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Dear Dr. Skipper,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled "*Biodiversity conservation in an uncertain world*".

Protecting land and water is the most important mechanism for alleviating the current biodiversity crisis. To that end, hundreds of nations have committed to international targets to increase their protected area portfolios. New, more ambitious targets are currently being negotiated. However, protected areas are vulnerable to risks related to governance, land use and climate – risks that will likely increase as nations move beyond easier initial commitments into more contested decisions. We show how accounting for risks related to governance, land use and climate will result in more resilient and effective conservation efforts to help safeguard our planet's biodiversity.

Surprisingly, scenarios that incorporated all the three risk categories required less than 1% more global area compared to ignoring risk. This shows that accounting for risks cost relatively little compared to the potential gains from selecting a more resilient conservation network. We further identify "no regrets" areas that are robust to all examined risk factors. They represent places that should be immediate priorities for international agencies aiming to maximize the resilience of protected area networks.

This manuscript reports original research that is not published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. The submission for publication has been approved by all relevant authors and institutions, and all persons entitled to authorship have been so named, seen and agreed to the submitted version of the manuscript.

A manuscript co-authored by one of us (La Sorte), is currently under review with another journal, which is why we have attached a pdf copy to this submission:
La Sorte, F. A., Johnston, A. & Ault, T. R. Global trends in the frequency and duration of temperature extremes (In review). Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Richard Schuster
(on behalf of all co-authors)