



Workshop Stream 5: Session 2a
Evaluating Management Effectiveness
Maintaining Protected Areas for Now and the Future

Chair: Hanna Jaireth, Task Force on Indigenous and Local Communities Equity and Protected Areas.

Rapporteur: Sherrie-Lee Evans, International Ranger Federation Delegate

Session organiser: Hanna Jaireth

Overview:

The aims for the session were:

- to share experience and lessons learned about the evaluations of management effectiveness, particularly with respect to meeting the needs of indigenous and local communities and Community Conserved Areas (CCAs);
- to explore the concepts and principles of cultural and community indicators from the perspectives of indigenous and local communities
- to discuss the draft Durban Accord and Action Plan, draft statement to the CBD and WPC draft recommendations with respect to the evaluation of management effectiveness in meeting the needs of indigenous and local communities.

Number and diversity of participants

Numbers fluctuated around the 45 mark for most of the session. Participants came from Australia (both indigenous and agency representatives), Latin America, Scandinavia, north and southern Africa, South Asia and North America.

Structure

There were a series of individual and group presentations followed by a panel discussion and questions and discussion from the floor.

Summary of the speakers and presentations

Liz Alden Wily, independent land tenure and natural resources management adviser, UK, proposed 15 indicators for determining the extent to which community level interests are recognized in protected forest area and buffer zone management. These were whether (1) the forest law assured the subsistence use of state-owned forest reserves; the law commits to benefit-sharing of state-owned forest reserve products and benefits; (3) natural trees on farms are the private property of the farmer; (4) community participation is promoted by the law; (5) the law requires that communities help write forest management plans; (6) the government must permit community management or co-management if the community requests that; (7) all PA categories are open to community management; (8) a community can manage a national forest reserve; (9) communities can create, own and manage their own protected forest areas; (10) community managers have the power to

control who uses the community forest; (11) community managers have the right to issue licenses and collect fees; (12) the law enables a government PA to be reclassified as a community forest; (13) all community members are considered in management arrangements; (14) limitations have been placed on the state taking more customary - lands for forest reserves; and (15) whether institutions for community-based forest management is easily put in place.

Dermot Smyth, Consultant and Honorary Research Fellow, James Cook University, Phillip Rist, Executive Officer, Girringun Elders and Reference Group, Aboriginal Corporation, Claude Beeron, Girramay elder and Director, Girringun Elders and Reference Group and Syb Bresolin, Dulgulburra Yidindji elder and Cultural Ranger, Centre for Tropical Restoration, provided a case-study from north Queensland, Australia, which discussed the participatory processes used for identifying cultural indicators regarded as a priority by the Girramay, Jirrbal and Gulngay peoples living in the Jumbun community of north Queensland. Several meetings involving elders and younger people from the three language groups were held on the riverbank near Jumbun in 2001. The cultural values and indicators identified through this process included:

| Cultural Value | Indicator |
|---|---|
| <u>A: Rights to country</u> | |
| A1: Land ownership | A1.1 Area of Aboriginal-owned land as a percentage of traditional land of a particular group; A1.2 Rate of return or determination of land |
| A2: Land access, hunting, fishing, gathering & camping | A2.1 Location of all public access roads identified and open A2.2 Number of access roads opened or closed during one year A2.3 Number of formalized agreements allowing access to traditional land on or through private land; A2.4 Acquiring land to allow access; A2.5 Legislation recognizing right of access to traditional land; A2.6 Appeal mechanism when access is refused; |
| A3: Belonging, identity and freedom | A3.1 No permits required for exercising traditional rights; A3.2 Burials on private land recognized and registered; A3.3 Traditional Owners acknowledged as Traditional Owners |
| <u>B: Looking After Country</u> | |
| B1: Managing the Wet Tropics WHA | B1.1 Jobs for Aboriginal people under Aboriginal control; B1.2 Aboriginal involvement in revegetation programs; B1.3 Awareness of local Aboriginal people about decisions and plans in the WHA? B1.4 Number, frequency and level of meetings between Jumbun community and Wet Tropics Management Authority and other agencies. B1.5 Number of permanent jobs for Traditional Owners with government agencies e.g. as rangers |
| B2: Benefiting from Country | B2.1 Number of jobs for Aboriginal people in Aboriginal-controlled tourism enterprises |
| <u>C: Language</u> | C1.1 Number of language speakers (right through); C1.2 Level of fluency within community and across generations and |

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| | tracked over time (using historical, current and future data) C1.3 Number and scope of language programs in local schools and local community; C1.4 Incentives to learn language – e.g. in education and tourism C1.5 Use of language names for places, rivers etc on Wet Tropics maps C1.6 Extent of recorded language – is it on tapes and/or written down for future transmission? |
| D: Understanding History | D1.1 Availability and use of information sources D1.2 Memorials and memorial services for past events (e.g. massacres) D1.3 Community knowledge about local history D1.4 Number of Aboriginal studies programs in schools |

Dermot concluded that the appropriateness of cultural indicators should be reviewed over time, and that appropriate indicators should only be developed with and for the relevant indigenous and local communities for each PA.

Victorino Saway, a member of the Talaandig tribe and community organiser in the Philippines suggested that indicators for assessing management effectiveness included the integrity of indigenous cultures and nature (including indigenous beliefs, languages, knowledge systems and communications, customary leadership and governance, sustainable economy, defence and security, land tenure, water security, plants, trees and wildlife, air, sun, sounds and spirits) and whether indigenous people participate in - management in a self-determining/self-managing sense. He suggested that cultural impact assessments should be used to assess the cost and effectiveness of PA management.

Levi Sucre, an indigenous leader from the BRIBRI indigenous Group in Talamanca, Costa Rica evaluated participatory management of forest areas in Mesoamerica. He argued that the participation of all social groups (peasants, afrodescendants and indigenous peoples) in negotiation processes about the management of PAs and buffer zones is essential. Other indicators of management effectiveness include whether: food and water security is available, peasants can transfer their capacities to each other, sustainable development through the use of non-timber forest products is available, access is available to technical and other financial resources for the implementation of productive projects, and whether the rights of the community to participate in PA management and to practice their customary sustainable activities are respected. He concluded that there needs to be a redistribution of responsibilities for PA and buffer zone management between national governing institutions, and municipal and local authorities.

Neil Jens, President of the Conservation Volunteer Alliance and Principal, Jens-Gaunt Real Estate Pty Ltd, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, discussed the Alliance's international accreditation program for conservation volunteer organizations. The Alliance has developed benchmarks for evaluating the effectiveness of conservation projects and volunteers' experiences. The indicators assess organisational management, human resource management, promotion, recruitment and volunteers' experiences.

Vijay Jadhari, organizer, Beej Bachao Andolan Naagni, Tehri Garhwal, India, with translation by Seema Bhatt, evaluated the participatory management of forest areas in Jardhar Gaon in Uttaranchal, India. Vijay provided a case study of a direction action initiative by an Indian indigenous community to regenerate and protect a reserved forest and save a rich variety of traditional seeds. The community established a forest protection committee who formulated their own laws and policies to protect forests and appointed guards with the grain or monetary contribution from every household. The other initiatives profiled included maintenance of traditional irrigation systems, monitoring sustainable use of the village grasslands and the establishment of a community seed-bank. The indicators of management effectiveness that Vijay identified included the number of tree and shrub species in the PA and buffer zone; whether traditional seed varieties have been lost, whether women are involved in participatory institutions, and whether wild edibles, herbs and spices are available year round.

Issues raised from the floor included:

- Economic incentives are needed to be provided to pay for the ecological services of PAs and to encourage local participation in PA management for sustainable development.
- The need for a long-term form of guarantee for community use of forests was raised and discussion focused on the constraints, if any, that should be imposed on land that is returned to communities.
- How the community is identified and who has the right to speak for particular areas was raised and it was suggested that community elders need to be involved. This was seen as particularly important for sustainable income purposes.
- Management bodies for PAs and buffer areas need to include more than just user groups and should include broader constituencies.
- It is important to develop indicators from the ground up and specific to the place, time and people, whilst recognizing that international human rights standards are an appropriate starting place for a range of indicators for both indigenous and local communities.
- The availability of training for communities was emphasized, suggesting that managers need to be trained in both traditional and western knowledge.
- Community cultural indicators need to acknowledge the difference between traditional and newcomer communities.
- CCAs are not the panacea because there are other forces at work including political economic and individualism versus communalism.
- There was a suggestion that indicators needed to be linked to the type of or zone of the PA but there was scope for developing these further in consultation with local shareholders and stakeholders.
- The need for appropriate pre-project assessment where volunteers work was raised.
- It is appropriate to have an assessment of the management effectiveness of CCAs and the community needs to know whether they are effective or not. The need for an independent assessment was suggested but there was no consensus on this point.