

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Shifting Paradigms in Protected area Management

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Protected area management (PA) for biodiversity conservation has been changing globally at present. South Asia is no exception in this context. As a matter of fact, South Asian countries particularly Nepal has been playing leading role in modern conservation of biodiversity, which includes generating new concepts, testing and refining, and implementing them. Successful approaches have become models (e.g., Annapurna Conservation Area) that have been adopted by regional countries. **Shifting Paradigms in Protected Area Management** edited by **Dr. Siddhartha B. Bajracharya and Mr. Ngamindra Dahal**, well established conservationists at National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Kathmandu, is a new book that explains how protected area management is moving forward in South Asian region. It is a compilation of papers presented in the regional conference on **Managing Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigms** organized on April 20-26, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal with the objectives of sharing regional experience and knowledge in PA management, learning from the region's best practices and strengthening networks in the region. The conference was participated by more than 125 PA managers, scientists and researchers from national and international institutions of different countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Switzerland, and so on.

This book is organized into three main thematic areas including (a) Ecosystem Management, (b) Governance in PA Management, and (c) Economic Tools for Biodiversity Conservation, which were the focus of the conference besides a short introduction and conclusion and recommendations sections. Under these themes, there are 27 papers presented by 30 presenters, who explored present conditions and future directions of biodiversity conservation and PA management including ecosystem and landscape level management, transboundary conservation, ecoregional planning, PA governance, implications

of climate change, sustainable financing, mechanisms for payments for environmental services, and tourism.

The first theme is devoted to 'Ecosystem Management' with seven papers witnessing a shift in protected area management from a single species approach to ecosystem level, landscape level and other large-scale conservation approaches with an active participation of a large number of stakeholders (e.g. local communities, governments, donors). These papers reflect the views and experiences of famous conservationists and established scientists (e.g., Jeffrey A. McNeely), leading role playing government organizations (e.g., K. Paudel et al.) and non-government organizations (e.g., G.J. Thapa and B. Basnet) of national and international status (e.g., N. Chetri et al., WWF Nepal). Jeffrey A. McNeely's paper sets the stage for successive papers and the themes by describing a new paradigm for managing protected areas in the 21st century. Similarly other papers such as biodiversity conservation beyond boundaries in Hindu Kush Himalaya, Nepal's initiation of transboundary conservation, role of Barandabhar corridor forests in landscape level conservation, and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, bridging sustainability and productivity from Sri Lanka (e.g., Deveka K. Weerakoon), and impacts of climate change on China's biodiversity conservation and their implications in protected area management (e.g., Yan Zhaoli and Xu Jianchu) are very good examples, which reflect emerging avenues of biodiversity conservation and its implementation.

The second theme is about Governance in Protected Area Management, which is composed of nine papers that show significant changes in this part of protected area management. Changes in national and international policies and their implications in South Asia (e.g., A. Kothari), policy dimensions of mountain protected areas (e.g., G. Brooding), linking tangible benefits with the intangibles (e.g., P.S. Ramakrishnan), responding to challenges of human well-being through paradigm shifts in protected area management in India (e.g., V. Darlong), linking tourism to biodiversity conservation (e.g., S.B. Bajracharya and A.K. Lama), governance in protected area management of Nepal (e.g., S.R. Bhatta, and J.B. Karki), cultural landscape and sustainable livelihood in response to global changes (lessons from Manang) (e.g., R.P. Chaudhary), participatory management of protected area management of Bangladesh (e.g., D.H. Kabir et al.), all suggest that protected area management is guided by new policies and regulations in order to cope with large-scale participatory approaches of biodiversity conservation discussed in the first theme above.

The third theme 'Economic Tools for Biodiversity Conservation' has four papers, which explore with case studies from Nepal and Malaysia, how economic tools and proven technologies (e.g., GIS and remote sensing) have been increasingly used in response to the changes in the first and second themes described above. These four papers bring out how (a) forest management is linked to economic incentives and carbon market, which is more attractive than the Clean Development mechanism (e.g., K. Baskota et al.), (b) Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) is an important tool to address key management issues of conserving the PAs while supporting livelihoods in Nepal (e.g., P.K. Karn), (c) RAPPAM method allows for an overview of PA status from a system-wide perspective and also provides indirect benefits such as networking cooperation among PA management authorities in Malaysia (e.g., S. Suksuwan and R. Amat), and (d) GIS and remote sensing provide a framework for developing conservation strategies (e.g., B. Bajracharya). These papers are the examples of how the use of economic tools and proven technologies have been changing in protected area management in response to emerging large-scale biodiversity conservation approaches and their governance for sustainability.

Thus, these three themes have been presented in stepwise to show that ecosystem management, governance in protected area management, and economic tools in biodiversity conservation have synergistically complemented and built on each other reflecting shifting paradigms in protected area management. The editors have highlighted these shifts adequately in conclusion and recommendations section and have traced the future path of conservation as recommendations. The take home message of this book is 'there is an increasing worldwide consensus that effective conservation cannot be carried out in isolation with just a single spatial region or a species but rather it has to incorporate wider landscapes and ecology'. A large number of figures (11 GIS Maps, 19 graphs/drawings, and 20 high quality photographs), 31 tables and boxes, and other illustrations throughout the book have made the text easier to understand.

Presentations of all the major sessions together with high quality photographs of speakers (from opening to concluding sessions) compiled under the title 'Proceedings of the Regional Conference on Managing Protected Area: Shifting Paradigms' and presented at the end of the book gives an actual scene of the conference. Except some minor points like variable lengths and unequal distribution of papers to three thematic areas and lack of authors and subject indices, the book sketches a clear picture of the changing scenario of biodiversity

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conservation and protected area management in the new millennium. With attractive cover pages and clear prints, this book can be a valuable new acquisition for libraries and individual collection, and an excellent source of information for researchers, conservationists, and protected area managers.

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