

Protected Area Governance: new paradigms for conservation in Asia



Ashish Kothari,
Kalpavriksh and
ICCA Consortium

“Well managed protected areas, *when combined with participatory and equitable governance*, provide crucial benefits far beyond their **boundaries**”

Ahmed Djoghlaif,
Exec. Secretary, CBD

“governance” vis-a-vis “management”

management = *what* to do

governance = *who* decides what to do



■ Official protected areas and people: a troubled relationship

In many countries, PAs have

- Ignored conservation traditions; dispossessed people; created conflicts
- Rendered conservation itself unsustainable
- **But... increasingly positive relationship of collaboration**



World Parks Congress 2003: key policy innovations on ***governance*** of protected areas

- **“quality”**
(*how* are PAs governed?)



- **“types”**
(*who* governs the PAs?)



What is the *quality* of protected area governance?

Equitable sharing of costs and benefits

Respect of basic *human rights*: no forcible displacement, no deprivation of essential livelihood resources without alternatives

Central *involvement* of indigenous peoples and local communities

Transparency of information and decision-making

Accountability of protected area authorities to the public

Applicable to each PA, and to PA system as a whole

Governance *types* of protected areas

4 main “governance types” :

- A. government
- B. indigenous peoples and local communities
- C. private owners
- D. collaborative partners



all types are legitimate and important for conservation!

At 7th COP of Biodiversity Convention (2004): Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA)

Elements:

- n Planning, establishing, strengthening PA system
 1. Governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing
 2. Enabling activities (capacity building etc)
 3. Standards, assessment and monitoring



All countries legally committed to:

Include in PA systems, innovative **governance types**, including indigenous/community conserved areas (ICCAs) & co-managed protected areas (CMPAs)

Ensure full **participation of communities**, respecting **rights & responsibilities**, in all PAs (existing and new)

Collaboratively Managed Protected Areas (CMPAs)

protected areas where **decision making power, responsibility and accountability** are shared between various actors, e.g. government, local communities, NGOs...

Widespread form of **management ... the norm in Europe, Canada, Australia ... increasingly adopted in the Americas ... emerging in Asia and Africa...**



Examples of CMPAs

- French Regional National Parks: municipal authorities, communities, NGOs, and private sector
- Annapurna CA, Nepal: national NGO and local communities
- Australian IPAs & caring for Country (including marine PAs): indigenous land-owners and government agencies
- Galapagos National Park, Ecuador: local participatory management board to inter-institutional authority
- Canadian national parks: provincial government agencies and indigenous peoples
- Kaa-iyá del Gran Chaco National Park, Bolivia: national park service and Isoseno-Guarani indigenous people

Participation in PA decision-making : a continuum (authority, responsibility and accountability)



NOTE: various intermediate stages, e.g. decisions predominantly by govt, some consultation with communities/individuals

This is *not* shared governance

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)



"...natural and modified ecosystems including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by concerned indigenous and local communities through customary laws or other effective means..."

Oldest form of conservation...at times recognised by the state, most often not recognised

range of ICCAs...

sacred
spaces &
habitats...

Sacred crocodile pond, Mali



**Chizire sacred forest,
Zimbabwe**



**Forole sacred
mountain
Borana/ Gabbra
Ethiopia/ Kenya**



**Sacred
landscapes,
Indian/Nepal
Himalaya**

range of ICCAs...

sacred or culturally protected species and their habitats



examples
from
India



range of ICCAs...

indigenous territories and cultural landscapes/seascapes...

**Caribou
crossing
site in Inuit
territory,
Canada**



Alto Fragua Indi-wasi National Park, Colombia



Paruku Indigenous PA, Western Australia



range of ICCAs...

territories & migration routes of nomadic herders / mobile indigenous peoples



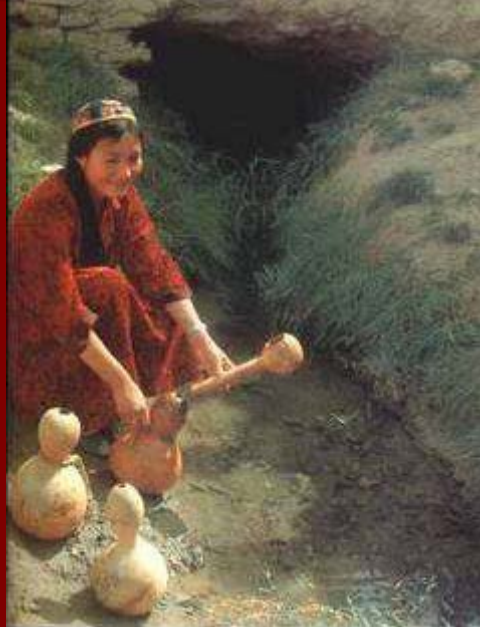
Wetlands in Qashqai mobile peoples' territory, Iran

range of ICCAs...

sustainably-managed
terrestrial resource
reserves (with
substantial wildlife
value)



**Community forests,
Bangladesh, India,
Nepal, Thailand**



Qanats, Central Asia



Parc Jurassien Vaudois, Switzerland



Jardhargaon forest, Indian Himalay

range of ICCAs...

Sustainably-managed & conserved coastal / marine areas

Locally Managed Marine Areas, S. Pacific

- In Fiji alone, >200 LMMAs, covering 50% of inshore fishing grounds, 10% of territorial waters
- Administrative recognition/support by govt; legal recognition under consideration



Local marine reserves, Philippines

What is the worldwide significance of ICCAs?

- Conserve a wide range of ecosystems, habitats and **species... *could double the earth's PA coverage!***
- Maintain critical **ecosystem services**
- Are the basis of livelihoods and cultural identity for millions of people



**Shimshal Community
Conserved Area,
Pakistan**



**Setulang
river,
Indonesia**

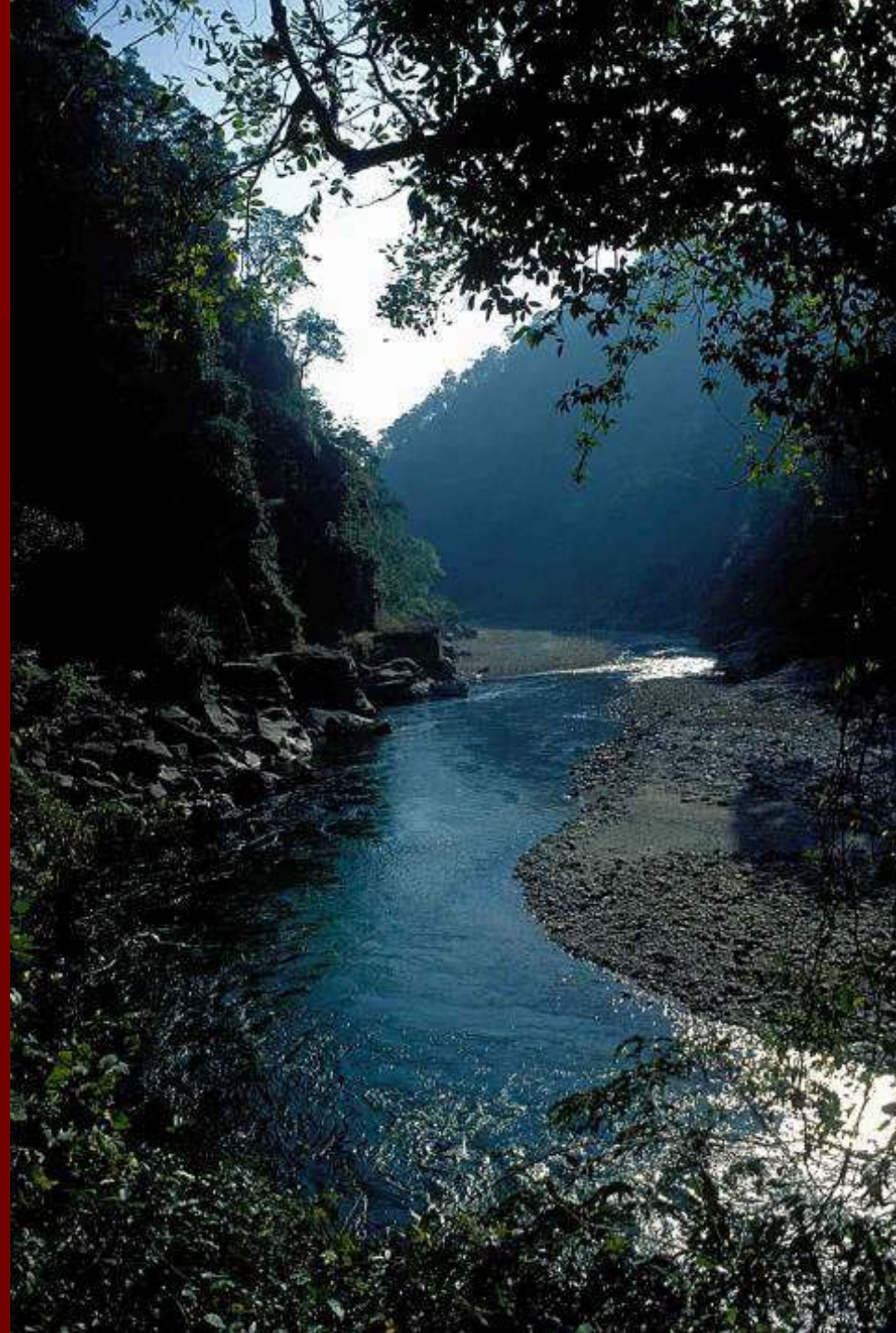


Walalkara Indigenous PA, Australia

Using a variety of PA categories and governance types can help to:

- expand the coverage of protected areas
- address gaps in the system: more coherent PA systems
- increase flexibility and responsiveness of the system (e.g. to climate change)
- enhance public support

meet Aichi Target 11: 'system of PAs and other effective area-based conservation measures' covering 17% terrestrial / 10% marine



Implementation of governance approach in Asia

- Some countries with progressive policy and practice, e.g.
 - **Philippines**: recognition of ancestral domain and supporting ICCAs within PA system
 - **Nepal**: hand-over of one PA to communities, co-management in another
 - **India**: recognition of community forest resource rights
 - **Iran**: **initial recognition of mobile peoples' territories (ICCAs)**
 - **Vietnam**: PA advisory committees

Continuing challenges and needs ...

- Continuing **top-down, exclusionary** policies and practices in most countries / PAs; weak for co-management and ICCAs
- Inadequate **understanding** of governance aspects
- V. few forums of **dialogue and conflict resolution** at PA and system levels
- V. few **spaces for indigenous peoples** and local communities to speak for themselves



Challenges and needs ...

- Inadequate recognition of territorial, land, & resource rights
- V. few PA and system level institutions involving communities in decision-making
- Almost no landscape level planning and institutions



Opportunities...

CBD Secretariat training sessions on PA Programme of Work

IUCN Guidelines on PA Governance assessment (2013)

GEF/other funding possibilities

Learning from best practices in some countries

People's mobilisation for conservation, participation, and rights

For further information:

On conservation governance: www.TILCEPA.org

On ICCAs: www.iccaforum.org

Ashish Kothari: chikikothari@gmail.com

