridors
- New institutional arrangements and inter-sectoral cooperation
- Comprehensive ecological assessments as a basis
- Wide range of different land uses

Biodiversity corridors require:

- Case-by-case corridor development
- Collaboration between government and civil society – multi-level and multi-stakeholder
- Public awareness and access to information
- Capacity building
- International cooperation

REGULATING BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS



- Policy that gives clear vision and strategy for connectivity conservation
- Law that enables corridors and provides for implementing regulations
- Harmonized sectoral laws and regulations that eliminate conflicts
- Planning and management of corridors must be linked to:
 - National protected areas system and
 - Local, provincial and national land use planning and plans

REGULATING BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS



- Government institutions, communities, NGOs and individuals can propose corridors and participate in maintaining them
- Coordination mechanisms at different levels
- Multiple options for measures that authorities can use to establish and maintain corridors
- Incentives for all stakeholders to maintain corridors
- Information on connectivity conservation generally and on individual corridors
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of corridors



Thank you