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SYDNEY 2014

*Parks, people, planet:
inspiring solutions*

Improving Protected Area Governance in Southern Africa – towards a new vision and strategy

IUCN Eastern & Southern Africa

BIOPAMA



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

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Overview

- High Level Dialogue on Protected Area Governance in southern Africa May 21st-22nd Windhoek, Namibia:
 1. Critically assess how protected areas are delivering benefits for local communities and for biodiversity
 2. Identify priorities for enhancing the resilience of protected areas to future pressures and challenges



Lessons from the Dialogue



- Win-win for biodiversity and community livelihoods possible
- Vibrant community-based natural resource management
- Impressive protected area coverage
- Enabling policy and legislative framework

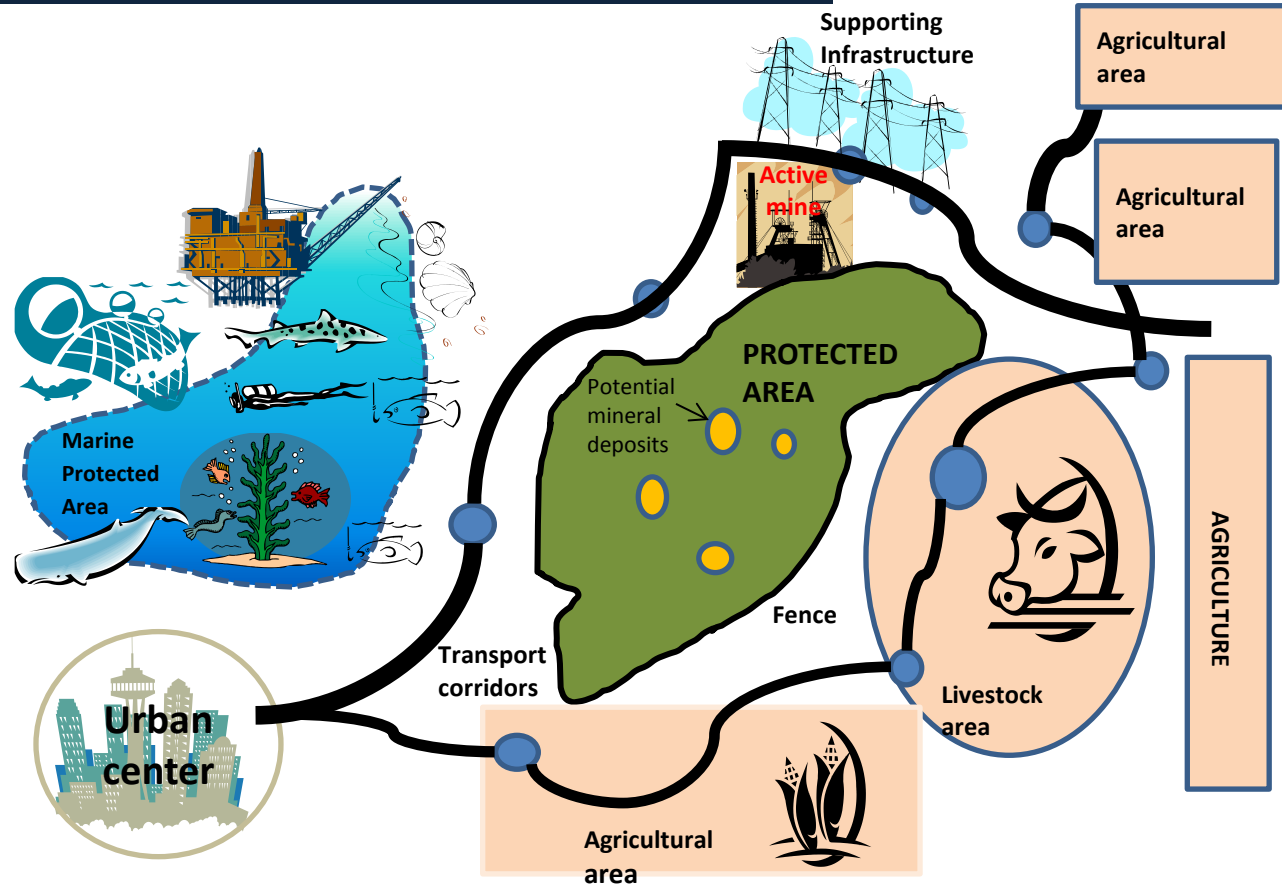
Lessons from the Dialogue



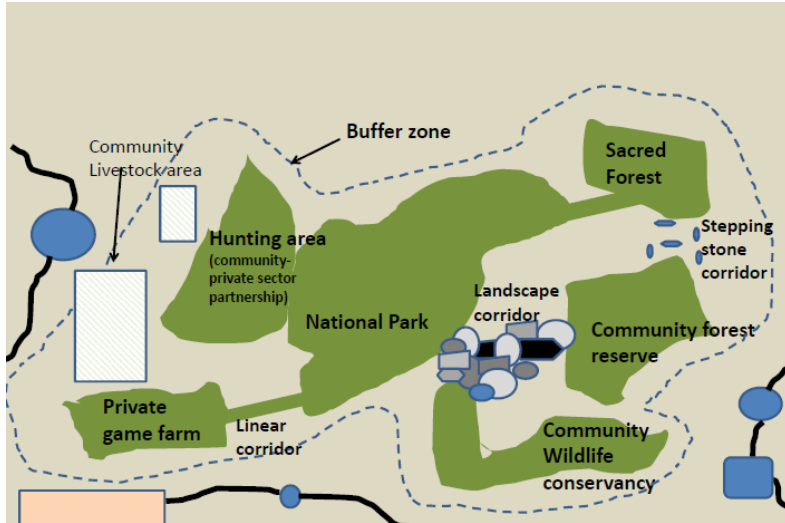
- Continued biodiversity loss
- State-centric & top down approaches still dominate
- Full range of PA categories and governance types not recognized and/or enabled
- **PA and biodiversity not effectively mainstreamed into development planning**

Future challenges

- Protected-area land use/resource use conflict
- Large footprint industries
- Land use change
- Population growth
- Climate change



Recommendations



- New vision and strategy needed for protected areas to remain relevant and resilient
- Dialogues at local, national and regional (SADC) levels
- Communities participating as equals
- Truly inclusive, involving all relevant stakeholders across different economic sectors
- Forward-looking, informed by scenario-planning
- Landscape approach
- Honest examination of trade-offs
- Ownership by all relevant stakeholders

Statement to the World Parks Congress

Statement from the High Level Dialogue on Improving Protected Area Governance in Southern Africa to the World Parks Congress 2014

IUCN and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Namibia, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Economic Community (SADC), convened a High Level Dialogue for Improving Livelihood Security and Biodiversity Conservation in Southern Africa, which took place in Windhoek, Namibia, on the 21st-22nd of May 2014.

The objectives of the Dialogue were to take stock of protected area governance across the region, to critically assess the performance of protected areas in delivering positive outcomes for local communities and for biodiversity, and to reflect on the resilience of current protected area governance models in light of future challenges. It was attended by more than 70 delegates from across the SADC region, including representatives from governments, NGOs, development partners, the private sector and inter-governmental organizations.

The participants to the Dialogue:

RECOGNIZED the many examples from the region demonstrating how protected areas can **simultaneously contribute to improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation** objectives

NOTED WITH CONCERN that **biodiversity continues to decline** across most of the region both inside and outside protected areas.

REAFFIRMED the region's commitment to principles of the **Durban Accord**, of **sustainable use of nature and natural resources** and of the importance of the **ecosystem approach**

REAFFIRMED the region's commitment to supporting **community-based natural resource management** and the principles of **good governance**

AGREED that **devolution of rights to local communities to access, own and manage natural resources**, and the **empowerment of local communities to fully participate in decision-making** over the use of natural resources on which they depend on for livelihoods had been **INSUFFICIENT** across most of the region with adverse consequences for both local communities and for biodiversity conservation.

AGREED that protected areas **must reflect the values of the society in which they are located** if they are to be successful in biodiversity conservation.

AGREED that **the diversity of social, economic and health benefits that protected areas provide** to local communities, national economies, and the society as a whole have not been sufficiently recognized in the region, nor adequately taken into account in the design or implementation of development strategies.

Next steps

- Mobilizing resources for implementation
- Piloting dialogues and pilot projects in one or two land/seascapes
- Lessons learned and best practice scaled out and scaled up across the region
- Relevant not just for SADC but other parts of Africa too

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Thank you

