

Rapporteur Report on Session 1.2:

Protected Areas Exemplars

Rapporteurs: **Andrew Wilson** (U.K.) and **Patricia Madrigal** (Costa Rica)

The session was chaired by **Juan Mayr Maldonado** (Colombia).

The following presentations comprised the session:

Tofa Devaji, Hirabai Hiralal Mohan, Neema Pathak (India)

A community conserved area in Medha Lekha, India.

Discussant: **Madhu Sarin** (India)

Juan Carlos Riascos, Mario Jacanamijoy and Ignacio Giraldo (Colombia)

A local Indigenous Conserved Area fully recognised/endorsed as part of the national protected area system: Alto Fragua-Indiwasi National Park

Nancy Anilniliak and Elizabeth Seale (Canada)

A national park co-managed with indigenous peoples in Nunavut Territory.

Discussant: **Peter Abrams** (Canada)

Mashaungu Livingstone Maluleke and Dennis Skhalela (South Africa)

A co-managed protected area emerged from a land restitution case in Makuleke, South Africa

Discussant: **James Murombedzi** (Zimbabwe)

Common Elements:

- The experiences presented involve different actors: communities, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and governmental organizations.
- The experiences have been built upon respect.
- The exemplars integrate traditional and scientific knowledge.
- People and the environment are inseparable.

Key Lessons regarding governance:

- Recover local governance through traditional authorities.
- Customary law contains rules for natural resource use and management that are effective in conservation.
- Promote intercultural governance
- Pursue broad objectives: to conserve biological diversity and to protect cultural diversity.

- Open spaces for trust between government and people, affording the same rights and same duties.
- Secure tenure and a sense of empowerment are keys to successful community effort.
- Consensus decision-making is traditionally employed.
- Government institutions need to change and adapt to new approaches. Cooperative management has to be seen as an opportunity, not just as obligation.

Downsides:

- Processes are time consuming.
- Costs can be high.
- Commitment of staff time is significant.
- Processes require a change of attitude.

Specific issues:

- In the case of mega-projects some questions are relevant:
For whose development?
Whose makes decisions?
Why didn't anyone ask the people?
- A contract is a western approach that materializes agreements. For the local spaces, the word is what counts. Using a contract presents a contradiction between the need of trust and transparency and the need of legal support.

Reflections:

- The experiences presented involve poor communities. Poverty has to be addressed in an integral way.
- Not all problems in a community will be solved. Not everyone in a community will benefit.
- There is no doubt that governance needs to be based upon **local empowerment**.
- Each experience is different; there is no formula.

Recommendations:

The results of this session support entirely WPC Recommendations 5.16, 5.18, 5.24, 5.25, 5.26, 5.29.

Relations to the Durban Action Plan:

Result 5: Indigenous peoples and local communities will have decision powers.
Goals 6, 7, 9.