



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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Convention on
Biological Diversity

PRINCIPAL AUTHOR

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TITLE PAGE PHOTO

Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Property, United Kingdom. The cliffs and coastline of this World Heritage property conserve globally significant geological and geomorphological features including fossil rich exposures of 185 million years of Earth's history for the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous.

Source: Graeme L. Worboys

Introduction

Protected areas are land and sea uses of great importance for life and a healthy environment on Earth, for the protection of heritage and for the direct and indirect benefits they provide for most peoples on Earth. They are inspirational and transformative destinations for millions of people worldwide every year. They have been established over 15.4 per cent of the Earth's terrestrial area (outside Antarctica) and 3.4 per cent of its marine area (IUCN and UNEP-WCMC 2014), and are supported by 193 parties (nations) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as other nations. Effectively managed protected areas conserve biodiversity; they are essential for conserving wild nature; they help to sustain ecosystem services such as clean water and clean air; and they are an important natural solution to climate change. In addition, they are of great social and cultural significance and help to conserve the rich cultural heritage and histories of many peoples. This book is about the effective governance and management of these important areas.

The conservation of natural and cultural heritage of protected areas is an intergenerational responsibility. Protected lands and seas are managed to be 'forever natural' and the responsibility is to pass on to the next generation the continued naturalness of protected areas. This is where natural evolutionary processes and dynamic nature continue with a minimum of human interference, where natural values are conserved and where non-natural threats are responded to. It is a responsibility shaped by a larger context of climate change. It is a societal context guided by the essential wellbeing needs of healthy environments on Earth, while the protection of the often rich cultural heritage of protected areas is a parallel and important responsibility.

The governance and management of protected areas need to be effective. People with protected area management responsibilities, whether they are from indigenous communities, private organisations or government-managed protected areas, need to be competent in undertaking their work. They have a stewardship responsibility in caring for lands and seas on behalf of future generations, as well as a guardian role, for their governance and management decisions may mean the difference between the presence and absence of habitats or even the life and death of species. Life on Earth is precious. A species at risk may have inhabited Earth for millions of years and cohabited with humans for the past 100 000 years. There may be no margin for error for critical protected area decisions, and protected area



Ranger patrolling a protected area, Altai Mountains, Russia

Source: Graeme L. Worboys

managers from communities, private protected areas and protected area agency staff (from field officers to the chief executive) need to know what they are doing, they need to be informed and they need to be competent.

The very purpose of this International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) compendium textbook dealing with protected area governance and management is to provide highly accessible and relevant information to underpin such competent, effective and professional management decisions for protected areas (see Box 1.1). It will also help many protected area stakeholders, researchers and interested people, but it is especially an investment in the professional development of current and future protected area managers. Importantly, when we speak of 'protected area managers' in this book, we specifically mean people who are actively working in protected areas in a range of different governance types including in Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), Private Protected Areas (PPAs), government-managed protected areas or other governance types (Stolton and Dudley 2010).

Box 1.1 A note from the editors

This book is about the governance and management of protected areas. It presents a compendium of original text, case studies and examples from across the world, by drawing on the literature, and on the knowledge and experience of those involved in protected areas. The book can be used as a reference text by protected area practitioners (including local communities) and professionals; in student teaching; for informing policy makers; and for wider public education. It is intended as an investment in the skills and competencies of people and consequently, the effective governance and management of protected areas for which they are responsible, now and into the future.

The book synthesises current knowledge and cutting-edge thinking from the diverse branches of practice and learning relevant to protected area governance and management. Each of the book's 27 subject chapters explores a specific component of protected area governance and management, from the pragmatism of managing operations to the subtleties and nuances around the role of protected areas in poverty alleviation and social justice. Although each chapter is presented as a stand-alone resource, every component of managing and governing a protected area affects others – as with ecosystems that protected areas aim to conserve, everything is connected.

The global success of the protected area concept lies in its shared vision to protect natural and cultural heritage for the long term, and organisations such as International Union for Conservation of Nature are a unifying force in this regard. Nonetheless, protected areas are a socio-political phenomenon and the ways that nations understand, govern and manage them is always open to contest and debate. There are different views about protected areas and their role in the protection and conservation of natural features and cultural values. This is healthy, and ensures that protected areas are continually evolving as a concept and improving in how they are governed and managed.

This book does not engage in debate about whether or not protected areas are a good thing; we begin from the position that they are. However, we have not attempted to harmonise chapter information or to present a single intellectual position. Indeed, some of the content does not always reflect the views of some or all of the editors, or the IUCN, but has been included as it constitutes legitimate points of view that will benefit readers' understanding of key topics.

A non-harmonisation approach also means there are variations in how some terms, such as 'landscape', have been used. Differences also occur between chapters about generic matters such as governance, because this reflects the experience and expertise of the chapter authors. Several chapters, for instance, have been written predominantly with large organisations in mind, including governments, NGOs and private bodies. Others are written from a Western science perspective while others make reference to more community-based approaches that employ traditional or local knowledge and/or governance structures. This adds to the richness of this book and ensures its broad application and use for all forms of protected area governance and management.

The book aims to enlighten, educate and above all to challenge readers to think deeply about protected areas—their future and their past, as well as their present. We hope readers will enjoy and benefit from the range of professional and experiential information that has been presented. We also hope readers will feel inspired to contribute to the future of one of the great intergenerational investments of humankind, that of protected areas.

This book has been prepared by the very best and most experienced protected area practitioners and experts from around the world. It is an integrated compilation and has been designed as a learning journey. The journey commences with introductory text on 'the concept and purpose of protected areas' and concludes with a 'management effectiveness evaluation' chapter (Figure 1.1). All steps are important, though compartmentalisation into 29 discrete chapters recognises each chapter as a stand-alone document as well as a critical and integrated part of a larger book. The 'chapter compartmentalisation' recognises a need by universities and other protected area training

organisations to use specific management topics for their curricula. It allows for 'cherry-picking' of chapters to suit situational training needs and training audiences at different levels of need. This 'compartmentalised and integrated' approach introduces important design elements to the book. Strong cross-referencing from within each chapter to the larger book is provided. There is also a deliberate reinforcement of some important information in more than one chapter, though there is always only one chapter location where the core subject text resides.

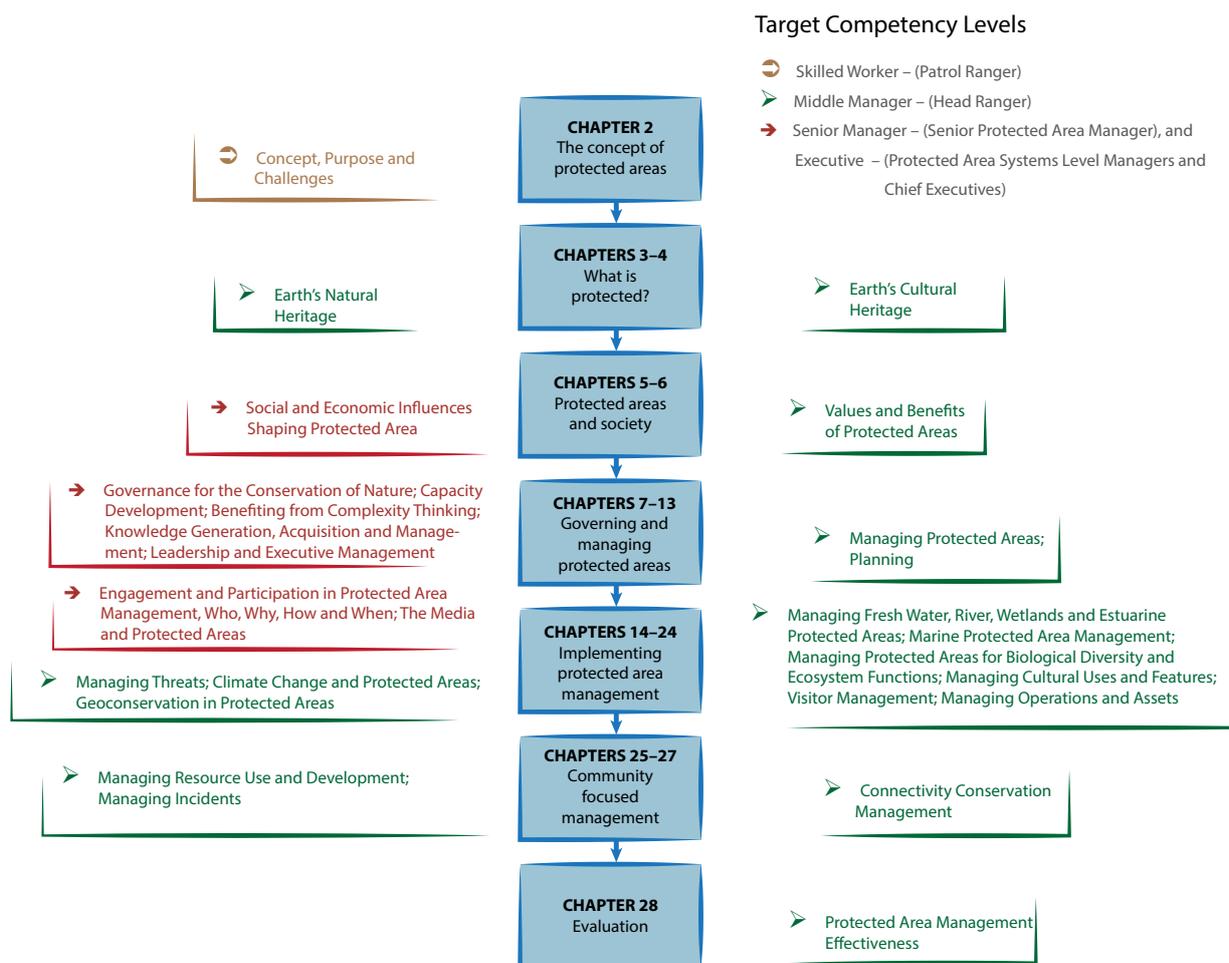


Figure 1.1 Structure and content of Protected Area Governance and Management book

There are different levels of competency training targeted and the book also establishes the opportunity for more than one learning journey. Most chapters target training information for middle and senior levels of protected area managers (Figure 1.1). Typically these chapters are presented as highly referenced and guideline-rich text with case studies and boxes that contain supplementary information. A selection of chapters at different competency target levels may be an approach preferred by readers or there may be a focus. The preferred learning journey for middle managers, for example, may focus on operational topics (Figure 1.2). Systems-level managers may, on the other hand, wish to focus more on subjects that provide a greater depth of theoretical guidance, the presentation of conceptual issues and exposure to the rich experience of global protected area leaders (Figure 1.3). This compendium text provides the opportunity for a range of different learning journeys that can be customised to suit situational capacity development needs.

For the entire book, the Protected Area Governance and Management learning journey commences with Chapter 2, with its introductory and context-setting information (Figure 1.1). This chapter describes the concept and purpose of protected areas and provides a definition for these areas. It also identifies that the IUCN recognises six protected area management categories and describes each of these. A resource list of the majority of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Area's management guidelines generated between 1976 and 2014 has been itemised in Chapter 2 to provide a valuable aid for readers seeking further protected area management guidance information.

'What is protected by a protected area' is addressed in Chapters 3 and 4. The special natural and cultural heritage values of Earth are described, albeit at an overview level. This information will help protected area practitioners to establish a context and to better appreciate the contribution that their individual protected area is making towards the conservation of the

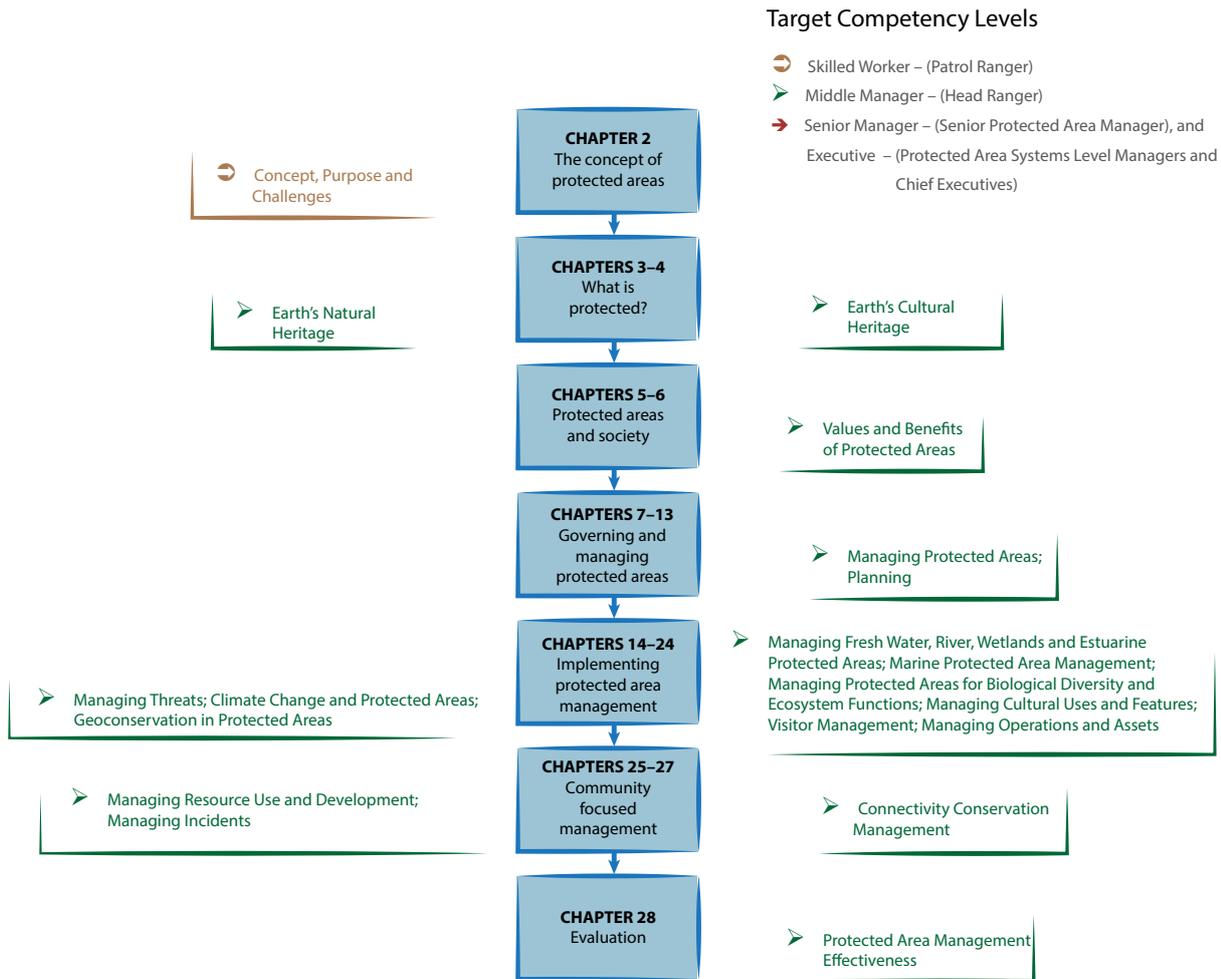


Figure 1.2 A learning journey for middle-level protected area managers focused on information underpinning practical and operational aspects

heritage of Earth. The natural heritage chapter presents ecoregions, hotspots, and Alliance for Zero Extinction and other special areas for biodiversity. For practitioners with responsibilities at the national and international levels, such as protected area systems managers and connectivity conservation managers, this contextual information is particularly important.

Protected areas are a concept of human society; they are supported by society and their status and management are guided and defined by societal influences. Understanding these influences further forms an important part of the protected area learning journey (Chapter 5). This guidance helps with the development of the situational context information needed by practitioners if they are to be effective. The benefits of protected areas are important and can be an integral part of how society views protected areas (Chapter 6). Understanding and communicating these benefits are important parts of securing pride in communities about reserves and their intergenerational role and status.

The next chapters (Chapters 7–13) are about getting organised, undertaking leadership and planning and preparing for well-informed management of protected areas. Implementation by trained staff is also fundamental. Once protected areas are established, they need to be actively and effectively governed and managed given the alternative could be a ‘paper park’ that is exploited for its plants, animals and other heritage values. This part of the book focuses on how protected areas are governed (Chapter 7) and managed (Chapter 8) and how they ensure that their staff have the right skills and competencies to undertake their work (Chapter 9). Often, the issues faced by protected area leaders and managers are complex, and approaches to dealing with complexity are described (Chapter 10) and timely, relevant and evidenced-based and other information is critical (Chapter 11). Additional inspirational guidance for future protected area leaders has been presented in the chapter dealing with leadership and executive

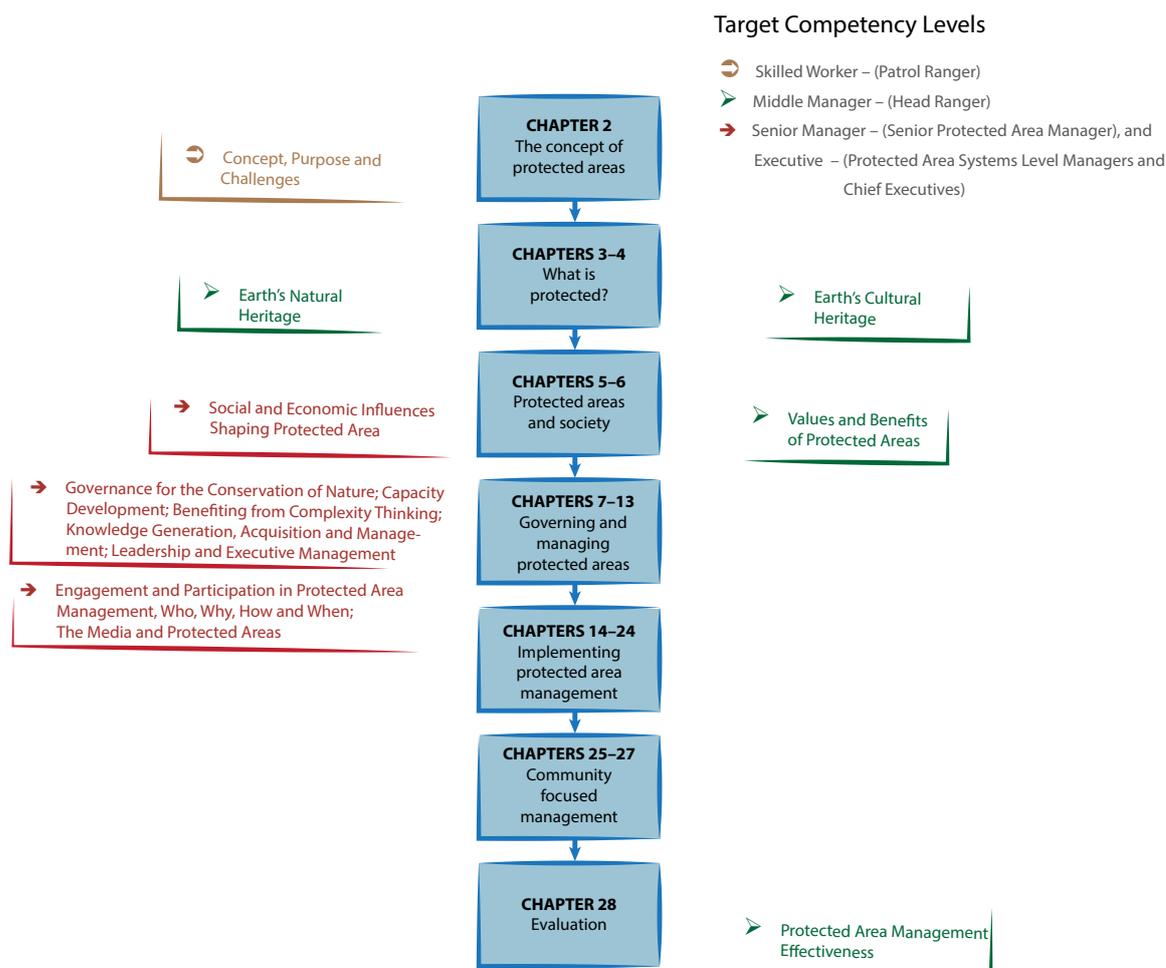


Figure 1.3 A learning journey for senior protected area managers focused on information that underpins protected area systems-level concepts and practice

management (Chapter 12). How managers undertake their planning to achieve improved futures is also presented (Chapter 13).

The ‘implementation’ chapters (Chapters 14–24) focus on active ‘on-ground’ and ‘on-water’ management. At this detailed implementation level, guidance is provided for protected area managers working with neighbours and key stakeholders, given protected areas are an integral part of society and of local communities (Chapter 14). Communicating messages and dealing with the media to provide important information (Chapter 15) form an important part of this role. Understanding and dealing with threats are high-priority tasks for protected areas (Chapter 16), especially the threat of climate change (Chapter 17). Managing for natural heritage requires specialist insights such as for geoheritage (Chapter 18); fresh water and wetlands (Chapter 19); marine protected areas including the high seas (Chapter 20); and biodiversity and ecosystem services (Chapter 21). For cultural heritage, we have focused on managing cultural uses and features (Chapter 22). Visitor use

and its management, including tourism, are dealt with (Chapter 23), and how to manage major works in protected areas and to keep track of protected area assets are described (Chapter 24).

Working with the community is a critical part of protected area governance and management and this may include communities living within some protected areas. The topics presented include resource use and development within some protected areas (Chapter 25); dealing with incidents that affect people and livelihoods, both inside and outside reserves (Chapter 26); and managing for connectivity conservation areas, which may interconnect and embed protected areas (Chapter 27).

Our learning journey finishes with the presentation of the chapter dealing with management effectiveness evaluation (Chapter 28). Management effectiveness helps to ensure that protected areas are in fact intergenerational. A conclusion with important insights from more than the two years of development of this compendium text is then presented (Chapter 29).



Visitors, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica

Source: Graeme L. Worboys

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