

**National Conference Parchi Per Una Sola Terra
Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park
July 10-11, 2008
Summary of Jose Courrau's Presentation**

The Assessment of Protected Area Management Effectiveness: a global view

Introduction

Management effectiveness evaluation is defined as the assessment of how well protected areas are being managed – primarily the extent to which management is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives. The term management effectiveness reflects three main ‘themes’ in protected area management: design issues relating to both individual sites and protected area systems; adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes; and delivery of protected area objectives including conservation of values.

Nations are agreeing to report on progress in conservation to their peers through institutions such as the World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In the latter, nations have committed to develop systems of assessing management effectiveness and to report on 30 per cent of their protected areas by 2010.

At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004, 188 countries agreed to a *Program of Work on Protected Areas*, one of the most ambitious environmental strategies in history. The Program aims, by 2010 (terrestrial) and 2012 (marine), to establish “comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically-representative national systems of protected areas”. To do that, it identifies four program elements, 16 goals and 92 activities for the Parties, many of which have specific timetables. In theory, then, all signatory countries to the CBD should be carrying out at least some management effectiveness assessments by 2010 and using these in their reports to the CBD.

Goal 4.2 - To evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management

Target: By 2010, frameworks for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national and regional systems, and transboundary protected area levels adopted and implemented by Parties.

Why management effectiveness?

Protected area management effectiveness implementation can contribute to:

- a. improve management in a changing environment;
- b. assist in resource allocation;
- c. facilitate accountability and transparency;
- d. provide spaces for participation and to build constituency
- e. set strategic priorities
- f. Identifying correlations and cross-cutting themes
- g. and promote protected area values.

A Global Framework

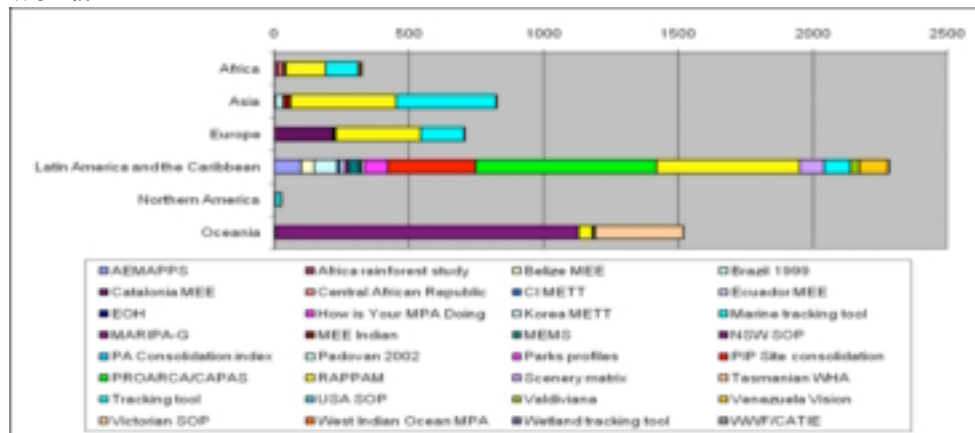
The Evaluating Effectiveness A framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas (2nd Edition), presents a series of best practices to implement management effectiveness:

- a. Make evaluation part of ‘core business’: move from trial and intermittent assessments to regular exercises integrated into the management and planning cycles of protected area agencies;
- b. Improve data coordination and rationalization of assessments and compile data: cooperative work is underway to allow more global compilation of essential reporting information;
- c. Further develop cost-effective, meaningful monitoring systems and indicators, with emphasis on ecological integrity assessment and indicators for social, cultural and economic factors;
- d. Find better ways to engage with managers and communities;
- e. Look for common threads: begin to draw data together to find trends, themes and lessons across regions; and
- f. Make a difference: ensure results are interpreted, communicated and used.

The Global Study of Protected Areas Management Effectiveness

The Global Study of Protected Areas Management Effectiveness is led by Dr. Marc Hockings from the University of Queensland and WCPA and supported by the University of Queensland, TNC and WWF. The main objective of the study is to generate a global revision of the PAs management effectiveness assessments.

The study has collected, compiled and analyzed most of the management effectiveness activity taking place in the world. It has demonstrated the progress in the world.



A Management Effectiveness Common Reporting Format

The widespread implementation of management effectiveness in the protected areas of the world, the large datasets generated and the need for a minimum dataset and a common system of reporting has led to the need of developing a common reporting format.

The **common reporting format** is a 'bottom-up' compilation of about 45 'headline indicators' derived from reviewing over 2000 questions and indicators from more than 40 different protected area management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) methodologies. The **minimum data set** can be obtained from a further combination of the common reporting format. However, the derivation of these indicators is both 'bottom-up' (using the same data set as the common reporting format) and 'top-down', derived from reviewing international needs according to the WCPA framework.

The Nature Conservancy's work to support management effectiveness

For the last two years ago, TNC has been working at the global level with a Global Protected Areas Strategy. One part of this strategy's efforts is focused on management effectiveness. In close coordination with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Secretariat, TNC has contributed to the organization and facilitation of at least 8 regional workshops to support the implementation of the Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). For management effectiveness, the emphasis is on conducting the assessments and using the results, especially to develop a capacity action plan.

The Way Forward

Important progress has been made in the implementation of management effectiveness in the world. Many challenges remain ahead. The main one is the lack of commitment to meet the PoWPA outcomes. Another important challenge to address in the near future is related to capacity in all levels: human, financial and equipment, especially for developing countries. A longer and more consistent commitment from developed countries could certainly provide momentum to the implementation of the PoWPA.