



## SIDE EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

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<b>Event co-leaders:</b>	Jean Luc Francois
<b>Time and date:</b>	14 November 2014, 18:30-21:30
<b>Rapporteurs:</b>	Kandole Annet Balewa
<b>Presenters:</b>	Elise Belle, Heather Bingham, Sylvia Wicander, Christine Mentzel, Inza Kone, Nils Odendaal, Nicholas De Goede, Daniel Marnewick, Dancilla Mukakamari, Togarasei Fakarayi, Ravaka Ravaivoson, Tom Obong Okello, Sakhile Nsukwini, Martial Kouderin, Alasdair Harris, Binta Ba Diaw, Alexis Kabore, Jean Bruno Ngougnoobia, Salatou Sambou, Mari Margret Othieno, Freddy Manongi, Virat Kootsositse Motshereganyi and Leseho Sello

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The session gave opportunity to participants to understand key issues about governance of PA in Africa.

It was divided in 3 parts:

- Protected areas governance in Africa: presentation of the results of a study managed by IUCN-Papaco titled 'Context, Rules and Stakeholders, a global review'. Study realized by UNEP-WCMC.
- *Improving Protected Areas Governance for Livelihoods Security and Biodiversity: a message from SADC* – report of a meeting organized in Namibia in 2014.
- Stories from Africa on PA governance: examples from 4 selected global posters:
  - Good governance for conservation
  - Empowering local communities in protected area management in West & Central Africa
  - Innovative ways of addressing current challenges on protected areas in Africa
  - How to reconcile development and conservation?

In Africa, the general trend for a long time has been to let the State be responsible for protected areas management. This led to the exclusion of other stakeholders from natural resources management and nature conservation. Protected areas were therefore seen as government-managed areas only, under a "fences and fines" approach, which has become more and more

controversial whilst the effectiveness of this style of management, in most places, is not demonstrated.

Indeed, protected areas in Africa are under great pressure: the human population is growing fast and with this comes an increase of the threats towards the environment: overuse of natural resources, poaching of wildlife, conversion of the natural environment to more “productive” industrial activities, etc. Development and poverty alleviation is of course a necessity and no one would deny the right of the populations to improve their standard of living. However, with a significant rate of biodiversity loss over the last decades, even the most optimistic observers recognize that conservation in Africa is at stake. Although many challenges remain and the continent still has a long way to go, African protected areas seem to slowly move from this exclusive approach to more open and effective types of governance.

22 case studies, grouped in 4 posters were presented during this side event as examples of the challenges that African protected areas face and of the solutions and adaptations that can address these challenges.

### **Key emerging lessons:**

The case studies underlined the importance of four major aspects that reflect the shift of PA governance in Africa and the evolution of the key actors that are involved in this governance:

1. State governance, whilst still necessary, seems to be modernizing and accommodating the circumstances of its time, with changes in practices and scales.
2. The integration of a broader range of stakeholders brings more and more skills to PAs governance institutions and thus enhances its quality.
3. Integrating local populations into the management of PAs ensures their legitimacy and allows them to reach their conservation goals.
4. Development and conservation should not be opposed as the promotion of local development thanks to conservation policies can ensure the commitment of all stakeholders to conservation.

### **Exemplary case/s and other useful links:**

See: PAPACO- [Twenty-two Stories of conservation in Africa](#)

*Original presentations and report are available in the event's folder (see link in annexed "Repository of original Powerpoint presentations and Rapporteur reports").*