



2018 QLF GLOBAL PROJECT: PRIVATELY PROTECTED AREAS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE &
QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION/ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

QLF Senior Vice President, Brent Mitchell, Chairs the *Specialist Group on Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship* within the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). WCPA develops and provides scientific and technical advice and policy for its members, particularly the governments of almost all countries. The goal of the Specialist Group is to improve understanding and recognition of the role of private approaches to nature conservation, and enhance the effectiveness of privately protected and conserved areas through information gathering and sharing at global level. Nearly all countries in the world have committed to establish protected areas of at least 17% terrestrial and 10% marine areas. As they approach the target date of 2020, there is concern that areas may be formally recognized as protected without any real conservation impact on the ground (“paper parks”). Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) are particularly at risk, as most countries have not established standards for their establishment or management. The Specialist Group is developing guidance on such standards, and envisions future training on how to apply them.

Outcomes to date:

A first-of-its-kind global assessment of Privately Protected Areas, with recommendations to support PPAs worldwide (2014)

A core team of nine experts from five continents meets monthly to implement projects and respond to requests for guidance (ongoing)

Communication tools for over 900 Non-governmental organizations worldwide (ongoing)

Workshop to frame “best practice guidelines” with 23 technical experts representing 15 countries, hosted by the government of Germany (2017)

Anticipated outcomes:

Best Practice Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas published as a series by the IUCN (late 2018)

Regional trainings on the guidance organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (2018–2020)

Inclusion (for the first time) in the 2018–2022 work plan of the Global Environment Facility, the major funding mechanism for this work

Impacts to date:

Formal policy adopted for all member governments of IUCN to adopt policies and incentives to recognize, encourage and monitor PPAs (adopted 2016)

Recognition of PPAs in many countries where they were not considered 5-10 years ago (ongoing)

Anticipated impact:

Expansion of the number, area, and connectivity of privately protected areas, *de jure* and *de facto*, providing measurable conservation benefits

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*More information, please contact Brent Mitchell, QLF Senior Vice President:
Bmitchell@QLF.org or 978.356.0038 (Office).*