



Environment and Climate
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

TAIEX ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop on Protected Area Management and Development of Tourism Infrastructure

Welcome!

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Introduction to the Workshop:

Conservation management & conservation measures for protected areas

Petr Roth, ECRAN
Coordinator of Nature Working Group

Why are we here?

Why do we have PAs?

Do we need them, and if so, why?

How should they look like to meet their objectives?

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- We were born in certain reality: what surrounds us is the reference level for all our considerations
- We often do not think about why we have PAs: simply, they are here

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- We often do not think about the legislation: it's here
- Sometimes, we feel/know that something is wrong in law/reality: we try to “fix” the problem without thinking about the concept (*or lack of any concept*) behind it

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- But there has been a long history behind nowadays reality...
- Thus very briefly, why do we have PAs?

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- PAs – basic tool of nature *protection* (primarily not *conservation*)
- Original aim in 1860s: to *preserve* (not *conserve*) interesting monuments and landscapes – like museums
- National parks in USA: large areas devoted to both *natural processes* and *recreation*
- In some of our countries, we still have a few PAs from that era

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- The first PAs designated as a response to ***deterioration/disappearance of nature*** - impacts of industrial revolution
- Other reasons of designation (e.g. religious) – just marginal

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- *Deterioration of nature – underlying force in nature protection in general:*

we cannot find nature protection where the nature is not under risk – it is simply not needed...

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- Growth in science development in 20th century: gradual understanding that *passive preservation is not enough*
- Shift from preservation & protection to *conservation*

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

A shift from *protection of static objects* to *conservation of functional units*:

- ecosystems
- populations of species
- networks of habitats needed for conservation of entire life cycle of endangered species
- conservation of natural processes

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

Rate & extent of designation of PAs – reflects this understanding matched with spatial possibilities in countries:

most advanced countries = least space for nature = biggest commitment to protect and conserve their remnants of nature

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- Majority of our PAs comes from the transitional period: legislation advanced, the reality reflecting the past approach
- 1990s – good example of that ambivalence: Natura 2000: on paper “network of conservation areas”, “*ecological network*”
- In reality – mostly “another set of protected areas” added to the national one; *no networking*

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

- After 2000 – new ideas: ecosystem services, Green Infrastructure, CBD guidances, etc.
- “old” PAs usually “clothed into new coats” but with the “old” understanding, often lack of objectives, lack of management....

Question No. 1: Why do we have PAs?

Together with Natura 2000, we certainly do
have up to 50,000 PAs in Europe & Asia
Minor

...so this is where we are today....

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

Arguments of complainants:

- Low *efficiency* of PAs
- Lack of *system* in PA designation
- Their cover is *insufficient*
- They do not protect/conservate many threatened species/habitats
- *Uneven distribution* reflecting political pressures
- Systems are not *representative*, etc. etc.

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

...this is all true...

...but what would be if there were no PAs in our
countries?

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

- The most valuable landscapes developed and built-up
- The most threatened species exterminated
- Whole territories of our countries degraded with subsequent impact on pedology, hydrology, climate
- Their major parts desertified

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

- Recreational, leisure, scientific, educational opportunities missing
- Invaluable natural resources lost for ever
- Many cultural traditions lost for ever
- Quality of life of the society much lower

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...but...

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

...PAs are a costly game: we all pay tax to
them, directly and indirectly

How to justify this tax? How to explain people
that they/*us* have to contribute to protected
areas?

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...PAs are a costly game: we all pay tax to
them, directly and indirectly

How to justify this tax? How to explain people
that they/us have to contribute to protected
areas?

Only if we can assure ourselves and our people
that this is the well-spent money

Question No. 2: Do we need PAs, and if so, why?

How to do it? We have to be sure the purpose
of PAs – *nature conservation* – is met.

Which leads us to the

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

- Different answers in 1872 – 1930s – 1960s – 1990s
- Different answers in different parts of the world

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Let's try to formulate a few basic points...

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 1: Clear purpose of PA: What do we protect /conserve in here? Why do we have the PA?

- Ecosystem conservation (natural or man-altered ecosystems?)
- Conservation of natural processes (yes – no, fully or partially?)
- Conservation of features which need natural processes interrupted (which ones?)
- Species conservation (which ones?)
- Geomorphological features
- Landscape and culture
- Scenic beauty (why not?)

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

But not

“...as it has been here from of old...”

– a frequent answer but not a good answer!

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 2: Conservation objective

- Frequent question: we do have a PA, we do manage it, so why do we need any “conservation objective” ???

My answer would be another question:

- “How can you even manage a site without conservation objective?”

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 2: Conservation objective

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- “How can you even manage a site without conservation objective?”

This is like “*Where* are you driving your car?”

- “I am driving it, *it moves on*, what do I need more?”

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 2: Conservation objective

What is conservation objective: it is a goal we (try) to achieve in middle- to long-term in a given PA

CO can be:

- maintenance of target features/status
- achievement of desirable status (or natural processes)
- improvement of target features (quantification + timing needed)
- suppression of some of target features (good justification + timing needed)

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 2: Conservation objective

How to make CO a reality?

Through some *measures* which have to be made *binding* and *implemented*

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 3: Conservation measures

= measures how to achieve the conservation objectives

If no conservation objective set, the measures applied cannot be *conservation* measures

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 3: Conservation measures

Each conservation measure *must relate to*

- conservation objective *for particular target features* (species, habitats, ecosystems...)
- conservation objective *for the entire PA* (if set)

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 4: Other measures

Measures not needed for natural assets but necessary to implement the purpose of the PA

- Visitor management
- Leisure activities/facilities
- Ancillary facilities
- Education
- Scientific use, etc.

Usually part of management plans – but *not* that part of *conservation management*

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 5: Management plans

Not obligatory but...

...how any measure can be implemented without being anchored in a plan?

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 5: Management plans

- Management plans – a true science
- Often not understood as a “rulebook” for site management
- Often, analysis prevails over synthesis

Good management plan – a kind of “societal agreement” between the authorities and local people

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 5: Management plans

- Must be respected by all parties
- MPs usually not binding for people:

other tools of nature protection are needed for their implementation

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 6: Statutory, administrative and other measures

- Management must be done on some legal basis
- Something requires *ad-hoc solutions* (administrative measures), something *long-term ones* (statutory)
- This all is set by *legislation*: wrong legislative ground cannot be improved by any „good practice“!

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 6: Expert support to sound management

- Good management of any PA must have expert grounds (not “I think that...”)
- Outsourced experts – a solution for particular PAs
- Solution for the *system of PAs* in a country – **dedicated expert institution(s) for nature conservation**
- Investing in such institutions pays off in a long-term

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 7: Managers in the field

- Neither laws nor management plans manage the PAs
- This is people from particular institutions
- There is no management without managers
- To designate PA without a manager is useless

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 7: Managers in the field

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- This is people from particular institutions
- There is no management without managers
- To designate PA without a manager is useless

And any manager needs – money, money, money.... →

Question No. 3: How should PAs look like to meet their objectives?

No. 8: Funding of conservation measures

- Even non-intervention management is not for free
 - Establishment of a PA without funding is a deception!
 - Country's resources are limited – therefore, prioritization is necessary!
- (this is why law says “protected areas *can be* established”, not “protected areas *shall be* established”)

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Good entertainment!