

Open call for African, Caribbean and Pacific contributions to the new Global Database on Protected Area Visitation (GD-PAVIS)

18th June 2018

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), in partnership with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group, invites protected area agencies from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to apply for participation in the 'Enhancing tourism-related information on protected areas' initiative.

Who should apply: Protected area agencies of the 79 ACP countries

Deadline for application: 15th August 2018

JRC, in partnership with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN TAPAS Group, invites protected area agencies to apply for participation in the testing phase of the 'Enhancing tourism-related information on protected areas' initiative of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme that seeks to support the development of a new global database.

The Global Database on Protected Area Visitation (GD-PAVIS) aims to be a new tool to improve the reporting on sustainable tourism in protected and conserved areas. Information compiled in the database will help report on several global indicators (e.g. tourism use, tourism value, and tourism-related economic impacts of protected areas), generate knowledge on tourism and protected areas, support decision-making of governments in relation to sustainable tourism strategies in protected areas, and strengthen capacity of park managers to develop appropriate systems to store and manage information on sustainable tourism.

JRC, in partnership with the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), is currently carrying out the initiative 'Enhancing tourism-related information on protected areas' to determine the feasibility of developing a global database on protected area visitation. This initiative seeks to strengthen global knowledge on tourism and protected areas with the aim to build awareness, better conserve biodiversity, and support sustainable local economic development.

The new global GD-PAVIS database seeks to compile basic summary information on visitor numbers and types, length of stay, the proportion of overnight and international visitors, and the methods used to collect the visitor data. The schema of the database is joint as an attachment to this call. Feedback on the schema is very welcome.

As part of this initiative, JRC and the IUCN TAPAS Group invite the protected area (PA) agencies of the 79 ACP countries to apply for participation in the testing phase of the database. Selection will be based primarily on the quantity, quality and type of available data, as well as the agencies' interest in, and need for an economic impact assessment of PA tourism in their country. Selected agencies will be asked to provide available tourism-related information for their protected areas.

The testing phase of the database is expected to start in August 2018 and to end in November 2018. Selected PA agencies will be expected to submit the necessary information and provide feedback to JRC during this period. This testing phase is applicable to marine and terrestrial protected areas designated under national, regional and/or international laws and conventions. **Please note that the application and testing process are voluntary and that no funding can be provided.**

Why apply

1. Participating countries will be selected as BIOPAMA case studies for in-depth analysis (timeframe 2018-2020) of the contribution of PAs to the countries' natural capital and ecosystem service value. A key aspect of this analysis will be an economic impact assessment of PA tourism in the country, which can help to develop and improve sustainable nature tourism strategies in the country. Such assessments will also improve the understanding of the regional economic contribution of nature tourism in individual PAs.
2. Participating PA agencies help to support the development of the new global GD-PAVIS database on PA visitation that will provide complementary information to the [World Database on Protected Areas \(WDPA\)](#) and [Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness \(GD-PAME\)](#) managed by UNEP-WCMC.
3. Participation will allow PA agencies to better understand how they can collect and analyse tourism-related PA information such as visitor numbers, visitor spending, economic impacts and tourist satisfaction data. This should also put participating PA agencies in a better position to apply for financial and technical support in this area, including potential opportunities under the BIOPAMA Programme.
4. All data collection and analyses will be conducted with a view to support improved management and decision-making, one of the core objectives of the BIOPAMA Programme, and to provide a better understanding of the cultural and social services realised through PA tourism in the country. This will also support country reporting to international agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

How to apply: In order to apply for participation in this testing phase, please send an email to [Philipp Schaechner](#) and [Bastian Bertzky](#) indicating the number and names of protected areas for which you wish to provide tourism-related information and the type of information available. Please also indicate if you are interested in an economic impact assessment of PA tourism in your country, or if such an assessment already exists. For more information please contact Philipp Schaechner (philipp.schaegner@ec.europa.eu).

About BIOPAMA: The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme assists the ACP countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the ACP countries. The key BIOPAMA Programme elements include a network of Regional Observatories, each with a Regional Information System, targeted capacity building activities, and an action fund. <http://www.biopama.org/>

About the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The European Commission (EC) is the executive body of the European Union (EU), which is the world's largest donor of official development assistance. As the in-house science service of the EC, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support, including policies and programmes at global level and specifically those focusing on ACP countries. <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>