



NAPA

News from African Protected Areas



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Edito (WPC: Here we are!)

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PAPACO coordinator

Conservation and rehashing...

The 6th edition of the IUCN World Parks Congress will start in a few days. More than 5,000 participants are expected in Sydney. Coming from all over the world, they will celebrate nature conservation for an entire week and will enjoy this once-in-a-decade event. Successes (there are some, for example these presented in this NAPA) will be emphasized and the conclusion of the congress will definitely be optimistic, which is to be expected.

Before gladly surrendering to this positive perspective, shouldn't we maybe remember the current context of conservation in Africa? At least so as not to be called naive optimists.

"All over Africa, destruction and damage caused by human foolishness, ignorance and blindness is increasing. Here, the majestic dense forests – symbol, if any, of strength and durability – are logged and burnt by millions of hectares; Here, overabundant – and most of the time lean – cattle trample the soil. There, in deserts that we thought their immensity should protect from the « civilized », trucks and weapons of war (that are legally not allowed to be used for hunting) pursue, often simply as a hobby, the last gazelles. Around cities where Homos supposedly « sapiens » live, a perimeter of silence and death grows constantly: one has to go further now to murder antelopes, warthogs, guinea fowls or doves...(...)"

Of course we cannot deny it: natural resources exploitation has to go on and, considering the current population growth rate, increase. Of course, nobody should starve! Of course, extreme misery is an intolerable situation. (...)

However, here and there, some thoughtful humans worry and, realising the magnitude of damages that humans inflict to Africa's Nature, bravely try to warn others of the danger. Although it is a losing battle, they participate in it for honour. Their warnings should be heard - especially by the Africans themselves, now solely responsible for their future and their country's future. Will it be? This is not so sure. Rulers live, necessarily, one day at a time and do not think into the future far enough. And others are not aware of the problem: Nature conservation is not yet taught in schools here as it is in other parts of the world.

Yet, to be honest: nothing efficient, nothing sustainable will be done without a deep change of mind-set and attitude. The best administrative issuance will go unheeded as long as it is not supported by an alert public opinion, which itself reflects the new position of humans toward the world and Nature (...)

In this regard, will Africans be able to give the wonderful example that mankind expects from them? (...) Will they use their oldest traditions and build upon their peaceful wisdoms to make of Africa a continent where men use Nature without destroying it? Will their land in particular stay the only witness of enormous concentrations of mammals from the Tertiary era? Will we see elephants, giraffes, zebras and rhinoceros any longer? Hopefully we will."

This text “The endangered African Nature: can it still be saved?” was written by Théodore Monod* more than 50 years ago, in 1961. Yet, it is still very topical and reminds us, if needed, that talks are not enough. Hopefully the congress will lead to actions!

*Théodore MONOD was a professor at the French Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle and director of the French Institute for Sub-Saharan Africa



Twenty-two stories from Africa...

On the road to the World Park Congress!

See also the [AfD blog](#) on protected areas and the upcoming congress...

WPC – it's happening now!



Professional training course on PA Management: the 9th edition of the University Diploma has started in Lope NP (Gabon)

Direction 4 of the road map for African PAs

Almost twenty students, coming from six different countries (Cameroon, Chad, Congo, DRC, Central Africa, and Gabon), have gathered at the WCS training center in Lope National Park, on the 20th October, to launch the 9th edition of the PA management training course, organized by IUCN and WCS in collaboration with the University Senghor of Alexandria, in Egypt.

Targeting young professionals working in and around PAs (PA managers, NGOs, private sector...), this training course builds on theory and practice, on the ground, and lasts eight weeks. It will be organized again in 2015



Students at Lopé NP in October

The previous NAPA letter presented the program of events to which Papaco participates at the World Parks Congress (see NAPA 79) and a few other presentations related to conservation in Africa. The present NAPA relates two sets of stories that our "champions" will present during the Congress: one speaks of governance of protected areas and the other one is about the possible reconciliation of conservation and development.

Next month, two other sets of African stories will end our journey "on the road to Sydney".

More on www.papaco.org

The shift of African PAs: away from 'fences & fines', traditional & formal protected areas to inclusive, people driven, participatory governance driven protected areas

Directions 1 and 3 of the Road Map for African PAs

Nils Odendaal (Namibia) – Nick de Goede (South Africa) – Daniel Marnewick (South Africa) - Dancilla Mukakamari (Rwanda) - Togarasei Fakarayi (Zimbabwe) – Inza Kone (Côte d'Ivoire)

INTRODUCTION

Conservation in Africa has come a very long way over the last couple of decades. The days of only formal protected areas for conservation purposes are fast diminishing. Due to the increasing pressure on the environment, conservationists had to come up with new innovative ideas regarding the increase of the footprint of conservation areas in Africa. The legislation also had to change so that these informal conservation areas could also be recognised and managed as such. Finally, conservationists profile has changed.

More than a general paper on governance, this work aims at presenting 6 different examples of innovative and successful governance in Sub-Saharan Africa: in South Africa, Namibia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire. From each of these examples, lessons are learnt and recommendations are given. Although not

exhaustive they could hopefully be used as a base for reflexion on similar cases.

Each section of this presentation is divided in 6 distinctive parts presenting specific geographical cases: at the border of Namibia and South Africa first, then in Namibia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Africa and, finally, Côte d'Ivoire.

In South Africa and Namibia Transfrontier Conservation Areas and Parks is a fairly new concept. A lot has been done and tried over the last couple of years. It is still a growing initiative and some of these areas and Parks have taken leading roles in the management across international borders. The **/Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP)** has now been existing for 10 years. In the last 4 years **they have excelled in joint management** of the two parks namely Richtersveld National Park (South Africa) and /Ai/Ais Hot Spring Game Park (Namibia).

In Namibia, The **NamibRand Nature Reserve is a model for private conservation in Southern Africa**. It demonstrates that a group of philanthropists can make a meaningful impact toward the conservation of critically important ecosystems. The NamibRand Nature Reserve Association is an example of how the application of good governance, innovative management systems and the pooling of resources can help reach common biodiversity conservation objectives.



The NamibRand Nature reserve

In Africa, new models of governance helping local communities to become fully responsible for their own natural resources are emerging. **In Rwanda, a gender-based approach is being used to ensure**

the participation of women in conservation of protected areas.

The Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains biodiversity conservation corridor **in Zimbabwe** supports critical ecosystems with a high level of endemism and forms part of the Eastern Afrotropical Biodiversity Hotspots. Unfortunately, there is **a lack of community participation and empowerment in biodiversity conservation and decision-making resulting in very limited local support for conservation of critical sites** and their buffer zones. To address this conservation gap, BirdLife Zimbabwe embarked on a program 'Stakeholder capacity building for Key Biodiversity Area management planning in the Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains biodiversity conservation corridor'.

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Programme (IBA) is an international programme coordinated by BirdLife International and implemented by over 100 BirdLife country partners.

In South Africa, there are 122 IBAs and less than 40% is legally protected. In collaboration with provincial conservation agencies/departments and partner environmental organisations, for the past three years BirdLife South Africa has **engaged landowners towards declaring their lands Protected Environments in three priority IBAs.**

In Côte d'Ivoire, the effects of deforestation and illegal hunting of wildlife in the country have been devastating. Series of adjustments of conservation policies are currently being promoted and include the empowerment of local communities for nature conservation. The case of the **community-based conservation project of the Tanoé forest**, southeastern Côte d'Ivoire is **considered as a promising pioneering experience.**

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND INTEREST

A treaty between **South Africa and Namibia** was signed by the presidents of both countries in **2003** and kept the park boundaries as they already were defined, for a total surface of 604 500ha. The Transfrontier Park is governed by a Joint Management Board which is advised by the Park Management Committee, comprising of the respective park managers of the two parks. The parks are managed by South African National Parks, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Namibia Wildlife Resorts. All organisations are government funded.

In Namibia, landowners who form part of the NamibRand Nature Reserve have signed Articles of

Association, which binds their land into the reserve. **The Articles govern what can and can't be done** in terms of resource use and restrict the land use of these former livestock farms to conservation and tourism. All land owners who commit their land to the Reserve also become directors of the Association and they form part of the **board that governs and makes up the top decision making body of the Reserve**. By signing the Articles of Association these landowners all subscribe to a common conservation vision for the area which is underpinned by a set of objectives and environmental goals, which the directors have agreed on.

In Rwanda, the Ecologist Association of Rwanda, (ARECO), currently intervenes on the network of PAs located in the North West and South West of Rwanda in the Volcanoes National Park, the Nyungwe National Park and the Mukura reserve. ARECO supports community-based initiatives with a focus on women participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in PAs. To enhance participation of women and communities in PAs governance, a **memorandum of understanding** was signed between ARECO and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the government authority in charge of PAs management in Rwanda.

In Zimbabwe, in order to enhance and improve management of the five KBAs along the Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains corridor, Birdlife Zimbabwe has facilitated the formation of **Stakeholder Management Advisory Groups and Local Conservation Groups at each site**. The Stakeholder Management Advisory Groups is made up of local authorities and other key stakeholders in the KBA.

In South Africa, through **voluntary legal agreements with landowners**, Biodiversity Stewardship provides a cost effective conservation tool for securing biodiversity, promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and expanding the protected area network outside of state-owned national parks and nature reserves.

LEGITIMATE, RECOGNISED STRUCTURES

Border of Namibia and South Africa. On each side of the border, national laws rule the management of the environment of the parks. One of the sections of the Joint Operation Strategy – the form that guides the day-to-day cross border operations and functions - is looking at the **harmonisation of policies and procedures**. ARTP has done a lot in this regard. For example cross border **radio licences were received**

from both countries' communication authorities so that a radio network can legally be operated across the border. This would not have been possible in the past and is a good example of the success of the treaty signed between Namibia and South Africa.



Radio collaboration in the ARTP

Namibia. The Articles of Association of the NamibRand Nature Reserve and the landowners who are the registered directors form a Section 21, Association not For Gain, which is registered with the High Court in the Government of the Republic of Namibia. This makes the NamibRand Nature Reserve a **legally recognised structure that can enter into agreements and conduct business in Namibia**. The Articles of Association are essentially a constitution that also acts as a tool that creates an enabling policy environment. They provides guidance and rules as to how the directors can make decisions, administer the Association, appoint staff, conduct business, manage finances and creates a framework in order to achieve the vision and goals of the Association.

In Rwanda, 60% of the community-based cooperatives that work around protected areas are now **registered with the Rwandan Cooperative Agency** and the rest is still in process. This legal status gives them the right to access to funding and other opportunities. The cooperatives can also now benefit from revenue sharing funding (40% of the budget allocated to communities) from tourism and conservation activities.

In Zimbabwe, development of Local Conservation Groups was done in partnership with their local authorities who now recognise these groups. The established Local Conservation Groups have then formed committees and developed constitutions that

would provide the community with a **legitimate platform for decision-making** in the conservation of KBAs. In the medium to long term, there are plans to register Local Conservation Groups as Community-based Organisations for more joint management of KBAs within them and/or buffer zones of KBAs where the communities are located.

In **South Africa** the *Biodiversity Stewardship Guideline Document*, published by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in 2009, defines Biodiversity Stewardship and summarises the legal, institutional and procedural frameworks, thereby **setting a national standard**. It remains at the discretion of each provincial government agency or department to adapt the forms and procedures to suit their specific needs and nuances, **within the constraints of the Protected Areas Act and Biodiversity Act**.



Birdlife in South Africa – targeting KBAs

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the project site is located in the south-eastern corner of the country, which forms part of the Upper-Guinean East biodiversity hotspot. Nine villages distributed in 2 different districts are part of the project area. In 2012-2013, **management committees** were formed in eight different villages. In each of the two districts a **paramount association** was established as well. The last step of community organization will consist in establishing a "**federal association**" encompassing both paramount associations. The newly established local institutions receive technical and financial supports from CSRS and partners for the planning and implementation of their activities.

DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO ENABLE DECISION MAKING.

Namibia-South Africa border. As mentioned above, the ARTP is governed by a joint management board. However, this board has only has a strategic role and is not dedicated to design practical tools that would help the coordination of the activities within the transfrontier park on the ground. This is more the role of the Park Management Committee that acts according to the **Joint Operation Strategy, which is the tool aiming at coordinating the decision making of the ARTP**. The joint management board endorsed the Joint Operation Strategy and that made decision-making a lot easier on the ground. Once the Management Comity has made a decision it can be implemented almost immediately.

Namibia. In the NamibRand, as provided for by the Articles of Association, the **directors design and approve an environmental management plan** that also contains a tourism and development plan as well as a land use zonation plan. These plans enable the Chief Executive Officer and the Reserve management staff to work towards the goals and objectives of the association. Staff can thus work and make decisions towards implementing these plans. They do so within the limits of an annual financial budget and an annual work plan as approved by the CEO and the board of directors.

In **Rwanda**, women cooperatives are now recognized among the park management structures of the Community Conservation Program among groups of crop, crafts makers, beekeepers, etc. These different groups are involved in governance processes; **they are consulted for decisions that may impact them directly or indirectly**.

In **Zimbabwe**, the institutions established for the Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains biodiversity corridor had clear roles and responsibilities among group

members that enable joint decision making towards management of the KBAs by the local authorities, communities and civil society organisations. In addition, networks among the Stakeholder Management Advisory Groups were established across the corridor to promote **practical sharing of knowledge and information for improved cooperation on decision-making**. Through the capacity building programme of BirdLife Zimbabwe, Stakeholder Management Advisory Groups members have also been prepared to **use other already existing channels** through their respective institutions for **influencing more collaboration and cooperation on decision making for KBAs at the highest level**.

Each Biodiversity Stewardship site in **South Africa**, declared as either a Protected Environment or a Nature Reserve, needs a **management authority elected by the landowners**. Each site also needs a **management plan that would be audited once a year**. These management plans are supported by government departments, government programmes (e.g. working for Water), and non-government conservation organisations.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the management committees from each village are the executive bodies, while the two paramount association are the coordinating bodies at district levels and the federal association is the body in charge with strategic orientations for the entire area. The two paramount associations are composed of the members of the boards of the management committees. They coordinate the work programs of the management committees. They elaborate policy guidelines for the management of the forest. The federal association to be formed by the members of the boards of the two paramount associations will be **the official manager of the Tanoé forest on behalf of the villages of the project area**. As such, it will be the main interlocutor of the government and all external organizations. It will provide broad guidelines for the conservation of the forest, raise fund for the paramount associations, and possibly sign a contract with a third party for a co-management of the forest.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Namibia-South Africa border. For any business to work on long term, it needs to be financially sustainable. In the initial stages, the ARTP was totally funded by the governments. Due to continuous efforts by the staff on the ground, a lot of sponsorships have helped to get the ARTP fully functional as it is today. Sponsors such as Peace Parks Foundation, GIZ, the South African

Department of Environmental Affairs and Honorary Rangers have contributed immensely over the last 3 years. Through the development of the Joint Operation Strategy and the joint tourism management plan, activities such as Desert Kayak Trails and Desert Knights Mountain Bike Tour have made the **ARTP a financially viable Transfrontier Conservation Area**.

Namibia. In NamibRand, landowners benefit of being members of the Reserve by having their land and biodiversity resources holistically and centrally managed. Although there are rules and regulations that govern such things as traversing, utilization and infrastructure development on the Reserve, these are within the spirit of the overall vision of the reserve and tourism concessionaires and landowners are not micro managed by reserve staff.

Besides **benefiting from conservation, land management and the associated costs**, which are carried by the Association, landowners also receive a **small annual land use recognition fee**. This is currently a minimal amount of 60 cents per hectare, however land taxes are also covered for landowners by the Association.

In **Rwanda**, every year, a **performance contract is signed between the parks authorities and women cooperatives** to ensure their active and lasting participation and ownership of field initiatives.

Improved conservation of KBAs in **Zimbabwe** is hinged upon involvement and cooperation of stakeholders on the ground, community involvement in particular. BirdLife Zimbabwe has trained these groups on **governance and fundraising** as part of preparation of groups for long-term sustainability of their actions. In addition, Birdlife will continue helping with the funding and the technical support for a certain time.



Training in Zimbabwe, by Birdlife

Biodiversity Stewardship in **South Africa** relies on landowners to implement appropriate land management, and on government to support this management. However, many of the land practices also involve commercial operations which depend on making profit. Therefore a monitoring protocol, by way of **an annual audit, is implemented to ensure management is according to the management plan.** The annual audit also interrogates **stakeholder satisfaction and future needs.**

The biggest challenge to Biodiversity Stewardship is long-term capacity (on the side of government) and financial sustainability. These models are currently being developed.



Côte d'Ivoire. The project design is based on the involvement of local communities, local, national governmental and non-governmental agencies with the support of international partners. The project pays particular attention to community organization so that local communities become valuable interlocutors for the administration and various partners. This is accompanied with capacity building for forest

conservation and development activities in a mutual-learning process so that communities become independent in conceiving and carrying out such activities. The project also focuses on awareness raising for communities to clearly understand and adopt the concept of sustainable development. Future project finance will be ensured by **strengthening the current growing partnership** for the conservation of the Tanoé forest and by **exploring potentials for REDD+ mechanisms.** A special effort will be done so that the traditional partners of the project maintain or increase their annual contribution and other national and international will be invited to join the network. However, communities are expected to clearly understand that the fate of the forest is primarily their responsibility.

CONCLUSION

A paradigm shift has taken place away from 'fences & fines', traditional & formal protected areas to modern protected areas. The six examples presented in this work prove that it is today possible and necessary for protected areas to adapt to their

times. Transnational projects, financial incentive, women and local community empowerment are some examples of the aspects that should be taken in consideration to ensure the good governance of protected areas in Africa and thus the conservation of its environment.

In Transfrontier Conservation areas, it has been shown that the **conservation footprint can be enlarged across political borders.** To do so, the different governments' policies and legislations have to be harmonised and authorities of involved countries have to work in common institutions. The ARTP proved that this cooperation can indeed be successful.

It is possible to run a large, well-managed and well-functioning private nature reserve that is funded privately, without donor and government aid. **Good governance systems and benefits be they indirect or concrete, are necessary so as to reward participants.** The rights over natural resources are important as people who can benefit from the sustainable utilization of their natural resources, non-consumptive eco-tourism in this case, are more inclined to take ownership and thus be incentivised to care and look after this resource. **Regular feedback, consultations and participation** are also key to a successful conservation initiative such as the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

Involving women in the management of natural resources is essential for sustainable conservation and good governance of Protected Areas. Communities and women in particular are able to engage in conservation processes and own conservation projects but there is a need of positive discrimination to enable women to engage in conservation. **The role played by NGOs in empowering and engaging communities is also instrumental** since they facilitate communication and collaboration between government institutions and grassroots communities.

Improved management of biodiversity and quality of governance of Key Biodiversity Areas is hinged upon great minds from cooperation by all stakeholders. **Development of institutional mechanisms for KBA management at site level is important and effective in driving conservation programmes** for critical sites as well as attracting attention to conservation gaps at site level. Collaboration and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation widens existing knowledge, enhances governance of biodiversity sites, reduces

conflict among stakeholders, and enables community involvement in decision making.

The proposed declarations of sites through **Biodiversity Stewardship** will meaningfully contribute towards conserving grasslands, wetlands and estuaries, whilst maintaining livelihoods from livestock farming, agriculture and tourism; ensuring food and water security. They are **visionary and will go down in South Africa's history as a true representation of inspired good governance. They could be followed elsewhere.**

Community-based conservation may prove to be efficient if there is a strong commitment of **informed and skilled local communities**. Social mobilization may be sustained if it is clear for communities that conservation does not have to be considered as incompatible with development.

Read the full stories and learn more about the authors on www.papaco.org

Development or conservation? A matter of sound decision-making, stakeholders' engagement and participatory process.

Directions 3 and 6 of the Road map for African PAs

Alasdair Harris, Madagascar - Martial Kouderin, Benin - Sakhile Nsukwini, South Africa - Tom Okello, Uganda - Ravaka Ranaivoson, Madagascar

INTRODUCTION

In Africa, protected areas can contribute to meeting development needs of the 21st century through: provision of food and water security, ensuring jobs and sustainable livelihoods, maintaining productivity of fisheries, tourism (which, for instance, contributed to 2.8% the continent's GDP in 2012), forestry and agricultural sectors. However, protected areas can only continue to meet development needs if their ability to do so is not compromised by the increasing pressures they face - from both inside and surrounding areas - such as mining, energy, agriculture, urbanization etc. It is therefore important that developers include conservation into their programs and mitigate impacts of their activities on the environment. In addition to this, it is recognized that (carbon trade-offs, Biodiversity Business Offset Programs) from sectors such as mining, energy and infrastructure development has the potential to support conservation efforts.

To ensure the balance between development and conservation, government at national and local levels and businesses must develop and implement

suitable tools including policies, guidelines and plans. The development of these tools must be participatory for all stakeholders to own and use them efficiently. The value of PAs must be ascertained and incorporated into these tools in order to make wise trade-offs between conservation and development.

The five stories from Africa that are presented here are aligned to the main purpose of the WPC 2014 of **positioning protected areas within the goals of economic and community well-being**. They seek to show new models and approaches that demonstrate how different stakeholders in four countries (South Africa, Benin, Uganda, and Madagascar) are working together to achieve common goals of minimizing impacts of development on natural resources and protected areas; and promoting development through the conservation of natural resources. The stories also underline the importance of mobilizing, sensitizing and involving people, including businesses, in environmental management. These stories affirm that engagement and provision of economic benefits to stakeholders, especially communities neighboring protected areas, can encourage the conservation of important ecosystems.

In **South Africa**, the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) communities have been neglected economically as a result of not being involved in park management and ecotourism activities from the beginning. If the communities had been, they would have had access to more jobs and income from various touristic activities.



Communities in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

In **Benin**, the “Valley of Sitatunga” initiative was adopted as a response to human pressure from increased population and urbanization. This initiative

led to the creation of a community-based nature reserve with well-established community management structures providing land use plans and developing income generating activities as an alternative to the exploitation of natural resources.



Communities in the "Vallée du Situnga" Reserve

In South West **Madagascar**, a multi-disciplinary approach to marine conservation and coastal poverty alleviation is being promoted. This has enabled creation of the largest locally managed marine PA in the country. It has also catalyzed real change in community fisheries management, established sustainable aquaculture and ecotourism businesses as well as new approaches to financing and promoting marine conservation.



In **Uganda**, commercially viable quantities of oil and gas resources have been discovered in the country's Albertine Rift region, which happens to have the highest biodiversity in the country. The PA management authority together with authority responsible for environmental management, oil and gas development as well as oil companies have put

in place initiatives to achieve the critical balance between getting oil out of the reservoirs in PAs while not compromising conservation.

In Andasibe, **Madagascar**, communities living around the Mantadia National Park have improved their livelihood by using part of the entrance fees to support local development projects. To upscale results, there is a need to develop suitable tools that help identifying right measures that integrate development and conservation while involving all the stakeholders at different levels: local, regional, national and international. The suggested tools comprise assessment of the economic values of natural resources and the inclusion of natural resource valuation in national economic policies.

These experiences highlight that conservation of terrestrial and marine protected areas enhances efficiently local development through job creation, increase of income for households, food security etc. Such achievements are the fruit of new challenging approaches to conservation such as: development of relevant tools, involvement of different stakeholders in planning and execution of measures to mitigate impacts of developments in PAs...

Choosing the suitable activities that conciliate development and conservation and involving all the stakeholders all along the process are among the key factors.

In **HiP, South Africa**, ecotourism helps improve standard of living through increased disposable income for individuals. HiP is an area where wildlife conservation has been practiced for well over a hundred years and presently a repository of biodiversity of international significance, including the world largest population of white Rhinos.. For conservation policies to be successful in PAs, the attitudes and level of participation of community residents play a major role. Indeed, local community participation in ecotourism business is one of the important indicators of their implication in conservation activities and the sustainability of tourism businesses. The general attitudes of community residents towards tourism can be improved by both tangible and intangible benefits that these populations receive from being involved directly in decision-making processes. Yet there are many local communities excluded or, mainly, minimally involved in the planning and management of natural resources in protected areas.

It is important to note that, in each community, there are different kind of people who need different levers for motivation and satisfaction. This is the case in **Benin**, in the Sitatunga Valley, where each group's interest are taking into consideration differently: young people are organized in clubs “knowing and protecting nature” that implement biodiversity awareness and guiding actions; hunters gathered in an association are active in ecological monitoring of the ecosystem and in sustainable tourism as guides; women are in charge of accommodation, catering and welcoming the visitors; local authorities have established a concerted and exchanged framework related to local development based on ecosystem conservation. This approach has contributed to stop the frightening degradation of the environment within the context of demographic explosion while improving local communities' wellbeing; a reversible trend is tangible less than 10 years after the implementation of this approach.

In **Madagascar**, improving small-scale fisheries has helped the implementation of marine protected areas. Although MPAs are an essential tool for shoring up ecosystem resilience and rebuilding fish stocks, they typically establish heavy restrictions for access and catch, and have rarely been established prioritising the paramount socioeconomic needs of coastal communities. The costs of forgoing fishing in protected areas can present a severe economic burden for communities, and the promised ‘spill-over’ benefits of marine protection can be slow to accrue.



Local fishermen in Madagascar

As a result, conservation goals have often been at loggerheads with local community needs, disenfranchising traditional resource users and causing conflict between conservation and fishing interests. Working with coastal communities in Madagascar, community-based conservation NGO Blue Ventures has used temporary fishing ground

closures as a point of entry for conservation. Short term closures improve catch and make fishermen richer, which builds community support to protect resources through locally managed marine areas, ideally including permanent closures, which deliver the greatest potential conservation benefit.

Moreover, taking into account equity in benefit sharing during the process contributes to better involve local stakeholders.

According to the above-mentioned experience in **South Africa**, ecotourism, from a conservation perspective, is expected to be environmentally sustainable and to provide tangible benefits to protected areas in the form of revenues to be used for conservation and management. On the other hand, from a community perspective, it is expected to provide equitable benefits that enhance local support for conservation. Negative attitude towards ecotourism and conservation in PAs often arises from poor relationship between residents and management and also inequity in the distribution of benefits derived from these ventures. If ecotourism is to play a part in sustainable development around protected areas, then distributional inequalities need to be addressed.

Reconciling conservation and development relies also on the understanding of cultural value that local communities place to the natural resources.

In **Benin**, within the project of the Sitatunga Valley, community based natural resource management is based on customary law and governed by totemic principles. Due to their high rate of illiteracy, local communities are reluctant to formalize the rules of use of natural resources since they would not be able to completely appreciate the content of the documents. This highlights that the lack of formal legal framework regarding community management is not always a weakness. Community's commitment is more respected when it is based on a traditional pact.

This is the case in the “Vallée du Sitatunga” where hunters in the natural reserve, supported by CREDI-ONG, signed a pact with the god of iron Ogou, to forbid hunting inside the area that has been defined by the management of the reserve. Therefore, communities' commitment and a global ecological awareness among people living in the vicinity of “Vallée du Sitatunga” are in place.

And finally, development needs to be understood and promoted in a way it will not jeopardized conservation.

On a larger scale, government gains to work closely with development stakeholders so as to ensure that development programs do not compromise conservation. This is the case in **Uganda** where five oil fields have been discovered, drilled and appraised in Murchison Falls National Park. The protected area management authority with stakeholders have developed tools to guide oil companies working in protected areas in a bid to minimize impacts of oil and gas activities and maintain PAs' integrity and ecological processes. This includes review of all EIAs for oil and gas development in the PAs, carrying out compliance monitoring on a daily basis, ensuring complete restoration of exploration well sites, designating and training over 100 staff to undertake compliance monitoring, developing operational guidelines for oil companies operating in PAs... Work has also been conducted with WCS to carry out research on impacts of oil on ranging patterns and behavior of key species. Oil companies pay daily entrance fees like other visitors to the PA (negotiated as conservation fees) and they support the biodiversity surveys - e.g surveys of birds, mammals, and fish to establish baselines, generating information on avoidance features while in the PA and implementing it during the 3 dimensional seismic survey. That way, exploration phase has been completed with no appreciable impacts and all exploration wells have been restored.



Reconciling nature conservation and extractive industries in Uganda, a difficult challenge

In addition to risks from big development projects such as extractive industries, pressures due to poverty (such as slash and burn culture, poaching, charcoal production, small scale mining) are among the main threats to biodiversity. Often, people are not fully aware of the importance of natural resources to get involved better in the preservation of such

richness. Therefore, there is a need to assess economic value of natural resources, and use the results as lobbying instruments. The economic value of the protected area includes short, mid and long-term value according to local use/exploitation. The assessment must consider the advantages and drawbacks of the exploitation versus conservation.



Nature based tourism is an important source of revenue for NPs in Madagascar

These different forms of economical valuation of natural resources will help choosing the best option with the required compensation if needed, identifying stakeholders to be involved in the conservation and development programs, defining the measures such as policy, regulation, conservation and development strategies. Moreover, including this value in the national accounting system as "economic wealth" may reinforce citizen commitment in conservation, from local population to authorities and private sectors. In **Madagascar**, there are initiatives emerging around some protected areas that promote economic value of natural resources: allocation of part of the park entrance fees (50%) to support local development projects (in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park), implementation of green belt - local communities' conservation and development area - around different parks such as Makira. Assessing the value of protected areas will help upscaling the conservation status for the 6 million ha of PAs that are planned in Madagascar.

CONCLUSION

Conciliating development objectives and conservation is a challenge that each country can overcome. To achieve this, it is important to be aware of the value that local communities attach to development projects. This will help park managers to make decisions concerning how to implement and present, for instance, an ecotourism project to benefit more individuals in local communities.

To achieve conservation objectives, it is necessary to value traditional ecological knowledge while integrating economic, social and cultural interests of local communities. Legislative systems that offer efficient, sure and flexible tools for community management, instead of *ad hoc* approaches, are crucial if we want to make it a sustainable and scalable approach for conservation in Africa and worldwide.

Communities' perceived opportunity cost of surrendering their activities based on resources use must be considered in every PA. Conservation models must be designed to inspire local leadership

in PA's management by demonstrating that effective conservation makes economic sense.

The strict implementation of the tools and guidelines developed jointly with all the stakeholders helps alleviate negative impacts of development programs such as mining on protected areas. Pushing companies to adopt good practices, routine inspections and monitoring of oil/mining activities, monthly meetings with the companies help addressing issues of concern for PA management.

Nor conservation nor development are "optional"; both sectors can be integrated as long as stakeholders and decision makers fully understand the reasons why is it important to conserve biodiversity. What are the interests of each stakeholders group in the conservation and development programs? The assessment and publicizing of the economic value of protected areas is a key method to bring answers to all these questions.

Read the full stories and learn more about the authors on www.papaco.org



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Don't miss our 3 main side-events at the WPC

Friday 14th Nov – 17.30 to 20.00 - Playfair Room 2
The African night: an informal networking event to meet altogether and discuss the future of PAs in Africa

Saturday 15th Nov - 18.00 to 20.30 - Hall 4A2
Governance of PAs in Africa: selected stories on good practices across the continent

Tuesday 18th Nov - 12.00 to 13.30 - Hall 3A1
Conservation outputs: success stories from African PAs

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