

Managing Protected Areas: Global Perspectives

Introduction to the Special Issue

Volume II

Special Issue Guest Editor

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The first volume of the special issue featured eight papers based on conceptual and empirical research, case studies, and comparative analysis. The papers focused on topics related to people-park relationship, visitor experience, behavior and management, minimal impact education programs, conservation finance, and human capacity building initiatives. The featured topics were all relevant and focused on issues related to the management of parks and protected areas. In this second volume, the papers further addressed additional topics and associated managerial challenges with an emphasis on forms of co-management for protected areas, along with stakeholder consultation and involvement issues, use of traditional ecological knowledge, and the relationship of conservation, livelihoods and tourism. Similar to the first volume, the papers in this volume also represented conceptual and empirical research, as well as case studies from diverse ecosystems and geographic regions—China, Guatemala, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, and the United States. Based on peer review, six manuscripts were accepted for this volume and are briefly summarized below.

Place-based meanings within the context of participatory planning and management in protected areas have emerged as an important concept for managers. While the concept has been promoted with respect to its utility, however, there are numerous challenges in regard to its application for management. Dvorak and Brooks tackled this issue and advanced a conceptual framework along with its potential application as an example for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. The authors advocated for a relationship-based approach focused on three thematic areas for information collection to assist with management: recording stories or narratives, monitoring public trust in management, and identifying and prioritizing threats. Furthermore, the authors emphasized that an integration of these three information sources as part of the planning and implementation process would yield targeted outcomes for conservation, visitor experiences, and stakeholder relationships. This framework was applied for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to illustrate its use as

a complementary aspect to management practice and policy. Overall, the authors provided an alternate approach to understand and integrate place-based meanings as part of a strategy for the management of protected areas.

With the growing importance of stakeholder consultations and involvement in protected areas management, Pomeranz et al. examined stakeholder perceptions of collaboration for managing nature-based recreation in the Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness, Alaska. More specifically, the authors assessed 28 stakeholders' (i.e., commercial tour operators, cruise industry representatives, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and residents) motives to collaborate based on the U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Best Management Practices process, and the associated influence on the relationship with respect to communication and trust among the participants. In addition, the perceived role of the U.S. Forest Service as a facilitator and mediator in the process by commercial tour operators and local residents were also examined. Based on semistructured interviews, the authors identified that stakeholders had participated in the process largely due to voluntary nature of visitor behavior management in lieu of mandated policies. Generally, stakeholders perceived to have had a voice in the formulation of the management guidelines, and reported an enhanced channel for communication and dialogue between and among various stakeholder groups. However, the authors noted that lack of trust as well as perceived role in stakeholder input emerged between small tour operators and cruise lines. Also, U.S. Forest Service as an organization was positively viewed with respect to its mediator role, while the agency personnel and respective individuals were credited with effective facilitation and transparency. Overall, this case study offered an effective approach towards stakeholder input and facilitation with respect to achieving consensus in the management of natural resources.

Following the concept of stakeholder involvement, in the Pacific region, Reggers et al. examined stakeholder perspectives with respect to the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges, Papua New Guinea. The site represents historical military heritage along with natural significance, and is currently on the country's tentative World Heritage designation list, which is a precursor to officially being nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With the pending designation of the site, the authors noted the importance of an assessment of local peoples' perspectives which are needed for representation in the comprehensive management plan. Hence, this study focused on diverse stakeholders' relationship with the site and associated power relations based on Carlsson and Berkes' six-step scheme for co-management in natural resource management. This research was conducted via exploratory in-depth interviews with local, regional, and national stakeholders that had a stake with respect to the management of the site. From triangulation of several methods of data collection, the analyses were presented from a local, regional, and national stakeholders' perspective based on Carlsson and Berkes' framework. Results illustrated the importance of local customary landownership and values placed on the site by different stakeholders, and the associated complexities for vertical linkages with regional and national policy makers. Overall, this research offered valuable insights about conservation planning and co-management with respect to stakeholder input as part of the objective of World Heritage Site designation.

The traditional model of management of protected areas has diversified to incorporate alternate approaches such as co-managed protected areas, indigenous and community conserved areas, and private protected areas, etc. With such modification in management structures, there are inherent challenges and opportunities with respect to implementation of management objectives. In Central America, Urioste-Stone et al. reported that Guatemala was the first country to develop and rapidly adopt a form of co-management (i.e., co-administration of protected areas whereby management is jointly conducted by the municipal and central government). Besides conservation goals, the expectation of such arrangements was to garner participation and accrue benefits by the locals within the context of the government's decentralization initiatives. However, the effectiveness of the policy and associated co-administration management outcomes have not been evaluated. Hence, the authors examined one of the co-administration sites

—Regional Municipal Protected Area of Zunil based on Participatory Action Research Methodology among diverse stakeholders groups. Strengths identified for the site were growth in institutional coordination related to operational programs: environmental education, wildlife monitoring, and patrolling. The weakness were noted as administrative structures and processes, largely related to funding mechanisms, lack of human skilled capacity, and local stakeholder involvement. The authors recommended various measures associated with capacity building and institutional development, stakeholder involvement, and tourism initiatives. This research provided an essential evaluation of co-administration with practical implications to improve via implementation.

In China, Wright et al. examined the role of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in nontraditional communities living within Jiuzhaigou National Park. Majority of the residents are of Tibetan ethnicity and have a history of displacement from the park by the government. The authors noted that the residents have deep cultural and religious ties and uphold TEK of the area. TEK is considered a management tool for conservation and sustainable resource use, especially for co-management of natural areas. However, as the park is a major attraction (2.5 million visitors annually) due to the high diversity including the giant panda, residents' livelihoods are now dependent on tourism. Hence, TEK has not been a priority for daily subsistence. Based on the changing dependency on livelihoods, the authors' preliminary study assessed whether TEK was still held by the locals. Results identified that TEK was still relevant especially among older residents based on knowledge in specific locations related to plants, animals, and land management issues. The authors noted that while TEK was evident, there was lack of information sharing among the park staff. It was recommended that an integration of TEK was needed in the management plan for Jiuzhaigou National Park. Overall, this case study demonstrated the role of TEK and the subsequent utility in the management of the park.

People-park relationship has been a sustained thematic area of study especially in parks located in developing countries. With the evolving role of parks to extend beyond its boundaries and address livelihood needs of the local communities, various integrated conservation and development programs are now in existence. Ahebwa and van der Duim examined the relationship of conservation, tourism, and communities based on a case study of the Buhoma-Mukono community-based tourism project in Uganda. The site is located outside Bwindi Impenetrable National Park which is home to more than 50% of the rare mountain gorillas—a major attraction for tourists. Analysis was based on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework, whereby the authors noted that the local communities had a beneficial relationship with the park as balance was achieved with respect to conflict mitigation as well as conservation and livelihood needs. Collectively, the community-based tourism enterprise was successful as income generation, job creation, provision of social services, and funding for development projects at the local level was experienced. The authors noted that the success of the community based tourism enterprise was rather an exception in comparison to other similar initiatives. Various reasons for success were noted as it related to location, access, marketing, product development, and institutional commitment. Overall, the success of the community-based tourism enterprise along with the local's relationship with the park highlighted an illustrative model with respect to people-park issues in conservation, tourism and community development.

Collectively, the papers in volume one and two have delved into various managerial challenges and opportunities but were not exhaustive of all contemporary issues related to protected areas management. However, the papers have provided valuable insights based on original research, expanded prevailing concepts, and offered innovative practices relevant to managerial objectives. Given the JRPA audience, all papers have provided strong implications for managers of protected areas and policy makers. The quality and diversity of papers from various regions of the globe further contributed and strengthened our understanding of contemporary issues in protected areas management along with best practices and future research topics.

Finally, the response to the special issue was overwhelming as 28 manuscripts were initially submitted for review. The peer-review process was greatly enhanced with the expert assistance provided by numerous scholars globally. Based on their reviews, a total of 14 manuscripts were finally accepted for publication; eight were published in the first volume and six are part of this second volume. The important role of reviewers is acknowledged, and their time and commitment is much appreciated. For this second volume, the following reviewers are recognized (in alphabetical order): Arne Arnberger, Johannes Bauer, Nathan Bennett, Medani Bhandari, Robert Burns, Chaka Chirozva, Zachary Cole, Smriti Dahal, Holly Donohoe, Phoebe Godfry, Elizabeth Halpenny, Stephen Holland, Po-Hsin Lai, Eva Lawrence, Catrina MacKenzie, Dan McLean, Bonita McFarlane, Steven Matema, Shylock Muyengwa, Pete Parker, Eick von Ruschkowski, Mike Schuett, Trevor Sofield, Robert Swett, Stephen Wyatt, Shagrila Wynn, and Melanie Zurba. Also, this entire process along with the publication of a two-volume set of this special issue would not have been possible without the valuable assistance provided by James Busser (JPRA Editor).