

Decision Making in Collaborative Management of Protected Areas in Afghanistan: A Case Study from Band-e-Amir National Park, Bamiyan, Afghanistan



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Background of the Research (Aichi Biodiversity targets)

- Aichi Biodiversity Targets (COP10) , October, 2010, Nagoya Japan. Strategic goal “C”



To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- The target, by 2020 , at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water, 10% of costal and marine are conserved globally.
- Afghanistan far away reaches this goal (10% by 2030)

Through

Effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas

Background - Collaborative management

- There are many documented examples of protected area collaborative management and its benefits (for an overview, see Kothari, 2006a)
- CM can be found in a range of countries, including those classified as 'developing' and those already highly industrialized or urbanized.
- CM is applied in a range of ecosystems, covering terrestrial, freshwater and marine.

Background (Number of the protected areas)

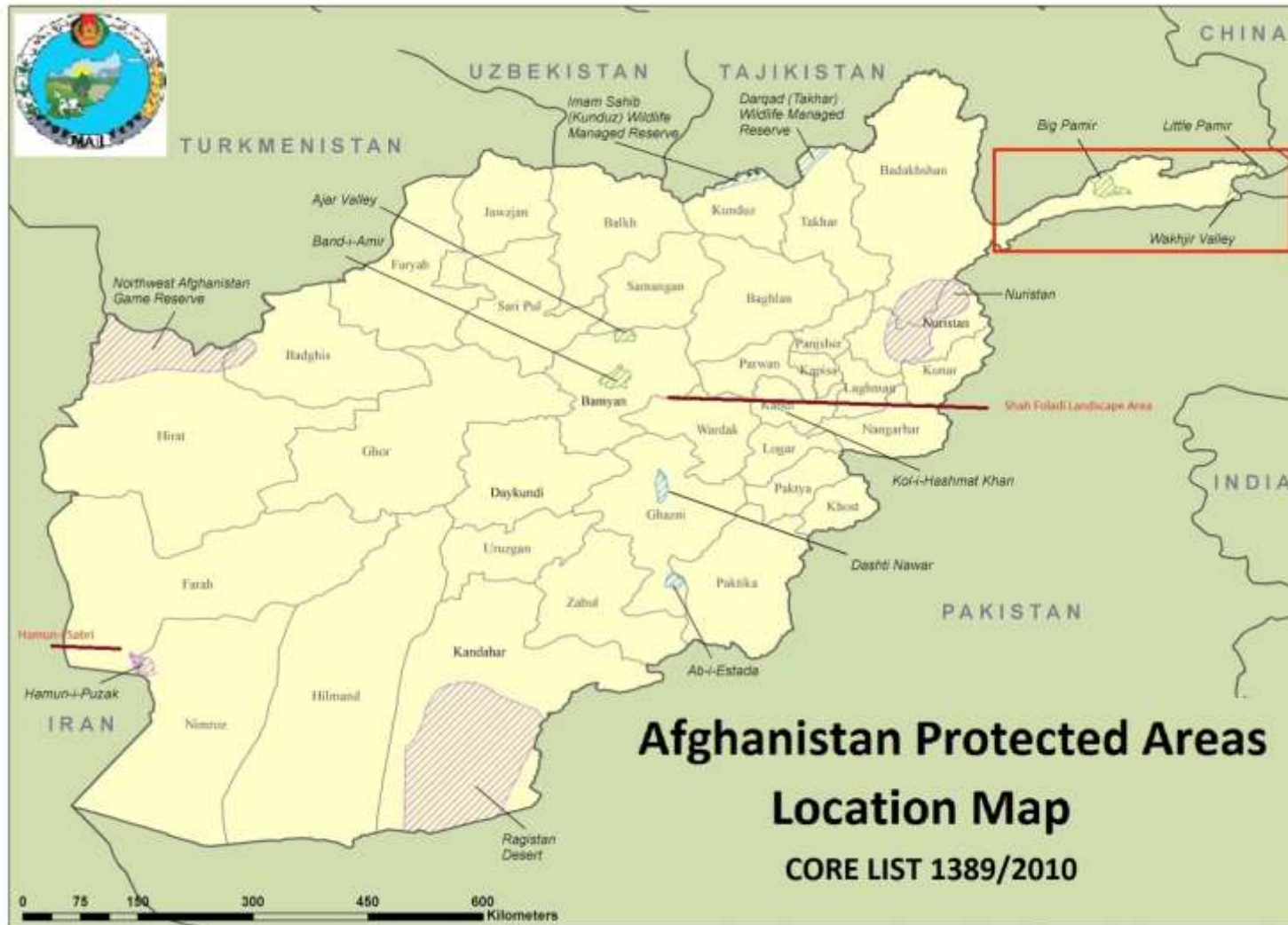
No	Country	Number of Protected Area
1	India	669
2	Sri Lanka	437
2	Iran	185
3	Pakistan	178
4	Myanmar	65
4	Bangladesh	47
5	Nepal	37
8	Maldives	26
9	Tajikistan	23
10	Afghanistan	17

Source: <http://protectedplanet.net/search>

Protected Area's back ground in Afghanistan

Date	Description of the protected areas status
1950s -1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some areas set a site as hunting ground by royal family (Shank 1977)
1974-1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four protected areas recognized by the Afghanistan Government e.g., Ajar valley (Shank 1977), totally covers 0.3% of the country's territory
1978-1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 more protected areas proposed across the country which is listed by the World Database on Protected Areas(WDPA).• These 8 totally covers 5.9% of Afghanistan territory. (NEPA,2009 A report identifying priority zones for a protected area network in Afghanistan)
1993-2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absence of management because of war
2002 – 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official announcement of Band-e-Amir as a National Park.• Development of a management plan .• Establishment of Protected Area Committee(BAPAC)

A map of Protected Areas of Afghanistan

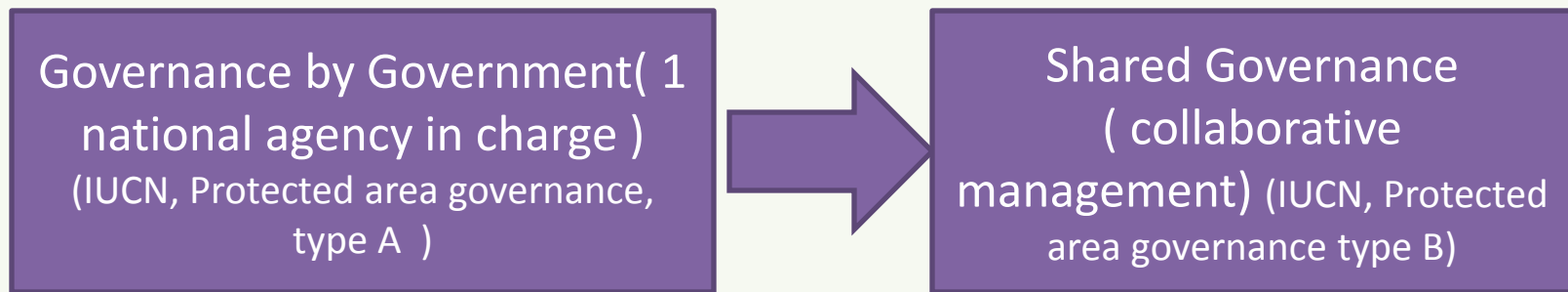


Source: MAIL a report December , 2009

Background of the Research

Trend of changes in governance

- Trend of changes in governance of PA in Afghanistan



- Engaging with local communities and involve them in decision making.
- Having local communities support and assistance in management activities and enforcement (*National Protected Area System Plan of Afghanistan*)

Background of the research (Local institution)

- Local community participation in decision making of NRM is important but its efficiency is depend to the condition of their participation (Bamiyan provincial council head, Sept. 2012)
- Since the establishment of the Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) the stakeholders perception in BAPAC is not identified (NEPA, Bamiyan provincial head, 2012)
- We work with the stakeholders to strengthening collaborative institutions like BAPAC (capacity building and technical support)(WCS, Band-e-Amir National Park , 2012)

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the study is

- To identify the actual condition of decision making process by Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC)
- Clarify the potential issues and problems which hinder the efficiency and quality of the decision making process in Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee(BAPAC).

Objectives & Methods of the Research

No Objectives

Research method

1	Selection of the study site	Field Observation / literature review
2	Understanding the BAPAC structure and its mechanism of decision making	Interview / literature review
3	Identifying the perception of the stakeholder groups representatives regarding BAPAC and its decision making process.	Interview /observation
4	Concluding the result of decision making process by BAPAC based on our finding from objectives 2 and 3	

Interview and field observation



a) A man in wheat farm in Band-e-Amir National Park , tells about BAPAC

b) Interviewing BAPAC representative while cutting reeds in Band-e-Amir National Park



Objective - I

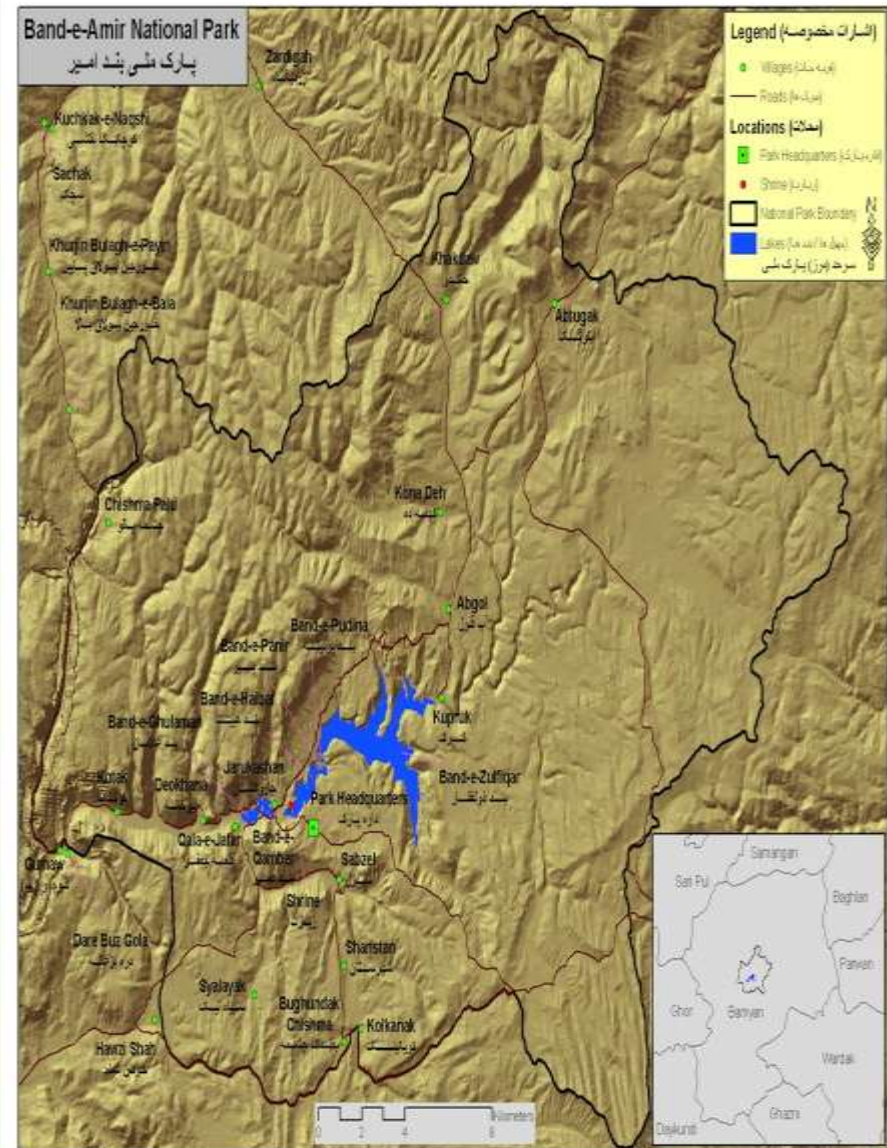
Research site selection and description

1

Study site outline

Band-e-Amir National Park

Location	185 Km in northwest of Kabul county's capital city and 55 km in west of the Bamiyan capital city
Average Elevation	2900m from sea level
Precipitation	500-600mm/ year
Area	613.3km ²
Community	14 villages
Population	3980people (MAIL2009)
Ethnicity	Hazara , saied Shia Muslim
Industry	Livestock, Farming(crops) , dry land farming
Tourism	A significant increase over the last years.



Source :Band-e-Amir Management plan, 2011-2015

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Research site description



Livestock

*Livelihood sources of the people
in Band-e-Amir National Park*



Farming

1

Research site description



Travertine Lake



Local shop

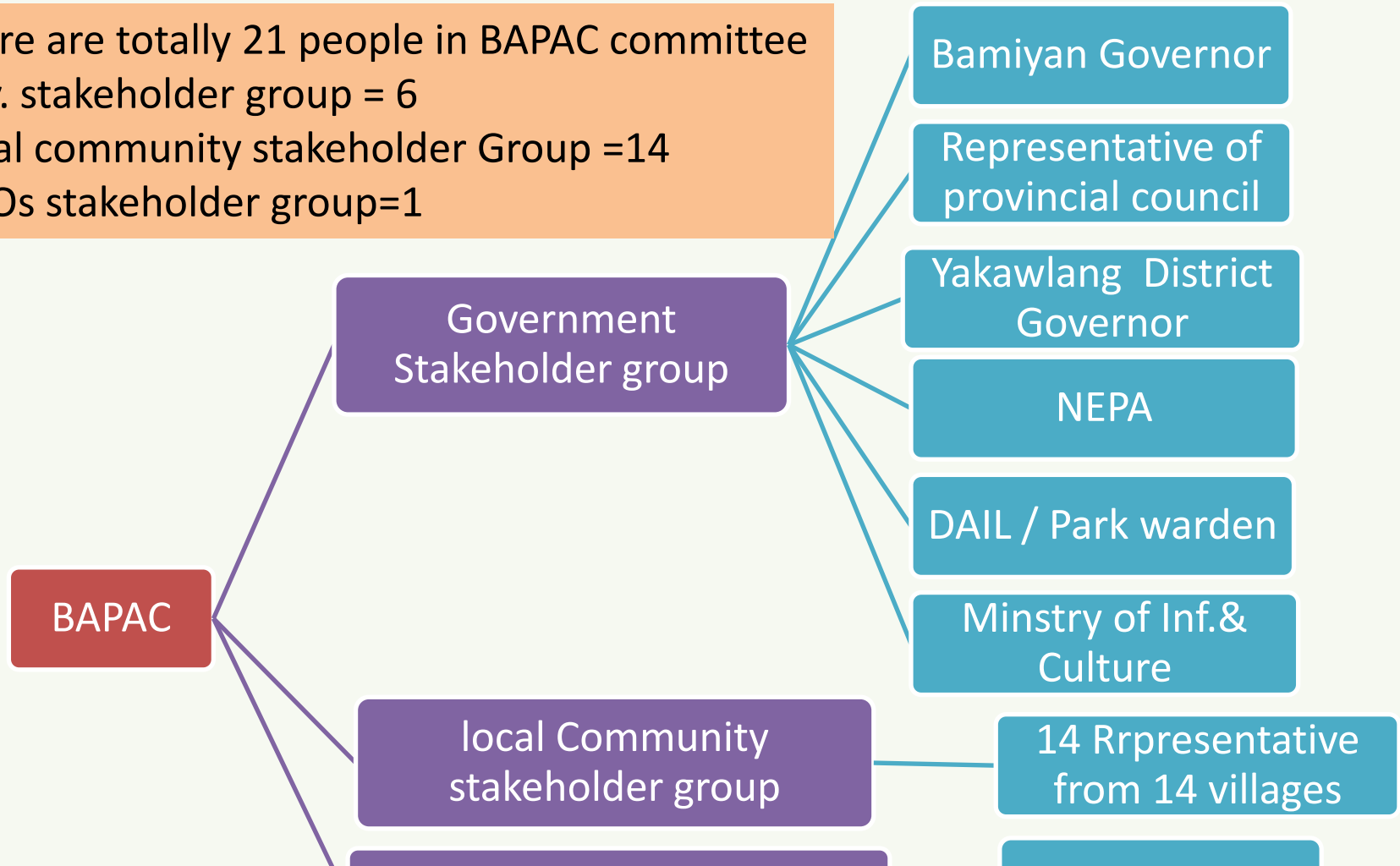
Local people generating benefits from tourism

Objective - II

Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC)
and its mechanism for decisions making

- The establishment of Band Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) was mandated by the interim protected area law(Interim Protected Area Tarzulamal).
- The committee established in 2007 and held its first meeting in Sept. 2007.
- It is a typical committee and is decided to be established in other protected areas too.
- Holds meetings at least 4 times a year.
- As a collaborative board making the decision, however, the final decision rest with the central authority at national level.

There are totally 21 people in BAPAC committee
 Gov. stakeholder group = 6
 Local community stakeholder Group =14
 NGOs stakeholder group=1



NEPA= National Environment Protection Agency, DAIL= Department of Agriculture Irrigating and Livestock, WCS = Wildlife Conservation Society

- Representatives from the local community are directly elected by the local people.
- The duration of one period is 2 years
- The current representatives from the community are all male.
- A significant number of illiterate and elementary education level
- social position (local elders , religious leader)
- The government representatives are mainly the head of their related departments.

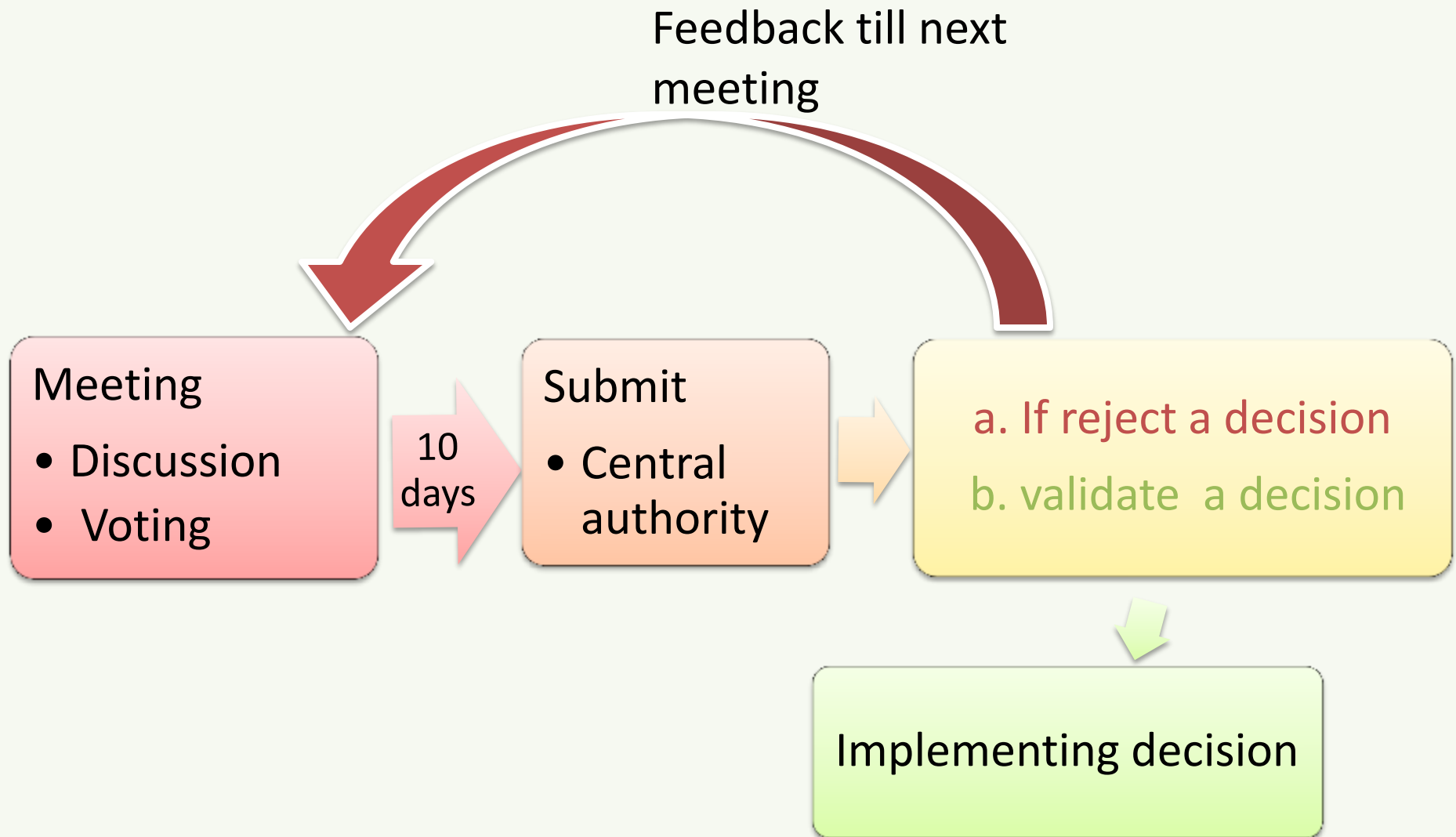
Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) meeting



BAPAC meeting Band-e-Amir National Park , August , 2013

2.4

Mechanism of Decision Making by BAPAC



- The meeting is chaired by the provincial governor
- The park warden acting as secretary preparing the agenda and writing the minutes
- Voting members are the representative from the government and community
- The quorum is the presence of the majority of voting members of the BAPAC (less than 50 % cant make decision or amendment)
- The decision is approved by the majority (more than 50%) of the present members in the meeting

Objective - III

Perception of the stakeholder groups

3.1

Stakeholder group perception regarding BAPAC and its decision making process

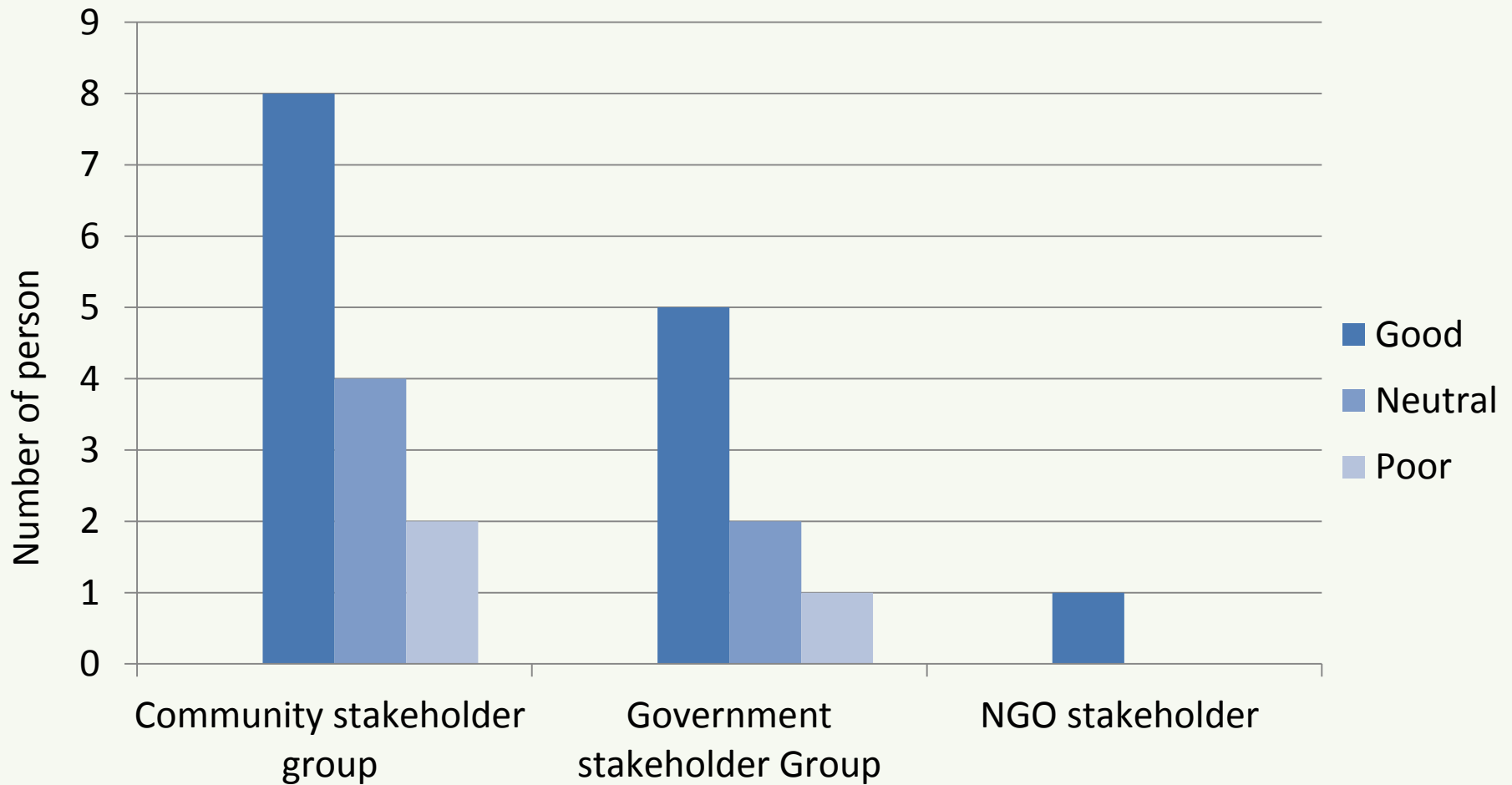
Subject of perception	Community Stakeholder Group	Government Stakeholder Group	NGO Stakeholder Group
Structure of the BAPAC	Agree with the current structure	Some members don't agree , NEPA ask for the position of secretary	Agree with the current structure
Decision by BAPAC reflect community's concern and interest	Majority disagree , believe it reflects more government interest	Community stakeholder group holds insufficient knowledge	Local community need to be supported in terms of capacity building

Stakeholder group perception regarding BAPAC and its decision making process

Subject of perception	Community stakeholder groups	Government stakeholder groups	NGO stakeholder groups
Local community presence in BAPAC	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect local people with government authority 	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation management enforcement 	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better cooperation
Feedback of the central authority	<p>Unsatisfied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land tenure ○ Alternative livelihood source 	<p>Somewhat unsatisfied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inadequate support 	<p>Unsatisfied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unsustainable finance ○ human resource problem
System of decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Majority have positive perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have positive perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have positive perception

3.3

Stakeholder group evaluation of BAPAC system of decision making



Objective - IV

Conclusion of the research

Issues

1. Inadequate support of the central authority.
2. insufficient coordination and cooperation among the stakeholder groups.
3. Insufficient education level of the local community representatives.
4. Overlapping management responsibilities.
5. Inadequate accountability of the community representative to their constituents.
6. Gender inequality

Opportunities

1. Stakeholder groups support the current system of decision making in BAPAC.
2. Supporting the presence of local community as a key stakeholder in BAPAC by the government stakeholder group.
3. National policy for the developing of such system of decision making in protected area.
4. NGOs commitment , strengthening BAPAC institution as a collaborative board in decision making

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Thank you for your attention !