We have been responding to a mandate to IUCN to further develop guidance on best practice in the establishment and management of privately protected areas (PPAs), building on the work and experience of national, regional and global networks and organizations.

At the global level, attention to the governance of protected areas is a relatively recent phenomenon. Until about two decades ago, it was broadly assumed that protected areas are the responsibility of governments. This way of thinking persists, despite the fact that the first private land trusts are as old as the first national parks. And, of course, private stewardship of natural resources goes back much further.

As societies confront the greatest environmental crises of our time—climate change and biodiversity collapse—privately protected areas offer enduring natural solutions.