



Newsletter from African protected areas

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Editorial

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George

Generally speaking, when we reach the point where we feel the need to give the representative of a wild animal species a nickname, it's a sign that things don't look very promising.

All our readers remember Martha, the last of her great family of American migratory pigeons, of whom man took such good care that the species shrank, within a few decades, from hundreds of millions of individuals to ... the one and only Martha (see NAPA No. 78). Alone and lonely, she died in September 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo with, perhaps, the secret hope that her sad fate would serve as a lesson for her tormentors.

This is what George, the little snail of Hawaii, carrying a ringed shell crowned by a tip of a pretty yellow color (hence his sweet latin name *Achatinella apexfulva*), must have thought as well - until he released his last bubble, in this year 2019. A year that he did not get to know much, since he stopped drooling on the first of January, 14 years into his honest life as the only known remaining representative of his kind.

It must be said that George and his people were unlucky.

His great grandparents lived by the thousands on O'ahu Island. Instead of keeping a low profile, they climbed trees and proudly displayed their conspicuous shells on branches. Not surprising, then, that the British settlers arrived at the end of the 18th century turned them into necklaces. They also took the initiative to import on the island the African cousin of our "yellow tip" (*Achatina fulica*), bigger and more voracious, who was a formidable competitor and grabbed the best seats in the sun (when he should have known that he was clearly less beautiful!).

Never mind, in the middle of the twentieth century they then imported another snail (*Euglandea rosea*) carnivorous by nature, in order to settle the fate of the "African". Unfortunately, he seemed color-blind and engulfed both cousins with equal appetite.

By the mid-1990s, only 10 specimens of our yellow-tipped snail remained. They could at last have played it down and tried to go unnoticed beneath the leaves, but no, they had to seek attention and parade themselves to everyone. They were therefore put in an air-conditioned box for them to reproduce, which they did without much conviction until the last of the line was born: George.

As a snail, George was a hermaphrodite so he could just as well have been named Georgette. But someone whose to name him like the last individual of one of the 10 species of giant Galapagos tortoises (*Chelonoidis abingdonii*), who had died in 2012, centenary but without offspring. Thus, his name was available...

The question that crudely poses itself and deserves to be discussed urgently, is whether we will find enough patronyms to name (even very temporarily, seeing as some species have the elegance not to drag out their extinction) all the species that will soon disappear before our eyes. It would be unjust not to name everyone, but we will not be able to recycle the name "George" indefinitely for everyone: the Nassau Grouper, the Philippine Crocodile, the Cape Penguin, the Okapi from DRC, the Rhino of Java, the Siberian Crane, the Ethiopian Wolf, the Indian Vulture, the Great Hapalemur of Madagascar, the Bald Ibis of Morocco, the European Sturgeon, the Iberian Lynx, the Kenyan Hirola, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in America, the Chinese Dolphin...

What an inextricable problem! The calendar doesn't have enough names. Maybe the most reasonable option is just to decide to limit the extinctions?

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Sofiane MAHJOUR, Tunisie

I am an environmental manager specializing in marine conservation. My experience in PA management was mainly acquired in North African MPAs. I enrolled in the MOOC of African PA management because I wanted to broaden my knowledge to terrestrial PAs. The course was well delivered, used a clear language, and referred to relevant practical cases. The quizzes made me grasp details that I didn't pay attention to. Specific examples about transboundary PAs and peace parks were particularly inspiring. I am very satisfied with the time invested in this course as I also gained knowledge about challenges and opportunities specific to African PAs. I would definitely recommend this course to both students and professionals.

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All links and useful information is on papaco.org.

Featuring this month

Tourism and visitor management in protected areas Guidelines for sustainability



Yu-Fai Leung, Anna Spenceley, Glen Hvenegaard and Ralf Buckley

These Guidelines provide guidance on key issues to help managers achieve sustainable tourism in protected areas.

This NAPA introduces a few extracts of the above-mentioned guidelines. To read the full report, click on the following link: www.papaco.org.

Tourism and visitation in protected areas: the sustainability challenge

Tourism is and should be a major conversation in conservation. As the world population has grown and better transport has allowed rapid movement over vast distances, tourism has thrived and focused more and more on the remaining natural and cultural landscapes and seascapes, often within protected areas. Tourism, unlike many extractive industries, requires beautiful natural areas, healthy wildlife and nature, and authentic cultures. Therefore tourism's capacity to generate national income and generate jobs can act as a major driver to conserve and manage intact natural areas rather than to modify or destroy them to produce other commodities.

The central problem can be restated as a sustainability challenge for managers. What we are looking to promote in protected areas is not just any kind of tourism, but sustainable tourism, which is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities". This broad, forward-looking accounting of tourism's potential benefits and negative impacts has to be grounded on a fundamental principle: For tourism in protected areas to be sustainable, it must, first and foremost, contribute to the conservation of nature over the long term, not just briefly or sporadically, and ensure that conservation is not compromised by inappropriate or

poorly managed visitor use.

With this fundamental principle in mind, we can specify that sustainable tourism in protected areas should, in all its phases from policy to planning to management:

- Safeguard the environmental and/or cultural qualities that attract tourists by maintaining essential ecological processes and aesthetic and spiritual qualities, and by helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity;
- Respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their sociocultural authenticity, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance;
- Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing fairly distributed socioeconomic benefits to all rights-holders and stakeholders that are affected by tourism, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation;
- Provide appropriate opportunities to facilitate meaningful and high-quality visitor experience that will contribute to an increased sense of stewardship for nature and protected areas.

Table 2.1. A summary of potential benefits of tourism in protected areas

Type of benefits	Examples of potential benefits—protected areas can:
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public education on conservation issues and needs • Transmit understanding and greater appreciation of natural values and resources through experiences, education and interpretation • Create awareness of the value of natural resources and protect resources that otherwise have little or no perceived value to residents, or are considered a cost rather than a benefit • Support research and development of good environmental practices and management systems to influence the operation of travel and tourism businesses, as well as visitor behaviour at destinations • Support environmental and species monitoring through citizen science volunteers
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate economic benefit to a nation, region or community to strengthen the commitment to conserve the natural area and its wildlife • Increase jobs and income for local residents • Stimulate new tourism enterprises and diversify the local economy • Improve local facilities, transportation and communications with greater sustainability • Encourage the local manufacture and sale of goods and provision of services • Access new markets and foreign exchange • Generate local tax revenues • Enable employees to learn new skills • Provide financial support to protected areas through payment of tourism fees and charges
Social/Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve living standards for local people • Encourage people to value and take pride in their local culture and protected areas • Support environmental education for visitors and local people, and foster greater understanding of cultural heritage values and resources • Establish attractive environments for destinations, for residents as much as visitors, which may support other compatible new activities (e.g. service or product-based industries) • Improve intercultural understanding through social contact • Encourage the development and conservation of culture, crafts and the arts • Encourage people to learn the languages and cultures of others • Promote aesthetic, spiritual, health and other values related to well-being • Improve physical health through recreational exercise (e.g. walking, cycling) • Contribute to mental health by reducing stress and fatigue • Raise the profile of conservation at local, national and international levels • Interpret values, conservation issues and management issues for visitors

Sources: Eagles, et al., 2002; CBD, 2004; Maller, et al., 2009; IUCN, 2010; Spenceley, et al., 2015

The impacts of protected area tourism

Tourism in protected areas can have a variety of positive and negative impacts. The types of impacts are broad in their range, and affect protected area resources, local economies, local communities, and the tourists themselves. Impacts of tourism on protected areas fall into three broad, often overlapping, categories: environmental, economic, and social.

Aligning management objectives with tourism impacts & adaptive management

By applying best practices, sustainable tourism can also help realise a wide range of natural and social

values that contribute both to the conservation mission of the protected area and, where possible, to benefits for local communities.

Principle 1 “Appropriate management depends on objectives and protected area values”

- Objectives within protected area management plans provide definitive statements of the desired outcomes of protected area management.
- They identify the appropriateness of management actions and indicate acceptable resource and social conditions.
- They allow evaluation of success of management actions.

Principle 2. “Proactive planning for tourism and visitor management enhances effectiveness”

- Proactive management starts with the articulation of protected area values and management objectives. Policies and management decisions that can be tied to these values have a better chance for effective implementation.
- The practice of forward-thinking can lead to better awareness of emerging opportunities for recreation and tourism activities.

Principle 3. “Changing visitor use conditions are inevitable and may be desirable”

- Impacts, use levels and expectations of appropriate conditions tend to vary (e.g. impact of a campsite in the periphery vs. centre of the protected area).”
- Environmental variables influence visitor use and level of impact (e.g. topography, vegetation, access).

Principle 4 “Impacts on resource and social conditions are inevitable consequences of human use”

- Any level of recreational use leads to some impact; in most cases the initial, small levels of use generate the greatest impacts per unit use. Where there is a conflict between conservation and other objectives conservation has primacy.
- The process of determining the acceptability of impact is central to all visitor use planning and management.

Principle 5. “Management is directed at influencing human behaviour and minimising tourism-induced change”

- Protected areas often protect natural processes and features, so management is generally oriented toward managing human-induced change since it causes most disturbances.
- Human-induced change may lead to conditions considered to be undesirable.
- Some changes are desirable and may be the reason for the creation of the protected area. For example, many protected areas are created

to provide recreation opportunities and local economic development.

Principle 6. “Impacts can be influenced by many factors so limiting the amount of use is but one of many management options”

- Many variables other than level of use affect the use/ impact relationship in protected areas (e.g. behaviour of visitors, travel method, group size, season and biophysical conditions).
- Impacts from visitor use or management activities may occur outside the protected area, or not be visible until later (e.g. prohibitions of use may displace that use to other areas; or poor water treatment may result in water pollution downstream).
- Planners need substantial knowledge of relationships between use and impacts to predict future impacts at a variety of scales and over time.

Principle 7 “Monitoring is essential to professional management”

- Monitoring is a key step for all adaptive or proactive management frameworks, generating data on resource, social, community and economic conditions that inform management decisions.
- Monitoring need not be complicated or expensive. There are often several possible options.

Principle 8 “The decision-making process should separate technical description from value judgements”

- Many protected area management decisions are technical (e.g. location of trail, design of visitor centre), but others reflect value judgements (e.g. decisions on whether and how to limit use, types of facilities and tourism opportunities provided).

Principle 9 “Affected groups should be engaged since consensus and partnership is needed for implementation”

- All management decisions affect some individuals and groups. These groups should be identified early in the decision-making process.

Principle 10 “Communication is key to increased

knowledge of and support for sustainability”

- Communication of results from monitoring tourist impacts on conservation and community benefits can explain reasons for management decisions.

Capacity building for sustainable tourism management

Given that a basic principle of protected area tourism development is that experiences are dependent on the attributes of the area and should not compromise the conservation values contained within it, competent management is essential not only for protection of the area but for the realisation of sustainable tourism. Management must ensure that visitor impacts are within acceptable limits and make possible the kinds of experiences that are appropriate for the protected area and consistent with its conservation objectives. Building professional competency is one way of becoming more efficient in decision making and implementation.

Capacity building for managers

Protected areas and nature conservation agencies should have staff members who have expertise in tourism planning and management. If staff are not trained in tourism and visitor management but are assigned to such tasks, it is critically important to have opportunities for them to gain the necessary expertise.

Building capacity may involve a variety of approaches. These include short courses and workshops, twinning of protected areas, staff exchanges, conferences and symposia, mentoring, sabbaticals and educational leaves. Some of these efforts at formal education and training may lead to degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other tourism qualifications

that are recognised by protected area agencies and the tourism industry. Capacity should be built into a programme rather than being viewed as a separate or one-off activity.

Capacity building for local communities

Building capacity in local communities to engage

in, and benefit from, tourism centred on the protected area requires an understanding of what a community entails, including its boundaries and the rights-holder and stakeholder groups it recognises, activities important to local livelihoods, along with any factors that may hinder collaboration among them. It is important to share information with community members to allow them to reflect on the potential impacts of tourism, including both opportunities and threats, as well as to develop a future vision of tourism that they support. Learning and reflection should lead to a commitment to actions, and a promise by local rights-holders and stakeholders to invest resources in the effort.

Capacity building through partnership

Capacity building requires time, money, skills and knowledge, and entering into partnerships with other organisations can add considerably to the chances of success. Capacity building can be individual, organisational or societal, and can involve training and institution building.

Forming partnerships for capacity building allows protected area staff to focus on their core business (conservation) and to optimise the use of resources, including time and materials. Making use of NGO, government, academic and private-sector experience, skills and knowledge to build capacity can be beneficial for protected areas by promoting diversity of skills, training and education.

Managing tourism revenues and costs to achieve conservation benefits

The biodiversity conservation finance gap

The overriding goal of any protected area is the conservation of biodiversity. Tourism, where it is appropriate, can assist protected areas in financing activities to achieve this goal.

Generating tourism revenue from fees

Market-based financing mechanisms, such as tourism user fees, can provide the means to make protected area management more efficient, equitable

and environmentally sustainable.

Generating tourism revenue from concessions

Public–private partnerships and concessions

Public–private partnerships are formal agreements between the protected area authority and private sector in which the private partner is able to deliver a particular tourism product or service at a greater quality and efficiency, allowing protected area managers to focus on their core functions.

Generating tourism revenue from philanthropy

Tourists to protected areas are potentially a large pool of donors to conservation. One way managers can facilitate this is to enable tourists to donate to a specific cause (i.e. a conservation project) or to protect a specific species; in either case, donors typically receive regular feedback on the change that their contribution has created.

In some countries, businesses are able to provide charitable giving that is also tax-deductible, and protected areas can be the beneficiaries of such donations.

Furthermore, tourists can channel donations to protected areas through tourism businesses.

Cost-saving and efficiency initiatives

Contracting out tourism management

Not every protected area can—or should—operate its own tourism programme. Indeed, in some cases it can be more efficient for the protected area authority to outsource tourism concessions, licenses or permits, rather than insourcing the operations.

Sharing services with tourism operators

Private tourism operators within protected areas have a vested interest in improving the financial efficiency of protected area management. They also incur a number of similar types of costs as does the protected area management team. Therefore, there are opportunities to either share resources or costs in order to reduce the unit price to each organisation.

Activity-based collaboration

There may be a series of activities where tourism operators are willing to collaborate with protected area teams to deliver an improved conservation outcome. These may be activities that bolster the management performance of the protected areas, thereby improving the quality of the tourism product in the protected area and the potential business success of the tourism operator.

Voluntourism

‘Voluntourism’ is a growing trend where tourists choose to visit a specific location with the purpose of making a meaningful contribution to the destination. As a result, a number of private for-profit and non-profit organisations have emerged offering this type of experience. Protected areas can benefit from this by offering opportunities for volunteers to engage in conservation activities, either for a fee or at no charge as a way to supplement staff.

Wider economic benefits and their link to conservation outcomes

Finally, although not a revenue-generating or cost-saving option specifically, the wider economic benefits created from tourism are an important consideration because ultimately those benefits—if recognised as deriving from protected areas—can translate into more public support for conservation. In areas with limited economic alternatives, well-managed tourism can reduce stresses stemming from high levels of unemployment. Ensuring that the highest possible proportion of tourism revenue remains in the local economy, and the greatest number of economic tourism-related opportunities are made preferentially available to local communities, are two ways of maximising the wider economic benefits.

The future of protected area tourism

Future trends

Looking to the future, there are some critical issues that nature conservation agencies and protected area managers should consider as they identify, evaluate

and manage tourism in their protected areas.

Population growth and increasing consumption

With a growing global human population, there will be an increased demand for tourism in protected areas. While visitation to protected areas has fluctuated in some parts of the world (e.g. Canada and Japan), it has risen steadily in many other countries. There will be increasing needs for recreational and physical activity opportunities near the cities where most people live, including establishment of new urban protected areas.

Urbanisation

In an increasingly urbanised world, a great deal of concern has been expressed about the possibility of city dwellers, and young people in general, becoming estranged from nature.

The growth of cities also gives protected area authorities an opening to forge potential partnerships with technology companies to create products that encourage urban residents to engage with protected areas and their natural/cultural values, both physically and virtually.

Climate change

Looming over all these trends are the effects of global climate change. Much is uncertain, but one thing is not: projected climate change will affect tourism demand and tourism attractions. It is predicted that visitation to protected areas will shift as tourism

attractions change in timing, nature and quality (e.g. shorter seasons for snow-based activities, and altered ecosystems for wildlife viewing). As climate change-induced extreme weather events increase in frequency and intensity (e.g. catastrophic fire, flood, hurricanes), damage to the natural and cultural resources of protected areas and their tourism infrastructure will likely happen more often.

Other imponderables

Some implications of global change are truly novel, and beyond our ability to predict. Terrorism by definition falls into this category. Terrorists often specifically target tourists and popular tourist sites (known as ‘soft targets’) for strategic reasons, but many times the victims of terrorist attacks just happen to include tourists.

Another new development is the recent, unexpected emergence of ‘bucket list’ or ‘last chance’ tourism: travel for the specific purpose of seeing places, including protected areas, before they are destroyed or irretrievably altered by climate change, or of seeing wildlife species before they go extinct.

The future will bring new technologies that we simply cannot foresee at present. These technologies may allow protected area tourists to get information in novel ways to plan their trips, time their visits to coincide with desired natural events (e.g. wildlife migrations or bird nesting), digitally connect with friends and family about their experience, and improve safety.

Read the rest on: www.papaco.org.



Announcements

PANORAMA

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Ndiob's Agriculture Development Programme

Ndiob became the first city in Senegal to embark on an agroecological transition. Designed in a large community consultation, citizens from Ndiob formulated their Agriculture Development Programme, which includes five priorities: food security, management of natural resources, soil fertility, livestock breeding and farming, and agriculture. As a result, the city now invests a notable 23 per cent of its total budget to achieve an agroecological transition and undertakes a remarkable series of appropriate and adequate measures to sustainably manage its natural resources and to achieve food security. With their community-based multi-stakeholder territorial approach, Ndiob's political strategies were recognized with an Honourable Mention of the Future Policy Award 2018, awarded by the World Future Council in partnership with FAO and IFOAM – Organics International.



Kiosks which promote traditional local food

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[Full article here.](#)

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WCS

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Society

Training and Capacity Building Project

Where? Gabon

Application deadline: 15 May.

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