Adaptive governance for resilient protected areas – preparing for the challenges ahead

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WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Event co-leaders:	Thora Amend, Mike Jones and Barbara Lang
Time and date:	18 November 2014, 08:30-10:00
Rapporteurs:	Carina Green
Presenters:	Hannah Gosnell and Mike Jones

The workshop presented and explored the concept of social-ecological resilience in the context of protected area management and the related concept of adaptive governance as a tool for building protected area resilience to climate and other global change. Adaptive governance is an extension of the concept of adaptive management and a form of ecosystem governance that responds to the dynamics of change and the outcomes of complex interactions between ecosystems and human activity. Adaptive governance builds on the principles of good governance by adding "polycentrism": a network of decision-making organisations with appropriate institutions that enables entities like rivers and migratory wildlife to be governed at a scale that matches the ecological scale at which the entity operates.

Mismatches between governance and ecological scales are known to be a frequent cause of conservation failure, and scale of governance issues will be amplified by climate change in some parts of the world. Humans and other species will move across landscapes in response to the variability of weather extremes and shifting climate zones. Some aspects of biodiversity in protected areas, adjoining lands, connectivity corridors or resting sites on bird flyways are suitable candidates for adaptive governance. The concept of adaptive governance emphasises devolution of management authority, power sharing, integration of knowledge and government sectors, adaptive management for social learning and consideration of the need to change the paradigms, norms and institutions that define a governance regime.

Key emerging lessons:

Resilience and adaptive governance grow from the bottom up and require a fundamental shift in the way that governance and park management are normally practiced. Achieving the change requires good goals, the design of a good change process and time.

Bottom up growth requires central governments to change the way they use power through command and control policies to policies that influence and support the evolution of flexible institutions and organisations that match the scale of governance with the ecological scale. This is a goal that is not easily reached.

Integration of scientific, local and traditional knowledge to envision alternative futures requires particular leadership, conflict resolution and scenario planning skills to overcome the mental constraints that prevent effective collaboration.

Trust is of fundamental importance to good governance, adaptive governance and the ability of people to respond effectively to climate change.

Exemplary case/s and other useful links:

The concepts of resilience and adaptive governance are just beginning to be applied to protected area management. Many of the cases brought to the workshop (which was far too short to do justice to the topic) represented examples of places where the ideas were being applied.

The examples included:
- The Australian Alps partnership where resilience and adaptive governance are being introduced in a biodiversity governance research and development project for transformation and adaptation in an uncertain world.
  https://theaustralianalps.wordpress.com/the-alps-partnership/
- Restoration of the ancient Hima of the middle east and their traditional governance structures for improved livelihoods in drylands that had been degraded as a consequence the application of inappropriate modern management
  http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/rowa/iucnwame_resources/iucnwame_documents/al_hima__possibilities_are_endless_/
- A research project from Yale investigating weaknesses in decision-making and adaptive management in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, USA
  http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/upload/ri_2013_ecosystem.pdf
- Transboundary Conservation in Southern Africa under the Wildlife Conservation Society AHEAD program that was designed using resilience concepts
  http://www.greatlimpopo.org/ahead-gltfca-network-and-programme/
- The Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area in Northern Australia where new organisations and institutions for governance evolved using provisions the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to improve collaboration and management effectiveness
  http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/declared/dhimurru.html

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

Key recommendations:

1. National governments should enhance legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation to include aspects of social-ecological resilience:
   a. develop tools for resilience assessment and planning as a management approach for wider landscapes, in accordance with the Principles of CBD Ecosystem Approach
   b. foster the evolution of new organizations and institutions for adaptive governance as a core component of sustainable ecosystem management in a changing world.
2. Conservation support agencies should provide training in the use of tools for resilience and adaptive governance assessment at local, regional and national level.

The above key recommendations have been instrumental in shaping the following final recommendations of the Stream:

Rec#	Title
10	Implementing policies and agreements
15	Governance capacity

Inspiring solutions: governance, sustainable living and well-being

	WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Event co-leaders:	Maurizio F. Ferrari, Ashish Kothari, Susannah McCandless and Vololona Rasoarimanana
Time and date:	17 November 2014, 13:30-17:00 (double session)
Rapporteurs:	Melissa Arias, Robert Deve, Kate Heller and Aili Pyhala
Presenters:	Michael Winer, Sutej Hugu, Karau Kuna, Andrew Agyare, Jean Eric Rajaobelinirina, Ronald Zebalios, Megan Moody, Dominique Leveque, Alejandro Argumedo and Ashish Kothari

With two sets of panel speakers and substantial time for questions and discussion, this session explored alternative frameworks for governance across landscapes that take into account holistic, sustainable and equitable well-being, with a particular focus on indigenous peoples' and local community governance.

The main aims of the workshop were to (a) expand our view of diverse governance beyond the boundaries of protected areas into other types of community managed areas; (b) expand our