

Towards fairer protected areas

Kate Schreckenber, King's College London

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A collage of four extinct animals. The top-left image shows a rhinoceros head in profile. The top-right image shows the head of a woolly mammoth with its characteristic shaggy fur. The bottom-left image shows a dodo bird with its characteristic large, hooked beak and mottled feathers. The bottom-right image shows a tiger lying on the ground, looking towards the camera.

All declared
extinct in the last
5 years

Protected areas – cornerstone of efforts to conserve biodiversity

- Aichi biodiversity target 11 of the CBD: **17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas to be protected by 2020**
- Protected areas include **formal protected areas (IUCN categories 1 – 6)** and **other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)**, e.g. indigenous and locally managed reserves.
- Increasing concern about local **social impacts of PAs**: incorporating broad definitions of human wellbeing, equity and human rights.

Victoria Tauli Corpuz: UN Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous people



Report to the UN highlights concern about:

“the human rights violations that conservation measures have caused indigenous peoples worldwide, notably by the expropriation of land, forced displacement, denial of self-governance, lack of access to livelihoods and loss of culture and spiritual sites, non-recognition of their own authorities and denial of access to justice and reparation, including restitution and compensation” (Tauli Corpuz, 2016:6).

In a study of 34 PAs....

Biodiversity is declining,
poaching persists

Consistent neglect and some
outright violations of
rights

Creative

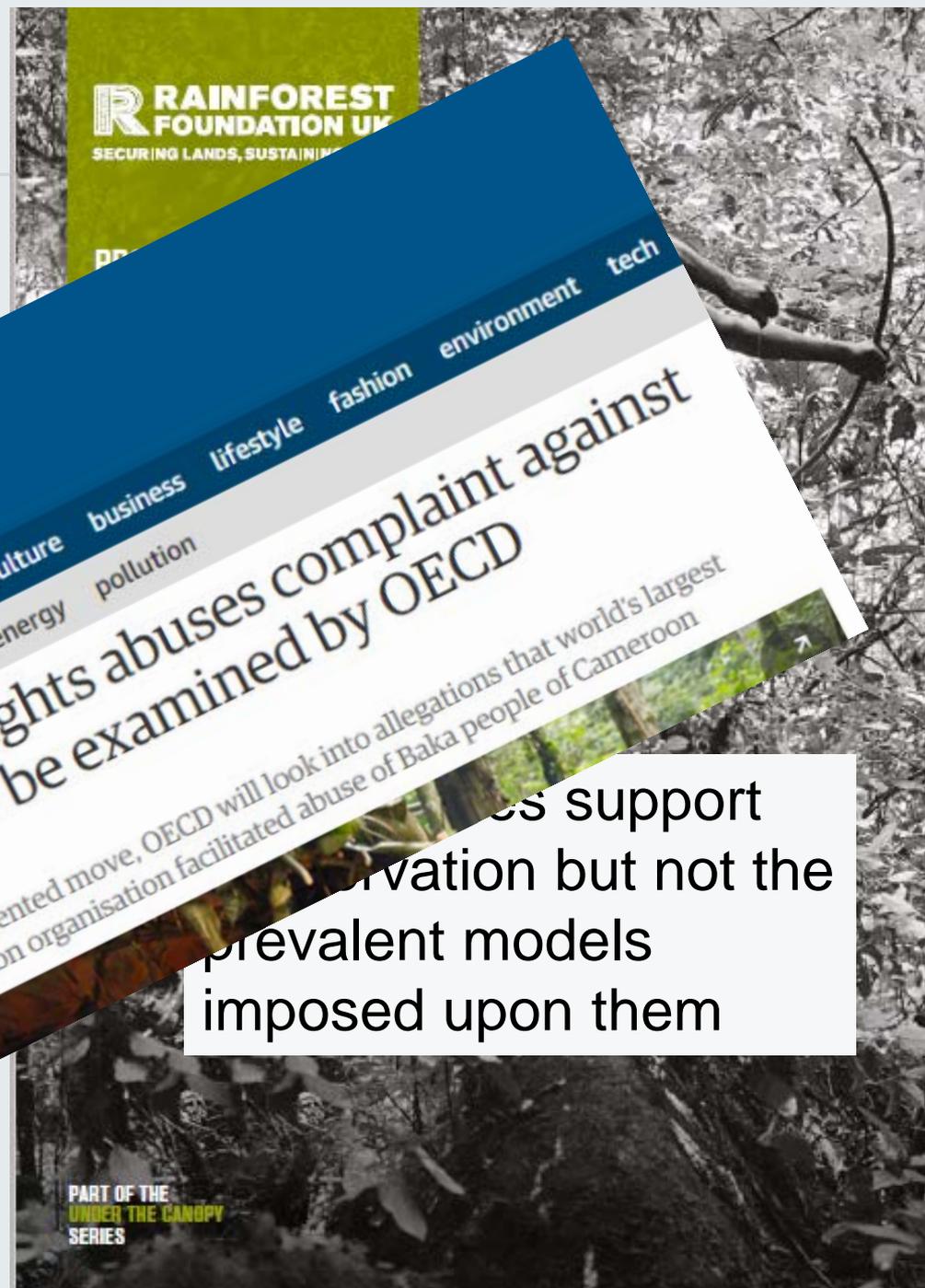
protection
dis

PAs

livelihoods
industries

Indigenous

disproportionately



... support
... but not the
prevalent models
imposed upon them

ESPA-IMPACTS project

Emily Woodhouse, Claire Bedelian, Paul Barnes, Neil Burgess, Neil Dawson, Nicole Gross-Camp, Julia Jones, Katherine Homewood, Adrian Martin, Elisa Morgera and Kate Schreckenberg

Aim: to explore evidence on commonly held assumptions about the relationship between poverty and protected areas.

Methods:

- **Common assumptions** about the relationship between ecological effectiveness and human wellbeing in protected area management identified from working group discussions, international conservation policy documents, and conservation NGO websites.
- **Review and synthesis** of evidence from 100 of the latest peer-review papers on the social outcomes of terrestrial and marine PAs.
- **25 expert interviews**

Methods

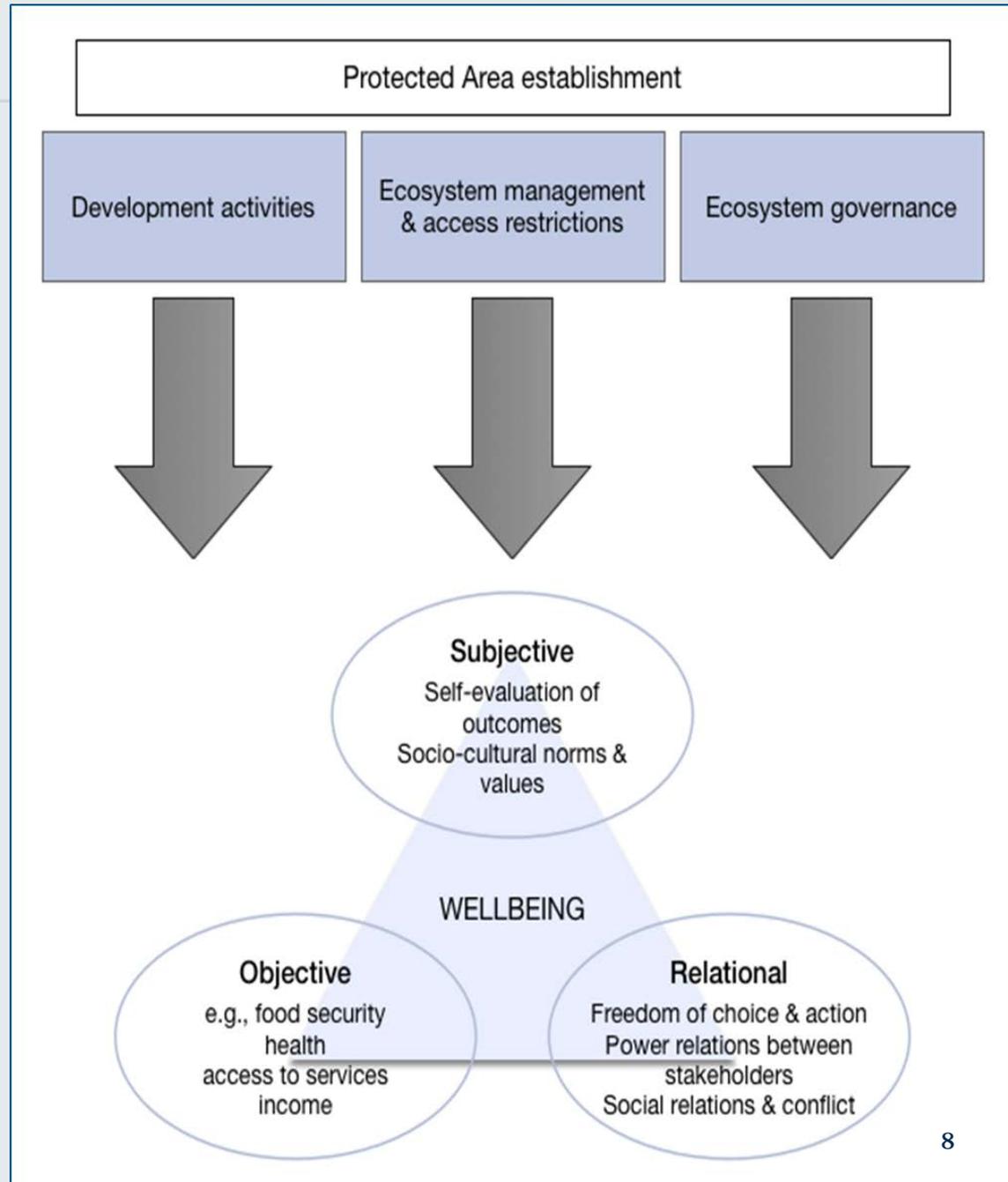
- **Common assumptions** about the relationship between ecological effectiveness and human wellbeing in protected area management identified from working group discussions, international conservation policy documents, and conservation NGO websites.
- **Review and synthesis** of evidence from 100 of the latest peer-review papers on the social outcomes of terrestrial and marine PAs.
- **25 expert interviews** with ESPA researchers and project partners, and other NGOs to capture direct experiences from the field.

How do protected areas impact wellbeing?

(Woodhouse *et al.*, 2018)

Social dimensions of conservation poorly conceptualised – focus on material definitions of poverty (income and assets)

Not appropriate for protected areas – often in remote, biodiverse areas where culture and nature are highly intertwined.



1: Because poor people are disproportionately dependent on ecosystem services, protected areas are a means to reduce poverty

- The evidence is mixed.
- PAs are only likely to help poor people if they can still access natural resources within the PAs
- The poor and the most marginalised tend to be most negatively affected by a PA
- Impacts on economic wellbeing and on sense of security, autonomy and social relations and cultural practices



2. As poor people are disproportionately dependent on ecosystem services, improving their material wellbeing will reduce pressure on PAs

- This assumption underpins many alternative livelihood projects
- But little evidence that increases in material wellbeing are reducing pressure on PAs
- The poor's high dependence on natural resources can limit their flexibility to engage in other activities
- Focus on the poor can miss the role of the wealthy in resource extraction



3. Unavoidable social costs of protected areas for poor people can be mitigated by providing appropriate compensation.

- The idea that benefits such as jobs and income can compensate for any losses is a bedrock of contemporary PA conservation, implemented, e.g. through PES, ICDPs and compensation for wildlife damage.
- Economic benefits are often important, but rarely sufficient.
- Compensation is not commensurate nor sufficient for loss of life, nor for a cultural loss.



4. Participation in protected area governance is a route to sustainable conservation

- Participation by affected communities can be linked to positive social and ecological outcomes, especially where there are adaptive, devolved governance or co-management approaches.
- But there are many constraints to full and effective participation
- Superficial or tokenistic participation will do little to overcome power asymmetries, and create little incentive to conserve PA resources.



5. Resource tenure underpins improved conservation outcomes (social and ecological) in and around protected areas

- Increasing recognition that securing and enforcing rights to land and natural resources can provide people with a stake in their long-term management.
- But evidence is mixed, with possible negative outcomes for the most marginalised (women, indigenous).



What is 'just' conservation?

(Martin, 2017)

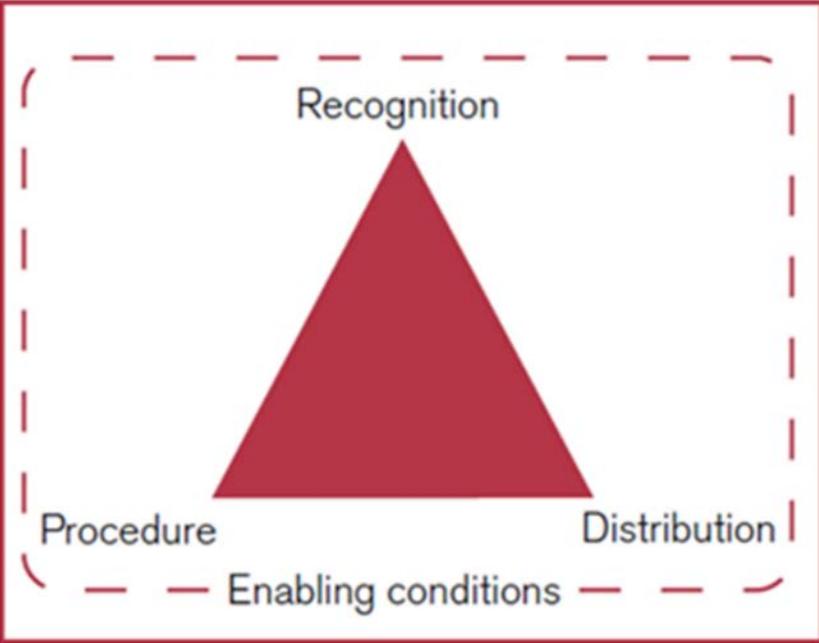
Aichi target 11 requires protected areas to be equitably managed

“Whilst much is said about the importance of equity and justice in relation to conservation, the capacity to research and monitor this aspect remains low.” (p164)

- Lack of political will
- Priority given to quantitative econometric and GIS research, rather than in-depth case study and contextual methods of enquiry
- No real consensus about what constitutes equitable or just conservation

Enhancing justice and equity in the context of protected areas

(Schreckenberget al., 2016)



Work with CBD on 'equity' aspect of Aichi target 11

- Working with GIZ and the CBD Secretariat to prepare:
 - Information document
 - Voluntary guidance document
- For distribution at SBSTTA 22



Understanding and assessing equity in protected area conservation

A matter of governance, rights, social impacts and human wellbeing

Phil Franks, Francesca Booker and Dilys Roe

Issue Paper

February 2018

Biodiversity; Governance

Keywords:
Equity, conservation, protected areas,
Social Assessment of Protected
Areas (SAPA), wellbeing

IUCN's Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

Certification scheme to improve quality of protected and conserved areas



IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas: User Manual, Version 1.0
The global standard for protected areas in the 21st Century



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In conclusion...

- Many underlying assumptions about how protected areas relate to poverty are not borne out by the evidence.
- More equitable and effective conservation outcomes can be achieved if PA managers:
 - recognise local rights and values
 - support inclusive participation
 - consider how costs and benefits are distributed among different stakeholders
- Various initiatives to support fairer protected areas:
 - IUCN Green List
 - CBD and national governments