

Protected area governance and management

Edited by Graeme L. Worboys, Michael Lockwood, Ashish Kothari, Sue Feary, and Ian Pulsford. ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2601 (<http://press.anu.edu.au>), 2015, xxvi + 996 pp. (figures, tables, bibliography, index), Price Pbk. \$190, ISBN: 9781925021684.

Available only as an e-book, this is the latest iteration of the well-known protected-area management compendium by Graeme Worboys and his colleagues. It is intended principally as a practitioner handbook for parks staff worldwide. It could also form the basis for a Master's degree if students followed up the recommended reading lists and carried out their own research projects.

There are five editors, 12 sponsors, 28 chapters, 966 pages, and numerous individual authors, many of them affiliated with IUCN. As an e-book, it is well illustrated with colour maps and photos, and there are also plentiful boxes, data charts, and case studies. A number of threatened species are illustrated including the snow leopard, Leadbeater's possum, and mountain pygmy possum. References are cited within each chapter, so each is self-contained. Individual authors have their own by-lines for each subsection, and each chapter commences with a citation to itself. Some of the chapters are heavily referenced, others much less so, perhaps depending on the interests of the authors.

The chapters cover a wide range of topics. The first 17 chapters cover topics such as natural and cultural heritage, social and cultural contexts, values and benefits, governance and management, leadership and capacity development, planning and participation, managing threats and mass media, and the consequences of climate change. Chapters 18–21 focus on geo-conservation, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Chapters 22–28 are on managing cultural uses, visitors, operations and assets, natural resources, threats, and effectiveness. There is a brief conclusion and an extensive index.

Even though it is such an enormous compendium, there are so many topics that each is treated at overview level rather than comprehensively. Tourism is considered principally, albeit only briefly, in Chapter 23, "Visitor Management". That chapter has eight authors and it is clear that different sections were written by different individuals, some with a background in conservation, others with more of a commercial tourism focus.

Tourism is also mentioned in relation to conservation on private land, principally in Chapter 27 on connectivity conservation; and briefly in Chapter 12, on leadership. The section by Moses Wafula Mapesa in Chapter 12, entitled "Working with People", is particularly readable. He includes personal stories of particular cases that illustrate general principles but are memorable because of their presentation.

From a research perspective, this new volume does not contain many new data or insights, but that is not its intention. It is a compilation of received knowledge, designed to remain current for a substantial period. For those working on the role of parks in tourism and the role of tourism in park management, perhaps its principal contribution is to provide a broader context, to show that tourism does not, in fact, feature very strongly in the perceptions of most parks managers. This was also reflected in the World Parks Congress in late 2014.

Given that some national parks services in developing nations now receive over 80% of their total funding from tourism revenues, this lack of attention seems to be something of a blind spot within IUCN. It shows, perhaps, that IUCN is driven largely by developed nations, where tourism typically contributes less than 10% of funding for parks agencies. Even there, however, visitor management is a major component of operational activities in many individual parks. As rightly noted in Chapter 23, conservation is the primary purpose of protected areas; but conservation management in practice involves raising revenue and controlling recreation, and tourism is part of both of these.

The broad content, structure, and approach for this new version are quite similar to the previous version, the 800-page tome *Managing Protected Areas* by Lockwood, Worboys, and Kothari (Earthscan, 2006). The new volume has new material, bringing the total length to just under 1000 pages, with many additional authors who contribute additional opinion and expertise. Considering how much it contains, it is remarkably inexpensive. In fact, if I understand it correctly, the publication page says that reproduction for educational purposes is freely permitted. The editors' principal aim is to make it

available as widely as possible. And even though it may contain much that is peripheral to tourism research interests, it is well worthy of attention by tourism researchers as well as park managers.

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