Introduction to Protected Areas Management Effectiveness

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Alice came to a fork in the road.
"Which road do I take?" she asked.
"Where do you want to go?" responded the Cheshire cat.
"I don't know," Alice answered.
"Then," said the cat, "it doesn't matter."
The graph illustrates the percentage of terrestrial and inland water protection against marine protection over the years.

- **17% target for terrestrial and inland water protection**
- **10% target for marine protection**

The data shows a steady increase in protected areas over time, with a marked upward trend in the latter years.
The most extensive coverage achieved at a regional level is for Latin America and the Caribbean, where 4.85 million km² (24%) of land is protected. Half (2.47 million km²) of the entire region’s protected land is in Brazil, making it the largest national terrestrial protected area network in the world (Figure 4.2).
**Definition**

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. (IUCN Definition 2008)
Pressures and Threats

- Poaching
- Forest products
- Tourism
- Access
- Invasive species
- Forest fires
- Cattle
- Agriculture
- Mining
Management Deficiencies

- Limits
- Staff
- Shape and form
- Education
- Equipment
- Law enforcement
- Planning
- Isolation
- Research
What is management effectiveness?

‘...the assessment of how well a protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives’

(WCPA, 2006)
History

- Issue of management effectiveness was first raised at Bali World Parks Congress (WPC) in 1983
- Further call for action at Caracas in 1992, where effective management was identified as one of four major protected area issues of global concern
- Independent systems developed during 1990s (PROARCA/CAPAS, Parks in Peril, various park management agencies)
Developing the Framework

- Publication of WCPA Best Practice Guidelines in 2000
- Revised Best Practice Guidelines in 2006
Framework publication

- Defines terminology
- Develops a framework of evaluation criteria
- Detailed advice on carrying out an assessment and using the results
- Case studies concentrating on the process of carrying out an evaluation
Management follows a process
Table 1. IUCN-WCPA Framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems

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<td>Impacts: effects of management in relation to objectives</td>
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BIOPAMA
From Knowledge to Action for a Protected Planet
Assessing CONTEXT

Context: Status and threats
Where are we now?

What are the values and significance of the area?
What are the threats and opportunities?
What social, economic and political factors influence management?
Who is involved?
Assessing PLANNING

Planning

Where do we want to be and how will we get there?

Is the legal status and tenure of the site clear?
How adequate is the protected area system?
Does the design of site allow it to function effectively?
Does the site have clear management planning?
Assessing INPUTS

Inputs
What do we need?

What resources are needed for effective management?
Are sufficient resources being devoted to managing the protected area system/site?
How are resources being applied across the various areas of management?
Assessing MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

Process
How do we go about management?

Are the best systems and standards of management being followed?
Are agreed policies and procedures in place and being followed?
How can the management practices be improved?
Assessing OUTPUTS

Outputs

What did we do and what products or services were produced?

Has the management plan and work programme been implemented?
What are the results/outputs of management?
Assessing OUTCOMES

Outcomes

What did we achieve?

Has management resulted in the achievement of the objectives of, and desired outcomes for, the protected area or system?
Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit
Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites
What has happened in 20 years?

- Over 60 tools have been designed
- Thousands of site level assessments and many PA system level assessments.
- Countries are using the MEA results
- Other countries discontinued the implementation
- International donors remain interested in MEA
What do we want to happen in the Caribbean?

• Document what has been done in MEA (Gateway, JRC, TNC)
• Hold a workshop in June 2018
• Re-initiate the MEA in protected areas (pilots)
• Use results to improve management.
• Systematically make the MEA available online and for analyses at site, national and regional levels.
• The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Programme