COMMUNITY-BASED RISK SCREENING TOOL
– ADAPTATION AND LIVELIHOODS

CRISTAL Parks

FOCUSED ON PROTECTED AREAS
CRiSTAL Parks is a decision-support tool that helps users integrate climate risks into conservation planning and design activities that support climate adaptation at the protected area level. It is a specialized version of CRiSTAL, which stands for "Community-Based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods," that focuses on Protected Areas (PAs) or any designated conservation zone.

**OBJECTIVE**

CRiSTAL Parks helps users to understand:

- How current and potential future climate hazards, in combination with non-climate hazards, may affect critical ecosystems and conservation values, referred to as Conservation Objects in the tool.
- How people inside and around the PAs respond to the current and potential future impacts of these climate hazards.
- Which conservation objects are most affected by current hazards and which ones are most important to mitigate the climate risks.
- How project or management plan activities affect prioritized conservation objects and whether activities are resilient.
- What project or management plan adjustments (revision of existing activities and/or design of new adaptation strategies) can be made to support climate adaptation and reduce climate risk while harnessing the potential of conservation objects to mitigate these risks.
- How climate risk management can be integrated into a monitoring and evaluation framework.

**TARGET USER**

CRiSTAL Parks targets conservation practitioners working within or around PAs or any designated conservation zone, PA managers and PA authorities.

**APPROACH**

CRiSTAL Parks relies on information collected through desk-based review, local stakeholder consultations and expert interviews. Multi-stakeholder meetings with the PA management team or conservation project team, community members, government entities and key private sector representatives using participatory methods are especially important for gathering information on current and potential impacts of climate hazards and how people and conservation objects respond to them.
APPLYING CRiSTAL PARKS

Once users collect the necessary information, they must enter it into the tool following a series of analytical steps that build on each other. At the end, users are provided with a systematic organization and presentation of:

- Conservation Objects that are most affected by climate hazards and most important for livelihoods and for reducing climate risks
- Proposed adjustments to existing projects or management plans and new climate adaptation strategies
- Detailed action plans for climate adaptation strategies
- Desired adaptation outcomes and important influencing factors to be monitored by indicators

BACKGROUND

Climate variability and change threaten biodiversity in the world’s PAs. Observed and expected impacts are numerous such as habitat losses, shifts in habitat ranges and altered migration patterns, changes in micro-climates and ecological processes, ocean acidification and coral reef losses, as well as sea-level rise and increased coastal erosion, among others.

At the same time, PAs can play a role in reducing the impacts of climate change on key ecosystem services (e.g. coastal erosion control) and on the communities they support. Conservation practitioners must be better equipped to identify these climate-related risks and opportunities and integrate them into their activities. CRiSTAL Parks was developed to respond to this need.

FORMAT

CRiSTAL Parks is a desktop application compatible with Microsoft Windows 7 operating systems and newer versions. It is currently available in English and Spanish. Translations of the tool in other languages will be released in the future.
INSPIRED BY

CRiSTAL Parks was inspired by the CRiSTAL tool. CRiSTAL was developed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Stockholm Environment Institute and Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation. CRiSTAL has been applied in over 30 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America since 2007.

USER FEEDBACK

Feedback on your experience with using CRiSTAL Parks is welcomed. It will help to grow a community of practice and contribute to future iterations of the tool.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT www.iisd.org/cristaltool
WATCH www.iisd.org/video/cristal-parks-user-experiences

CONTACT

For more information about CRiSTAL Parks, associated training opportunities, and for sharing your experience with using the tool, please contact:

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