

The “Protected Area Governance and Management” Book



Background

The *Protected Area Governance and Management* Book is no ordinary book. It is an investment in the future of species and other natural and cultural heritage of Earth. It is to play a critical role in establishing the competence of protected area managers of the future and consequently the effective management of protected areas and the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage assets they protect. The Book is being developed in a context of the greatest peaceful landuse change on Earth with the establishment of 177,547 designated protected areas in most countries of Earth since the 1960's. In 2010 protected areas extended across 12.7% of Earth's terrestrial surface; 1.6% of the global ocean area; 4% of marine areas under national jurisdiction and 7.2% of coastal areas. Protected areas are proven success stories in conserving species relative to surrounding lands and seas and especially when they are actively and effectively managed. They have also stood the test of time as a very effective landuse category.

With the world wide threat of climate change and further decline in life support ecosystems, habitats and animal species of Earth, there has been a call by many nations to establish additional protected areas. In 2010, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defined new targets for protected area establishment at 17% of Earths' terrestrial surface and 10% for marine by 2020 for areas of biodiversity conservation importance. More protected areas will mean more managers are needed. Effective management also means that the managers need to be competent. For this reason, the World's largest nature conservation Non Government Organisation (NGO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is establishing a minimum professional standard for protected area managers; a supporting training curricula and a system for accrediting protected area management training institutions around the world. This initiative is concurrent with and complements the CBD driven expansion of protected areas. The *Protected Area Governance and Management* Book provides the core information that underpins and guides this professional capacity development initiative. IUCN has invited the

very best protected area management and governance experts and authors available world-wide from the World Commission of Protected Area (WCPA) and other expert organisations to prepare chapters as *Principal Authors* or to contribute to chapters as *Supporting Authors*. Many other experienced protected area management experts will contribute as *case study* authors for the Book.

Protected Area Governance and Management: A Synopsis

The “*Protected Area Governance and Management*” Book is a new compendium text book of 31 Chapters that underpins a full tertiary level curricula being developed by IUCN for the profession of protected area management and the associated governance of protected areas. It is the principal information source for community officer and professional protected area manager development at three levels being; 1) professionals operating at the field level (community members, field officers and rangers); 2) professionals in charge of one or more protected areas (community members and managers in charge) and 3) those community representatives and professionals operating at a very senior, whole of protected area system level. The Book commences with the concept and purpose of protected areas (Chapter 2) and ends with the theory and practice of management effectiveness evaluation for protected areas (Chapter 31). The Book is anticipated to be about 1000 pages in length.

The Book assumes no prior knowledge about protected areas and the intrinsic natural values (Chapter 3) and cultural values (Chapter 4) of Earth that they help to protect. Its introductory chapters assist professionals new to protected areas and new students to understand the diversity of life on Earth, the richness of geoheritage, the geographic distribution of outstanding natural phenomena and the ecological processes that help sustain life on Earth. It describes the rich diversity of cultural heritage of Earth as key parts of many attributes managed in protected areas. Breakout “Boxes” provide more detailed technical information on key topics for the more discerning researcher for these chapters and elsewhere in the Book.

Protected areas are managed in a real world context. The heterogeneous social, political, economic and environmental landscape is briefly described as is the dynamic nature of the world; global change and scenarios for the future (Chapter 5). The benefits of protected areas are described (Chapter 6) as are how they are governed (Chapter 7). There are also many, many management considerations to understand, such as the process of management; systematic management; working with customary processes; being strategic; using open standards; dealing with change; working in the different IUCN protected area categories; and, urban protected areas (Chapter 8). Complexity will increasingly be the norm for (particularly) executive level protected area managers and this Masters of Business Administration level theory is presented (Chapter 9) as is the management of knowledge (Chapter 10) and leadership (Chapter 11) at this same level.

Planning underpins how protected areas are effectively managed, and considerable investment is made by the Book in describing all aspects of planning including the theory of planning; levels of planning; common types of planning; protected area reserve planning; adaptive management; creative management and other considerations (Chapter 12). Business management is presented (Chapter 13) as is working and engaging with neighbours, citizens, partners and others (Chapter 14).

The Book provides a considerable investment in operational management. Skills in the management of media (Chapter 15); threats (Chapter 16); climate change (Chapter 17); geoheritage (Chapter 18); freshwater (Chapter 19); biodiversity (Chapter 20); ecosystem services (Chapter 21); cultural features (Chapter 22); visitors (Chapter 23); assets (Chapter 24); resource use and development (Chapter 25); incidents (Chapter 26); World Heritage properties (Chapter 27); Marine areas (Chapter 28) and connectivity conservation corridors (Chapter 29) are presented.

The Book concludes by providing theory about the evaluation of governance (Chapter 30) and management effectiveness (Chapter 31) and it describes the concept of a Green List of (IUCN certified) well-managed protected areas. All chapters of the Book are developed as discrete modules, but each chapter is integrated to the larger Book to avoid repetition and to achieve a seamless compendium text.

The highest editorial standard will be established for the Book. Each Chapter is to be peer reviewed by an independent reviewer approved by the IUCN International Book Steering Committee. In addition, the full book manuscript will be peer reviewed (double blind, with at least one external referee).

More information about the book is available at: <http://protectedareabook.org>
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The Book Project is proudly sponsored by:



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