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*Parks, people, planet:  
inspiring solutions*

## **PADDD: a mechanism to improve the Comprehensiveness, Adequacy and Representativeness (CAR) of protected areas?**

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# Introduction



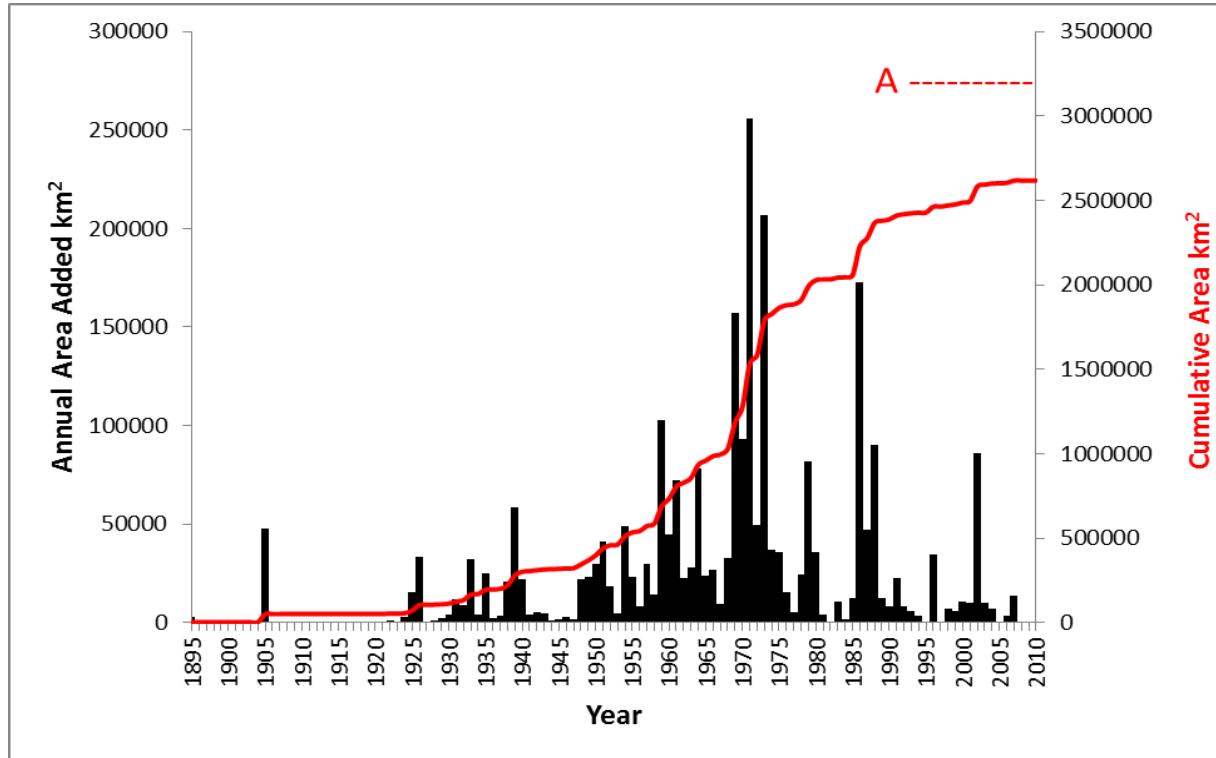
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- The protected area systems being created are not:
  - Comprehensive – missing 17% of threatened vertebrates
  - Adequate – 85% of TV are inadequately protected (Venter et al. 2014)
  - Representative
- Little improvement in 10 years despite PA system growth
- 10%, 11%, 12%.....17%.....25%
- PA systems in many places are maturing
  - In Africa - PA growth of only 9% since 1990

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# Reasons for PADDD



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- Eventually PA systems will stop growing:
  - Competing pressures for land use i.e. food production will provide a hard limit on PA coverage
  - Public/political will to protect land will have limits (fatigue)
- How to improve PA system CAR without adding area?
  - Swapping well protected land types for under-protected types
  - PADDD could be part of a useful strategy to improve conservation planning and outcomes
  - Swapping PAs with low resilience to climate change for high resilience sites

# Why is it unlikely to work



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- There won't be suitable unprotected land to trade
  - Biodiversity offsetting provides many examples
- Currently PADD is motivated by commercial interests not for improving conservation planning
- Local people unlikely to see difference between loss of PAs for commercial reasons and conservation planning reasons

# Loss of PA Impact



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- Lots of PAs **have low conservation impact** as they are protected by their remoteness or lack of suitability for extractive use
  - Loss of PA status unlikely to cause biodiversity loss in near-term
- Currently those protected areas under risk of PADDD are those areas **having the greatest impact** for conservation
  - If those areas lost their protected status then they would lose their biodiversity
- PADDD to improve CAR would often trade land at risk of clearing or development (i.e. where PA status is having greatest impact) for land that is unlikely to be cleared regardless of PA status

# Final Thoughts



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- PADDD – In principle, if it's not commercially motivated, might be worth considering, BUT
- There will rarely be more desirable land available for protection
- Likely to reduce the impact that PAs have overall
- Substantial practical difficulties in implementation
- It is very difficult to modify PAs once established:
  - If we hit the limit of coverage with carelessly selected areas we'll have an unsolvable problem on our hands.
  - More care is needed in selecting areas now, many NGO's are using a largely opportunistic strategy that is storing up trouble.