

Protected Areas and Human Well Being

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Aims and objectives

Whilst protected areas expand worldwide, we do not understand their relationships with well-being.

Emerging body of work to answer this.

Looking for both positives and negatives in DIVIDED intellectual communities.

→ **Review the state of the literature, outline progress, gaps and potential future directions.**

Protected Areas and Human Well Being

Methods

Literature Reviews

Park Evaluation Literature

Designed Studies

Methodological Literature

Individual Studies

Key Generalisations

Methods

- WoS/Google Scholar search for “social impact” and “protected area”
- Publications which cite early key papers
- Trawled 11 key journals since 2005
- Email listserves (E-Anth, PCLG) and individuals
- Include ICCAs

Literature Reviews

- West et al (2006)
 - PAs as agents of social and natural change
 - Fortune/misfortune re-distributed along gender/ethnic/etc lines
 - Importance of wider political economy
- Coad et al
 - Different forms of fortune/misfortune
- Adams and Hutton (2007)
 - PA benefits "tend to reproduce existing economic inequalities within local communities and wider society" (p160)

Specific literature reviews

- Brockington and Igoe (2006) on evictions
 - Found poor quality data
 - 184 PAs worldwide (an underestimate?)
 - Must be understood in frame of national scale debates
 - What about more mundane effects?
- Maschia et al (forthcoming) Marine PAs
 - Declines in catch rare

Protected area management effectiveness evaluations

- Largest dataset in terms of pa numbers
- Can be collated and recoded for generalities (Leverington et al, 2008)
- Dudley et al (2008) *Safety Net*

'For all these studies there was an average score of 6.4 out of a possible 10. ..

The majority - nearly 75% of assessments - reported that the protected area had an acceptable to positive effect on the local community. ..

Only 5 per cent of responses scored less than 2.5 out of 10.'

Dudley et al 2008: 62

Problems with these studies

- Communities are aggregated, but household-scale variations are vital
- Assessments are rapid, and (almost exclusively) answered by PA managers
- Questions generally ask about legal, economic benefits, not about drawbacks
- An unwillingness to engage with negative social impacts?

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

- | y | m/y | m/n | n | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | a) The PA is an important source of employment for local communities. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | b) Local communities depend upon the PA resources for their subsistence. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | c) The PA provides community development opportunities through sustainable resource use. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | d) The PA has religious or spiritual significance. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | e) The PA has unusual features of aesthetic importance. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | f) The PA contains plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | g) The PA contains animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | h) The PA has a high recreational value. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | i) The PA contributes significant ecosystem services and benefits to communities. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | j) The PA has a high educational and/or scientific value. |

Designed global research

- Upton et al (2009) - impacts of PAs are local, not national
- De Sherbinen (2009) - infant mortality no different around PAs
- Wittemyer (2009) - used population data in the wrong way
- **These papers lack recognition of political and economic context of PAs**

- Nelson and Agrawal on community wildlife management in Southern Africa
 - Failure to bring benefits shaped by political economy of wildlife
 - Particularly unwillingness of states to decentralise
- Ribot et al. Devolution of power over natural resources
 - Often incomplete or half-hearted
 - Vulnerable to elite capture
 - Rarely really tried

Designed field work

- WCS "living landscapes" in Gabon
 - Household surveys, focus groups, with control sites
 - Measures access to resources, wealth, nutritional status, social capital and social inequality
- CARE/WWF (and others) Albertine Rift
 - Focus groups and household surveys
 - Shows ethnic/gender differences in relations to PAs

Individual field studies

- Evictions in Central Africa
 - Contested figures
 - Eviction vs. economic displacement?
- PAs as offering inclusion
 - Some provide opportunities for livelihoods and identities to be retained

- Displacement/relocation from Indian PAs
 - Some great research
 - Often relocated people negotiate a good deal with the state
 - Role of new Forest Rights Act
 - Active NGO monitoring and lobbying
 - Relatively decentralised democracy
- Social relations and cultural norms
 - Social ties to guards prevents resistance, leading to displacement
 - No social ties allows resistance, lessening social impacts

Consistent themes

- Overall data quality poor but improving
 - Geographical and thematic lacunae
- Conceptual frameworks poor
 - Neglect household scale variations
- Wider political/economic factors neglected
- Vital that PAs are seen as agents for social/natural change
- PAs distribute fortune and misfortune
- Still a need effectively to engage with PAs problems