

Workshop to Review Approaches, Methodologies and Tools for Assessing the Social Impacts of Protected Areas

May 15-16th, 2008, Cambridge, UK.

Background

One of the desired outcomes of protected areas should be to improve, or at minimum 'do no harm' to, the livelihoods of local people living within and/or around protected areas (IUCN World Parks Congress 2003). Despite various reviews and the favourable political environment provided through the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPAs)¹, little information has been collected in a systematic way to test whether protected areas are making a positive or negative contribution to the livelihoods of people living within, immediately adjacent to, or further away from them. Evidence of social impacts² is frequently derived indirectly from process indicators, and the little information that does exist rarely looks at differentiated impacts within communities. A great deal of effort has been focused on increasing participation of local communities in PA management but it cannot be assumed that this leads to improved social impact (and often it doesn't). As this is such an important issue, various agencies and individuals have started to develop or adapt methodologies to assess the social impacts of protected areas. However, at present there is no standardized approach for undertaking these kinds of assessments.

Assessing the social impacts of protected areas is a complex undertaking fraught with both conceptual and methodological challenges. In the absence of common understanding on key concepts and consensus on approaches, a multitude of different methodologies and tools have been developed and applied. Not surprisingly studies using these different approaches frequently come to very different and often conflicting conclusions. This confusion and conflict is undermining efforts to address the social dimension of PA conservation, and specifically progress in delivering on commitments made at the World Parks Congress and in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

A number of conservation and humanitarian initiatives and agencies have identified this as a challenge that needs to be addressed, including the recently formed WCPA/CEESP Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods (PAEL) Task Force (under the Strategic Direction of Governance, Equity and Livelihoods cross-cutting two technical IUCN commissions), and the UNEP-WCMC Vision 2020 project which, *inter alia*, seeks to expand the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) to cover socio-economic issues.

The workshop described in this document is part of a process to address this challenge that is being facilitated and supported by the PAEL Task Force, the UNEP-WCMC Vision 2020 project and the IIED Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. This process comprises the following stages:

1. A literature review of all relevant scientific and grey literature on approaches, methodologies and tools for assessing social impacts of PAs leading to:
 - a. preparation of a background paper (draft already available)
 - b. an initial characterization of existing methodologies and tools.This work is being led by WCMC.
2. A first workshop in mid May 2008 (described in this document)
3. A second workshop immediately prior to the World Conservation Congress in October 2008 to design/plan a field testing program for selected methodologies/tools.
4. Field testing of selected methodologies and their associated tools (Jan-Sept '09)
5. A third workshop in late 2009 to synthesis experience to be documented in the form of best practice guidelines

¹ Notably activity 2.1.1: "assess the economic and socio-cultural costs, benefits and impacts arising from the establishment and maintenance of protected areas, particularly for indigenous and local communities"

² The term "social impact" is used hereto include any impact on local communities which may be social, cultural or economic in nature.

It is expected that funding of around \$150,000 for stages 3-5 of this process will be provided through the support project of the PAs, Equity and Livelihoods Task Force. Other sources of funding will also be pursued to allow for a more substantial and inclusive process.

This document focuses on stage 2 – a two day workshop to be held in Cambridge, UK on May 15 and 16th 2008 (immediately prior to CBD COP 9).

Workshop Objectives

1. Clarify and establish a common understanding of key concepts, terms and frameworks: poverty, poverty reduction, indicator, approach, methodology, methods tools, sustainable livelihoods framework, pressure state response framework, economic/financial analysis framework, social impact assessment, impact evaluation.
2. Develop a framework for the overall programme (stages 1-5 above) that defines:
 - a. the overall objective(s) of the 5 stage process
 - b. the key questions to be addressed by the methodologies/tools
 - c. who are the expected users of the methodologies/tools
 - d. what will the resulting information be used for and by whom(note: it is expected that there will be several different types of users with different information needs – hence this framework will take the form of a matrix of options)
3. Identify key criteria that can be used to characterise different impact assessment methodologies/tools in terms of key differences in approach, scientific methods, underlying values and cost.
4. Characterise existing impact assessment methodologies/tools in terms of:
 - a. the criteria identified from #3 above
 - b. elements of the framework (developed in 2# above) that they can address
5. Identify gaps requiring methodology development

Programme

DAY 1 - Thursday May 15th

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| 0830 – 1030 | Following introductions, this first session will focus on objective 1 – clarifying concepts. For each set of related issues a suitable resource person will be identified to lead the discussion. The output of this session will be a glossary of terms which reflects our common understanding. |
| 1030 – 1530 | This second session will focus on objective 2 - the framework. It is assumed that a draft framework will be prepared prior to the meeting through email discussion so that this session is not starting with a blank sheet of paper. The output of this session will be a matrix that summarises the framework.
(lunch break of one hour midway through this session) |
| 1530 - 1730 | Overview and review of existing methodologies/tools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the methodologies/tools background paper.• Brief description of other methodologies/tools known to participants The output of this session will be a list of the more promising methodologies /tools that should be taken forward to the characterization process of day 2. |

DAY 2 - Friday May 16th

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| 0830 - 1030 | This session will focus on objective 3 - criteria for characterizing different impact assessment methodologies/tools. The session builds on preparatory work to be done prior to the meeting by a small group led by WCMC. |
| 1030 – 1530 | This session will focus on objective 4 – characterizing existing methodologies /tools in terms of the framework and criteria.
(lunch break of one hour midway through this session) |

1530 – 1730 This final session will focus on objective 5 (gaps) and next steps.

Participants

Participants will include:

1. Experts on the topic of social impacts of PAs in the context of national and international policy (including CBD)
2. People with hands on experience in applying social impact assessment/evaluation methodologies in the context of protected areas
3. At least one person with experience of impact assessment/evaluation within a different context (e.g. development).
4. Representatives of key users/stakeholders:
 - a. PA managers (2)
 - b. Indigenous/local communities (2)
5. Resource persons involved in preparing the background paper and documentation of subsequent outputs

The total number of participants should not exceed 20.

Venue

The meeting will be held at the UNEP-WCMC offices in Cambridge, UK.

Partners in the event

Initiatives/organisations that have expressed interest in supporting this event include:

UNEP-WCMC Vision 2020 project
WCPA/CEESP Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihood Task Force
TILCEPA
IIED-PCLG,
CARE, TNC

Budget

Lunch, tea/coffee will be provided. Participants will be expected to cover their own travel, board and lodging with the exception of categories 3 and 4 above for whom sponsorship will be provided.

	Units	USD/Unit	USD
Travel	6	1250	7500
Hotel and per diem	18	200	3600
Venue, tea/coffee, materials	40	30	1200
Total			12300