Management of Protected Areas in Africa and the Americas

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Class: Tuesday periods 4-6 (10:40-1:40pm)  
Room: CBD 0238  
Office: Grinter 433  
Office Hrs: M,W,F 4-5 (appointment best)  
(Attendance is departmentally controlled and capped at 20) Syllabus for 2013

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Course Outline

The purpose of this course is to examine the political economic question “who are parks for?”; the economic and ecological question “what are parks for?”; and the institutional and managerial question “how are these goals best achieved?” Readings, lectures and seminars will provide you with the material from which I expect you to analyze the performance of a park that you choose using this framework. I expect you to develop the outline of your paper through a PowerPoint presentation. I will ask you to write three short papers (8 page max) relevant to these questions. You will pull these together into a single paper/presentation by the end of term.

1. 27 August: Introduction and Expectations
2. 3 September: Many Roads to Conservation
3. 10 September: History of Protected Areas (I will be away – make up?)
4. 17 September: Natural Science, Resilience and Adaptive Management, and Monitoring Biodiversity

Paper 1

5. 24 September: Economic Principles Useful for Conservationists
6. 1 October: Effectiveness and Performance of Parks (travel to GEF)
7. 8 October: Politics and Park Management (travel to GEF)
8. 15 October: Private Conservation

Paper 2

9. 22 October: Community conservation and ICDPs
10. 29 October: Conserving Landscapes
11. 5 November: Park Planning
12. 12 November: Managing Park Agencies

Paper 3

13. 19 November: Parks and people – Narratives and Counter-narratives
14. 26 November: Final presentations
15. 3 December: Final presentations
Conservation is always and inevitably a political process and conservationists are thus political actors (paraphrasing Rodgers, 2005).

The purpose of this course is to encourage students to critically evaluate conservation notions underlying protected areas including biological, economic and political performance and sustainability. The course will be taught from a practical angle, and will emphasize concepts that drive real-world conservation but are seldom included in the standard course on conservation biology: the political economy of the state; organizational and performance management; economics and property rights; and so on.

Interdisciplinary work, even more than all other academic and applied activities, is a social process (Rodgers, 2005)

If conservation is highly political in nature, it is also multi-disciplinary. Using practical experience and familiarity with the protected area movements in Africa, and student’s familiarity globally, we will (with some reference to North America), introduce students to a range of useful topics: the history and genesis of protected area philosophies and regimes; key ecological principles; and the socio-economic and political dimensions of protected area management. We will also introduce and debate the concept of management planning. Finally, we will look at questions including sustainable use, the management of park agencies, economics, and adaptive management.

This is a new course into somewhat uncharted territory with many unresolved contradictions. For instance, the concept of parks, their philosophy and their values are increasingly contested. Moreover, there are more parks than ever before yet conservation is still commonly considered to be failing – this is one of the few examples of globally set goals (10% protected) being achieved. We therefore anticipate working together to bring more clarity to some of these issues. I have provided key articles in electronic format, but may add or change readings during the course to adapt it to your needs.

The course will be run in a highly participatory manner. This takes more preparation by all of us. We expect you to prepare for each class by reading and thinking about the given articles. I will also be evaluating and training you in different forms of communication useful to conservationists – writing, presenting, discussing.
1. **Attendance and Participation (5% of final grade)**

Students will be expected to be in the classroom by 9:35. The class will break for 10 minutes at an appropriate mid-point. Being consistently late will count against a student in the final grade. Active participation in class discussions is critical to this class, and could make a difference in the final grade.

2. **Presentations (25% of final grade)**

Students will be expected to work in pairs to give one, or possibly two, 10-20 minute presentations related to the readings and topics of the week.

Each student will also be required to provide a 15 minute presentation of their case study, outlining the points they intend to develop in their papers. This should be used as a mechanism for planning their paper/s. If students want to work on this in pairs of groups, this will be encouraged.

3. **Short Papers (30% of final grade)**

You are expected to write three short discussion paper (2-3,000 words) that are properly referenced and demonstrates that you have read, understand and further researched the topics in question. The purpose of the paper is three-fold:

- To assess if you have absorbed the readings
- To assess if you have extended yourself beyond these readings, through further reading, curiosity and imagination
- To work with you to learn how to better structure and write articles.

The papers should be organized around your opinions. It is important to demonstrate that you are learning to organize your writing around your own thoughts; I will be looking for essays that demonstrate that you are learning to have confidence in your own ideas and are using references in support of your ideas rather than allow them to guide you. Any form of plagiarism is completely unacceptable: you should NEVER copy and paste from others without full and proper acknowledgement.

Marks will be given for clarity (in writing, in the structure of your paper, and in the way you discuss the various viewpoints); for understanding of the topic; and for independence of thought and analysis. Text may not exceed 8 pages, 12 point font. Less is better ... and more work! I would strongly suggest that you plan the essay in note form or as 2-3 PowerPoint slides before getting down to write it, making sure you introduce the topic and your question, discuss the relevant issues and literature, and then form your own conclusions.

4. **Cases Study and Project Evaluation (30% of final grade)**

At the beginning of the semester, each student will be asked to choose a Park (or a community conservation programme) that you are familiar with. That student will be expected to become an expert in that programme. At the end of the semester, each student will be expected to provide an evaluation
of their case study against the inter-disciplinary principles developed during the course in the form of a short essay and PowerPoint presentation that describes performance metrics (30%). Page limit 10, 12 point font.

5. Peer review of Papers
To promote group learning, each student will be expected to peer-review the papers written by their colleagues, and to submit a semi-standardized review to both the writer of the paper and to the Professor. Each student should expect to review three each of Papers 1-3. This is worth 15% of final grade. Peers will be given one week to return their comments, in the form of a one page standard form and penciled comments on the text.

Policy on Late Papers

Papers not handed in on time will not be marked without prior agreement with me. In the case of unexpected events, I expect the student to contact me within 24 hours to explain their reasons.

Cheating and Plagiarism

All students should observe the University of Florida’s standards of academic honesty. Progress in the social sciences is predicated on the principle of open access to theories and results produced by other scholars. We staunchly seek to guard our peers’ intellectual property because that is the only way we can make sure that science as we know it survives. You are expected to participate fully in our efforts. In the event that a student is found cheating or plagiarizing, the student will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Acts of Cheating and Plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or any other assignment that was written by someone else (i.e. another student, a research service, a scholar, downloaded off the internet).
- Copying, verbatim, a sentence or a paragraph of text from the work of another author without properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style and using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing (i.e. restating in your own words) text written by another author without citing that author.
- Using an unique idea or concept which you discovered in a specific reading without citing the author.

Titles of Papers

Paper 1: Introduce the park that you have chosen as a case study. If at all possible, describe how it was promulgated, who drove this process and why, relating this to the general history of protected areas. In the light of the principles of park selection, describe the natural assets of the park. Assess its performing in conserving these assets both within the park, and in the larger landscape of which it is a part. (There are readings on performance assessment systems towards the end of the course.)

Paper 2: Assess how well the park is performing at an economic (societal) and financial (private) level.

Paper 3: Looking inward, how well is the park governed and managed? Looking outward, is the park politically and socially sustainable? Provide metrics to support your case.

Case Study: Bring the information that you have gathered in the previous essays together to provide a coherent assessment of the ecological, economic and socio-political performance and sustainability of the park.
Readings

General Texts

1. 27 August: Introduction and Expectations
Murphree, M.W. 2002 Protected Areas and the Commons, The Common Property Resource Digest, p1-3 plus comments from respondents

2. 3 September: Many Roads to Conservation
The purpose of these readings is to describe, generally, the ‘many roads to conservation’ and to expose you to well-articulated viewpoints from scholars and practitioners.
Roe, E. and Hollands, M. 2004 Protected Areas. How much is Enough? IIED

Other readings
Andrade 2003 Science and Society at the World Parks Congress, Conservation Biology, 19 (1) : 4-6
Bawa, K. 2004 Reconciling Conservation Paradigms, Conservation Biology, 18 (4) : 859-860
Read also the book review of Terbough’s “Requiem to Nature”

3. 9 September: History of Protected Areas
Pouliquen-Young, O. 1997 Evolution of the system of protected areas in Western Australia, Environmental Conservation 24 (2) : 168-181.
The book by Parker is probably the most insightful and honest assessment of parks in East Africa (but is difficult to get). Graham Child’s book describes one of the best crafted park and conservation programs in Africa, but is also difficult to get (you can borrow a copy from me, and there is one in the library).


4. 16 September: Natural Science, Resilience and Adaptive Management, and Monitoring

Biodiversity

Selection criteria for parks

5. 23 September: Economic Principles Useful for Conservationists

de Soto, Hernando The Mystery of Capital, 21st Annual Morgenthau Memorial Lecture on Ethics and Foreign Policy
Reed, T. 1999 The Function And Structure Of Protected Area Authorities Considerations for Financial and Organizational Management, Summer Internship Program World Bank 1999
Power, T., 2002 The Economic Foundation of Public Parks
Turpie, J., Lange, G-M, Martin, R. Davies, R., Barnes, J. 2004 Economic Value and Financing of Namibia’s Protected Areas. UNDP

Other
For a much quoted summary of PA finances, please read James, A, Green, M. and Paine J., 1999 A Global Review of Protected Areas Budget and Staff, World Conservation Monitoring Center

See also SASUSG Principles; Cullen; Kothari; Turner

6. 30 September: Effectiveness and Performance of Parks

How do we know if parks are effective? For what and for whom? See Bruner, and the responses by Vanclay and Rodrigues for an overview of the efficacy of protected areas, and a broader look at the institution of protected areas by Hayes. Mittermeier et al evaluate wilderness and empty lands for their biodiversity contribution. Pimm comments on the global value of protected areas. Cumming’s gives a regional assessment of park performance in southern Africa and broadens the scope of evaluation (see pdf in Lesson 1), while Cumming et al’s survey of park boundaries in Zimbabwe provides a fascinating insight into the real relationship between parks and biodiversity conservation – ask yourself if this park is successful or not. Wittemyer et al show that human populations are growing fastest on park borders – why, and what does this indicate? Hockings provides an overview of park assessment systems. You should familiarize yourself with the World Bank /WWF performance criteria (see also my comments).

Vanclay, J. 2001 The Effectiveness of Parks, Science 293 10 August 2001

See also:
Child, B. 2002 The Use of Resources by South African National Parks, Consultant’s Report and Recommendations Towards a Resource Use Policy (draft policy also attached)

7. 7 October: Politics and Park Management

Grindle and Thomas describe how bureaucracies work in developing countries, while North discusses the process of institutional change. Robbins talks about reality, parks and people landscapes. For an interesting political history of parks in Africa and Asia see Rangarajan.


For corruption see the series of articles and response by Ferraro, Smith, Walpole etc. on the CD.


If you have the time, and want the way you think about conservation changed, read the excellent book by Gibson Politicians and Poacher. Escobar is interesting on the political ecology and language of biodiversity conservation. Bates and Rudel provide a political ecology explanation for parks formation.


8. 14 October: Private Conservation

A good place to start understanding the emergence of private conservation is the special issue of Parks Vol 15 no 2 devoted to “Private Protected Areas. http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parks_15_2.pdf. I would also suggest that you read Bond’s chapter in Parks and Transition which tries to assess performance and risk of private conservation. Should you need an economic primer on the rationale for private conservation, ready Krug.

Recommended:

Parks Vol 15 no 2 “Private Protected Areas” http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parks_15_2.pdf


Optional:

Barnes, J. and B. Jones, Eds. ((draft)). Game ranching in Namibia.


9. 21 October: Community conservation and ICDPs

Parks Vol 16 no 1 “Community Conserved Areas” http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parks_16_1_forweb.pdf

(Murphree 2004)
(Wilshusen et al. 2002)
Da Cunha
Guha
Pinedo-Vasquez
Lane and McDonald (community participation in planning is complex)
Johnson & nelson (community conserved areas/forests in Mexico)

10. 28 October: Conserving Landscapes

11. 4 November: Park Planning and Participation

I have provided you with three well-known ‘standard’ texts on park planning: by Thomas & Middleton, Worboys et al and Lockwood et al (the latter two are versions of the same). Skim Thomas & Middleton, and carefully read and summarise one of the others. For interesting discussion on participation read Brody and Steele. I will give you a real life example of park planning – background is provided in “Lessons from Luangwa” . If you are interested in how participation adds value read Brody (participation in Florida) and Beierle (good paper on Great Lakes Region)

Thomas L. and Middleton 2003 Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas, WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 10. IUCN

Other
Jackson (IUCN’s take on the Logical Framework approach)
Lurie and Clark (how not to do participation)

12. 25 November: Managing Park Agencies
Peter Drucker provides valuable insights into the relationship between the structure and performance of service institutions, such as those dominating protected area management (i.e. both protected area agencies and NGOs). Reed’s unpublished manuscript is very well thought through and innovative. Also re-look at the World Bank WWF tracking tool.


13. Managing Parks in the Third World: A New Philosophy?

Southern Africa has been a crucible for conservation innovation – read the three articles by Graham Child, Marshall Murphree and Brian Child to get a feel for this emerging philosophy (you will find Child B and Murphree’s articles in Parks in Transition in folder 1). Also read Cernea and Schmidt-Soltai for a more complex view. You might also find a consultancy policy report I did for South African National Parks interesting.


14. 9 December: Wrap up

Other Interesting Papers