

Understanding Equity in Protected Areas Policy and Practice

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Questions of equity pervade conservation

- ❖ How much do we need to conserve to benefit future generations?
- ❖ Where should conservation initiatives be located? Who will this impact and how? How do we mitigate impacts?
- ❖ Who should pay for conservation initiatives?
- ❖ Who should be involved in the management of protected areas?
How?
- ❖ How do traditional peoples see nature and approach conservation?
- ❖ How should we compensate fishers who are excluded from marine protected areas?

Convention on Biological Diversity

Aichi Target 11

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through **effectively and equitably managed**, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.”

Program of Work on Protected Areas: Equity, Benefit Sharing & Involvement

- ❖ **Goal 2.1: To promote equity and benefit-sharing**
 - ❖ **Target:** Establish by 2008 mechanisms for the equitable sharing of both costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of protected areas.

- ❖ **Goal 2.2: To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders**
 - ❖ **Target:** Full and effective participation by 2008, of indigenous and local communities, in full respect of their rights and recognition of their responsibilities, consistent with national law and applicable international obligations, and the participation of relevant stakeholders, in the management of existing, and the establishment and management of new, protected areas

Where did equity come from? I thought conservation was about nature.

Socio-Economic Impacts

Governance Processes

Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas

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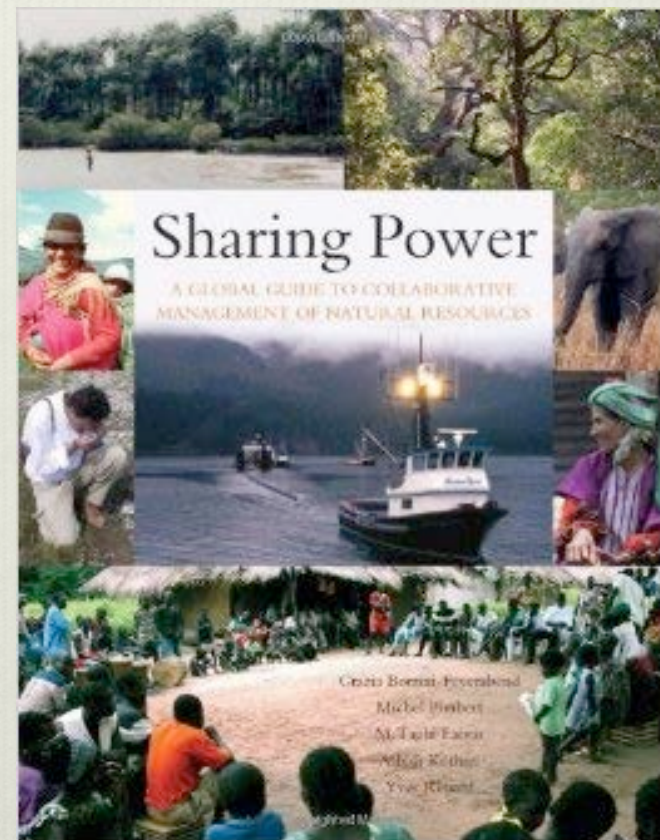
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Key Words

conservation, environment, virtualism, displacement,
governmentality

Abstract

This review examines the social, economic, and political effects of environmental conservation projects as they are manifested in protected areas. We pay special attention to people living in and displaced from protected areas, analyze the worldwide growth of protected areas over the past 20 years, and offer suggestions for future research trajectories in anthropology. We examine protected areas as a way of seeing, understanding, and producing nature (environment) and culture (society) and as a way of attempting to manage and control the relationship between the two. We focus on social, economic, scientific, and political changes in places where there are protected areas and in the urban centers that control these areas. We also examine violence, conflict, power relations, and governmentality as they are connected to the processes of protection. Finally, we examine discourse and its effects and argue that anthropology needs to move beyond the current examinations of language and power to attend to the ways in which protected areas produce space, place, and peoples.



Hypothesized Relationships Between (Social) Equity and (Ecological) Effectiveness

- ❖ Equity in governance processes will lead to ecological effectiveness
- ❖ Equity in socio-economic outcomes will lead to support for conservation and therefore long-term ecological effectiveness
- ❖ Ecological effectiveness will improve socio-economic safety nets and outcomes – therefore good management is more important than equity in governance processes
- ❖ Nothing else matters if we do not get ecological effectiveness right
- ❖ Equity is just and right whether it leads to effectiveness or not

What is Equity?

❖ **Equity**

- ❖ fairness or justice in the way people are treated

❖ **Fair(ness)**

- ❖ agreeing with what is thought to be right or acceptable
- ❖ treating people in a way that does not favor some over others

❖ **Just(ice)**

- ❖ agreeing with what is considered morally right or good
- ❖ treating people in a way that is considered morally right
- ❖ reasonable or proper

Distributional Equity

- ❖ Just attention to existing people:
 - ❖ Scale – costs and benefits borne by local vs distant populations
 - ❖ Geographies – e.g., global north vs south, urban vs rural, peripheral locations
 - ❖ History - colonial legacies and restitution
 - ❖ Groups – gender, class, race, communities, livelihoods
 - ❖ Considerations: human rights, poverty, well-being, livelihoods, employment, vulnerability, compensation, preferential access, etc.
- ❖ Intergenerational equity – maintenance of places, species and ES for future generations through conservation

Procedural Equity

- ❖ Principles of democracy – e.g, political and legal equality, upward control
- ❖ Distribution of responsibility, action and power
- ❖ “Good” governance to enable – e.g., transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, capacity
- ❖ Appropriate governance structure and decision-making processes – e.g., co-management body, level of participation, means of participation
- ❖ Recognition of different cultures, values, perspectives and knowledge
- ❖ Recognition of pre-existing rights, title, access and traditional governance mechanisms and management actions
- ❖ Considerations: board membership, public participation, deliberation processes, empowerment, adequate resourcing, virtues – respect and humility, etc

Potential Responses to Inequity

- ❖ Deliberately reduce support for or inputs into conservation
- ❖ Seek compensation or corrective action through legal or other means
- ❖ Actively resist or undermine conservation initiatives
- ❖ Adapt and rectify conservation actions and processes

Equity – Some Additional Thoughts

- ❖ What constitutes equitable treatment is contingent on broader context and individual circumstances.
- ❖ Perceptions of equity or inequity – depends on position, knowledge, culture, and past experiences
- ❖ Both perceived and actual equity are important
 - ❖ Perceived equity may be more important for conservation outcomes
 - ❖ Objective measurable equity more effective in ensuring rightness or justice
- ❖ Conservation community still has much to learn – from law, psychology, accounting, organizational studies – regarding equity

(Pascual et al, 2014)



Questions? Debate?

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Equity as Instrumental

(Pascual et al, 2014)