

Book reviews

Valuable, up-to-date, information-rich resource

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Managing Protected Areas: a Global Guide
edited by Michael Lockwood, Graeme L
Worboys and Ashish Kothari

Earthscan, London, 2006, 802 pages, £49.95
(~US\$100), ISBN 1-84407-303-3

The foreword by Lopoukhine, Chair, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA), raises the reader's expectations: "*Managing Protected Areas: a Global Guide* brings together state-of-the-art thinking from around the world on the complex business of managing protected areas" (page xxiii). This is an ambitious statement and the editors do deliver.

This edited book provides comprehensive coverage of a broad range of issues associated with protected areas and their management. It is divided into three parts with Part I (seven chapters) providing important context for protected areas; this is sometimes neglected or embedded within material perceived as more important in other similar publications. Central to Part I is a focus on the global scale. This suggests, to impact practitioners, that any assessments associated with protected areas should strive to recognise and consider their global context.

In addition to natural heritage, social context and the processes of management, which are the more traditional elements of protected area management, Lockwood, Worboys and Kothari include chapters on capacity development, governance of protected areas, how protected areas reside on a global scale,

and values and benefits. The last of these, considering the ethical influences and values associated with tourism in protected areas, has become increasingly acknowledged as important over the last few years (Fennell, 2006). The complexity of these values has also been acknowledged (Bentrupperbäumer *et al*, 2006). Thus, Lockwood alerts the reader to the difficulties in language and classification and clearly states his position and what he means by 'value' early in this chapter. Part I starts the book on a theoretical note before leading into topic-specific issues in Part II.

The 19 chapters of Part II are devoted to the multitude of principles and practices relevant to protected areas. Included are the management of: human, financial and asset resources; natural and cultural heritage; community conserved areas; marine environments; and landscapes. The often-neglected incident and operations management makes an important contribution to this section. Partly because of this inclusion, the book provides for a better understanding of the tasks of protected area managers. Other issues reflecting current ways of thinking with regard to protected area management, but which are not necessarily at the forefront of one's mind, such as information management and communication, and collaboration, are also covered as separate chapters in this part. In addressing these, often hidden, aspects of the management process, the editors demonstrate their importance and relevance.

Part II concludes with the editors' vision for the future of protected areas. The last chapter, challenges and opportunities, is guided by the 'new paradigm' for protected areas (Phillips, 2003). This paradigm highlights the need to include, and/or expand on, the level of social science in protected area management practices and legislation, particularly since protected areas face multiple threats and

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wide-ranging demands. It also emphasises a closer link to people, a synergy between conservation and humans, benefits to local communities, poverty alleviation, and re-educating protected area professionals (Phillips, 2003).

For assessment practitioners, this apparent shift in paradigm requires acknowledgment in any impact assessment work associated with protected areas. According to Lockwood, Worboys and Kothari, this paradigm is the way forward for protected areas. They highlight the need to create protected area networks beyond their individual boundaries, based on this new paradigm.

In order to communicate their message, most authors begin their chapter with a broad overview before narrowing down to specifics. Case studies are used to illustrate points made in the text. These are used very effectively to enhance the reader's understanding of the topic. An example is the case study to illustrate systematic reserve selection methods (chapter 8, page 208), outlining how the Guyana Government uses a Conservation Plan (C-Plan) to support conservation planning decisions. The case studies vary in content, style and structure; some are taken from government publications whereas others are accounts provided by researchers of their research. This variety of styles makes for an interesting read.

The six appendices following Part II are confusingly named Part III. They provide the reader with concise and comprehensive facts and figures. This part provides a discrete reference guide of informative material in addition to the preceding text. For example, Appendix 2 traces the chronology of protected areas, starting in 1370 BC, and is a useful overview of the development of protected areas, whereas Appendices 3 and 4 add information regarding global frameworks for protected areas.

In conclusion, through the incorporation of capacity building, governance of protected areas, and collaborative management approaches, as well as

considering protected areas within a global framework, this publication is at the forefront of current thinking. Furthermore, it covers an extensive breadth of topics, is very readable and appealing, and provides an extensive and up-to-date literature with further reading recommendations at the end of each chapter.

Part II would have benefited from an improved structure regarding the order of chapters; currently chapter 22 "Linking the landscape" and chapter 23 "Marine protected areas" appear to be 'stuck' without clear linkages close to the end of this part. Both these chapters would have benefited from being closer to the beginning. For example, "Marine protected areas" could have been the chapter following "Establishing protected areas", particularly since the former covers the creation of, and frameworks for, marine parks, as well as drawing comparisons with terrestrial ecosystems.

Another potential improvement would have been a separate chapter covering indigenous communities and protected areas. Several chapters refer to indigenous people; however, particularly from an Australian point of view, indigenous land rights, culture and value systems are an important aspect of protected area management and warrant a separate chapter. Overall, congratulations to the editors; *Managing Protected Areas: a Global Guide* is a valuable, up-to-date, information-rich resource for those involved in impact assessment and likely to encounter protected areas.

References

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