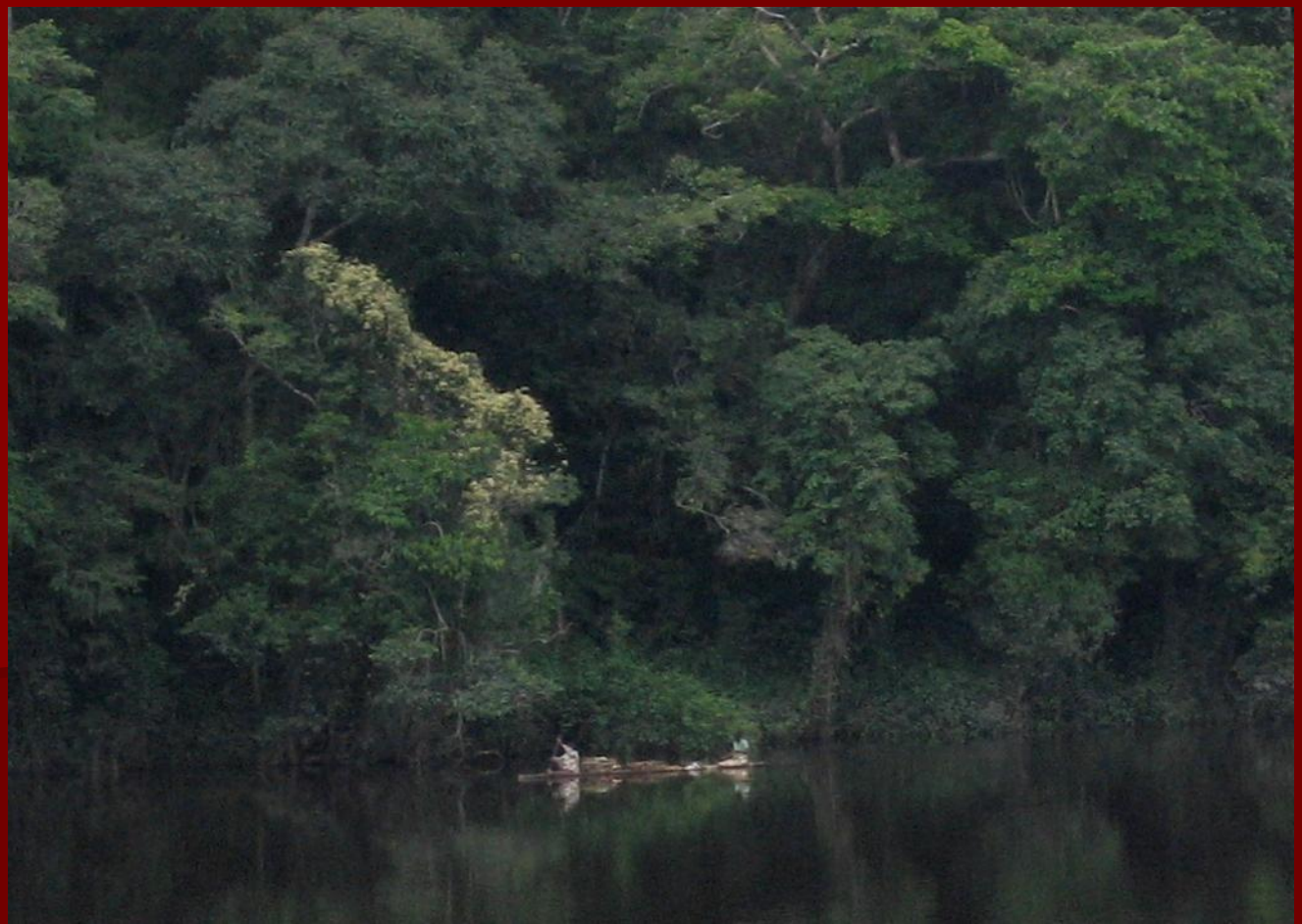
Governance diversity

From Durban to Sydney – towards a Copernican revolution for protected areas?



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...broad "waves of change" about protected areas, in practice and in thinking, from Durban to Sydney ...

- *Practice*: new and expanding threats: unsustainable use of resources, climate change, declining cultural and biological diversity, declining "traditional" conservation capacities... but also enhanced local conservation action, engagement and goals (by some)...
- *Thinking* : Clarifying what a protected area is (IUCN Guidelines of 2008), what is the difference between governance and management (Durban WPC) and that there exist different "governance types" of protected areas (Durban WPC)

Protected area *(IUCN Guidelines, 2008):*

"*…clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*".

management and governance

management>
what do we do?

governance->
who decides?
how?

management

- traditional & «scientific» understanding of phenomena
- specific aims to reach
- strategy to get there
- actions to carry out
- available means (human, financial...)
- achieving or not the desired results

→ *management effectiveness*

governance

- power, authority and responsibility in taking decisions...
- human relations among actors
- collaboration & conflicts
- «how to go about» all this... : citizen informed and engaged, fairness, transparency, leadership, wisdom, capacity to learn...

→ *diverse, good & vital governance*

Governance type

who holds *de facto* main authority and responsibility for the "protected area" (according to the IUCN definition)?

A. the government (and its agencies at various levels)

B. various parties (together)

C. the owners of the concerned land and natural resources (individuals, corporate actors...)

D. the concerned indigenous peoples and local communities

IUCN Matrix of protected areas categories and governance types (IUCN Guidelines, 2008)

Governance type / Category (manag. objective)	A. Governance by Government			B. Shared Governance			C. Private Governance			D. Governance by Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities	
	Federal or national ministry or agency	Local/ municipal ministry or agency in change	Government-delegated management (e.g. to an NGO)	Trans-boundary management	Collaborative management (various forms of pluralist influence)	Joint management (pluralist management board)	Declared and run by individual land-owner	…by non-profit organisations (e.g. NGOs, univ. etc.)	…by for profit organisations (e.g. corporate land-owners)	Indigenous bio-cultural areas & Territories-declared and run by Indigenous Peoples	Community Conserved Areas - declared and run by traditional peoples and local communities
I - Strict Nature Reserve/ Wilderness Area											
II – National Park (ecosystem protection; protection of cultural values)											
III – Natural Monument											
IV – Habitat/ Species Management											
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IUCN matrix of protected areas categories and governance types (new IUCN Guidelines)

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for IUCN, all governance types are legitimate and important for conservation, in particular as part of coherent systems...

Governance diversity

...decisions are made by a variety of actors who enrich and strengthen conservation in practice

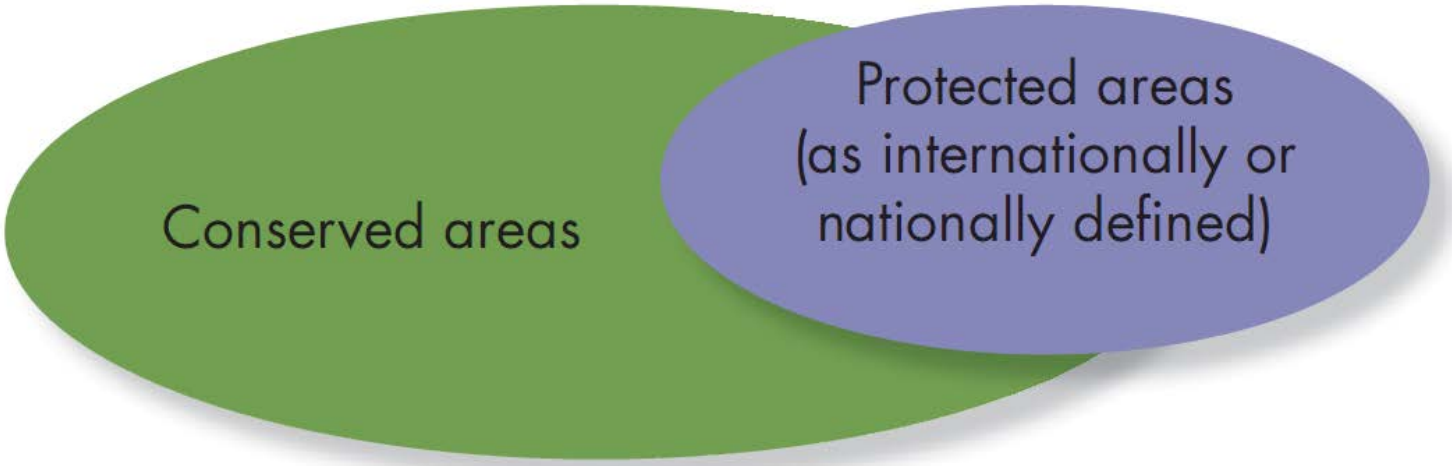
...the system includes protected areas under *different governance types* and/or

recognition and support are provided to *territories and areas conserved outside the system*.

but there are complications.....

- the IUCN definition of protected area leaves out areas conserved *de facto* but not "*recognised dedicated and managed for conservation*"
- the IUCN definition often *does not coincide* with the legal definitions of national governments
- the caretakers of nature do not always *wish* to have their areas recognised as a "protected area"

"areas conserved *de facto*" and "protected areas" do **not** coincide

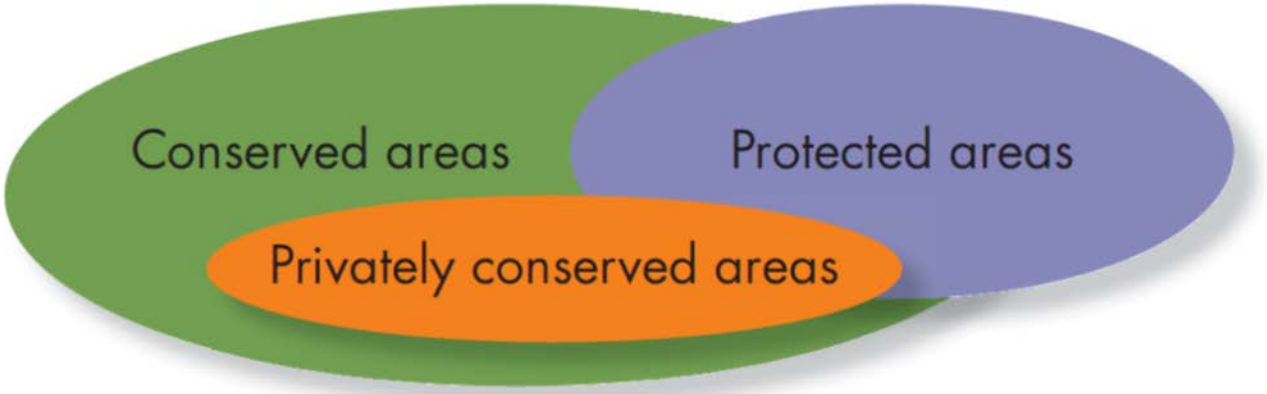


- Incomplete overlap between conserved and protected areas
- "Other effective area-based conservation measures" or OECMs--conserved but not "protected"…

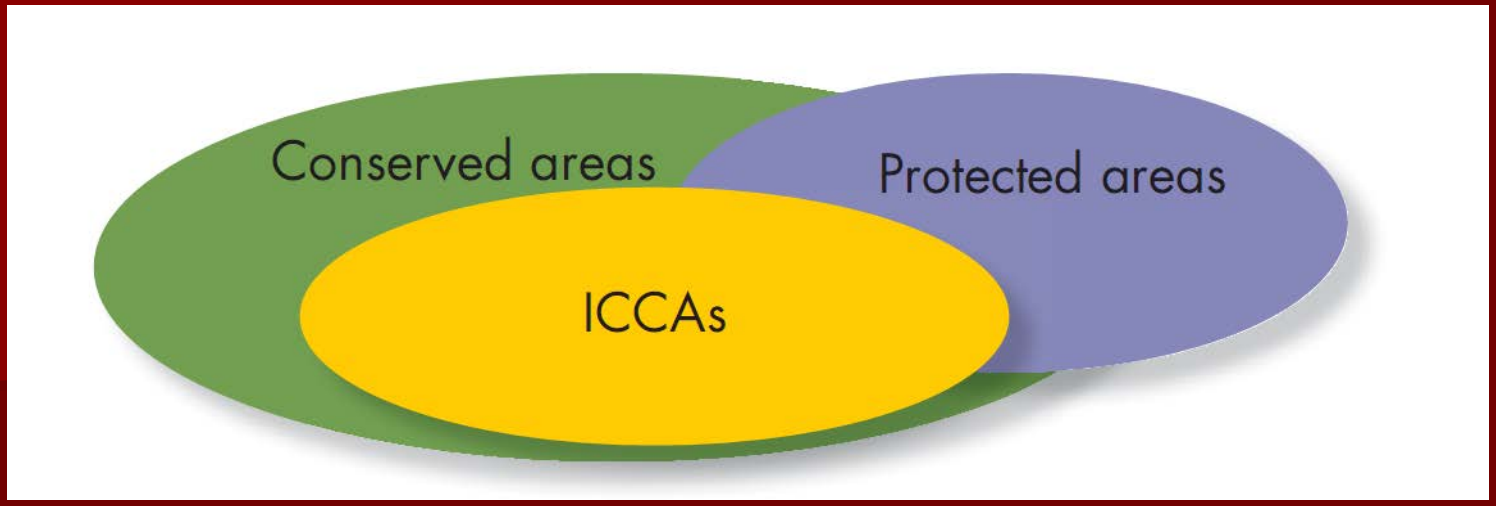
- OECMs:
  - Not “protected” but conserved *de facto*
  - Permanence / long term
  - *Regardless* of recognition, dedication…

can include:

- Primary voluntary conservation that the national government does not recognise as a protected area
- Primary voluntary conservation that refuses the protected area label and/or inclusion in the national system (e.g. because of self-determination and self-governance issues)
- Secondary voluntary conservation
- Ancillary conservation with a reasonable expectation to be maintained in the long-term



- Some of those OECMs are *privately conserved areas* – an important form of voluntary conservation…
- *Examples:*
  - *a game ranch run as a long term sustainable business…*
  - *a family estate run for the conservation of a wetland habitat in memory of a relative…*



- Others are territories and areas conserved by indgenous peoples and local communties (ICCAs), another form of “voluntary conservation”

- *Examples:*
  - *an indigenous territory (including sacred grounds, sustainable use areas) dedicated to self–determination and autonomy…*
  - *A well conserved area under communal governance not recognized as part of the national protected estate*

The Ptolemaic approach:

Key questions :

Where is the protected area? Is it well conserved? Is it effectively managed?

Protected Area

…steps towards a Copernican approach:

Key questions:

- What is the context surrounding the protected area?
- Are there other biodiverse areas nearby?
- Are they mutually connected ?

conserved area

Protected Area

…and more steps :

Key questions:

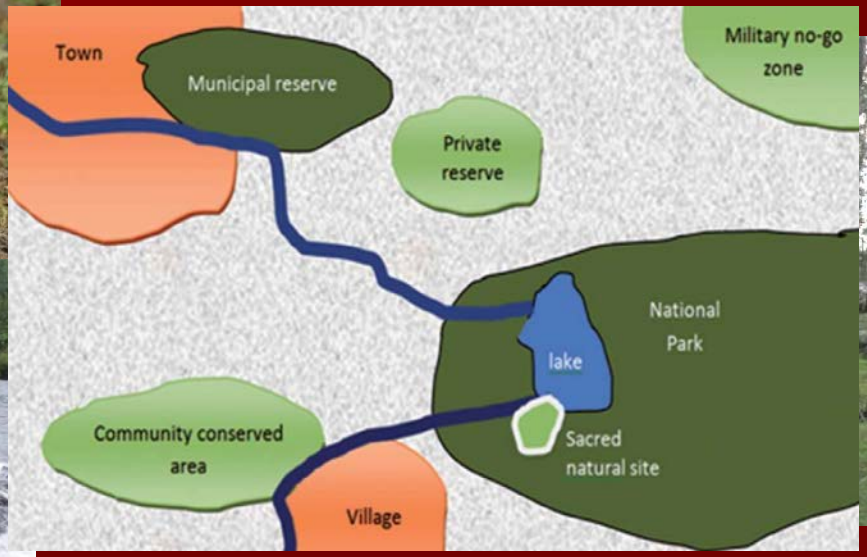
- Who is governing the protected area(s)?
- Who is governing the system pf PAs?
- Is governance diversity contributing to conservation?

conserved area

Protected Area

Protected Area

...an even more radical step towards a Copernican approach: spatial governance analysis



Key questions :

Where is precious, well-conserved nature? Who governs each conserved territory or area? Are those "protected"? Are those voluntarily or otherwise conserved? How can conservation be strengthened and secured *within* but also *outside* the protected area system?