



Protected Areas: Are They Safeguarding Biodiversity? L. N. Joppa, J. E. M. Baillie and J. G. Robinson (eds). John Wiley, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK. 2016. 288 pages. Price: US\$ 70. ISBN 97811183-38162 (cloth). ISBN 9781118338155 (pbk.)

What is the impact of protected areas (PAs) on biodiversity conservation. Are they really effective globally or are just a gimmick? The answers to these questions can be found in this book, which is part of a series brought out by Wiley-Blackwell in association with the Zoological Society of London. The book has 14 chapters divided into 4 sections with the first section depicting the global scenario of PAs. The second section has three chapters which speak on the issue, i.e. status of the fauna in the PAs. It also addresses the impact of PAs on the population trends of species while critically commenting on the effectiveness of PAs. The third section with three chapters provides details about the management activities of PAs, with special reference to the US and Asian context. The final section is about monitoring activities in the PAs. The editors need to be commended for accumulating the works of several authors into a comprehensive book on wildlife management. This book is a good attempt in defining and detailing about the global protected area network (PAN). It provides valuable information to the readers on PA planning in the 21st century.

The first part discusses about the actual status of the PAs. The IUCN Protected Area Categories System is as follows: strict nature reserve, wilderness area, national park, species-area man-

agement, protected landscape and PA with sustainable use of natural resources. In chapter 2, this simple classification has been given a different face with more information. In my opinion, chapter 2 needs an apt title. The authors of the various chapters have to be appreciated for their efforts to compare the PA management in different countries. Chapter 1 details the development of the PAs starting from the 1968 Biosphere Conference which led to the implementation of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. L. Krueger of The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA, USA critically deploys figures to explain the expansion of PAs, globally. Chapters 1 and 2 possess content that the readers, especially policy makers will cherish. Climate change and biodiversity loss are the primary concern for scientists and policy makers. In the third chapter, MacKinnon provides a solution to the above-mentioned problems through a single approach.

On the whole chapters 1–3 explain the acceptance of the PA concept globally and the increase in area under PAs. This will lead us to the conception that our efforts will surely preserve the endangered and threatened species. This general conception gets it hit from chapter 4 titled 'Optimal protection of the world's threatened birds, mammals, and amphibians'. The debate between the landscape-based conservation and the species-based conservation concept has always existed. For instance, certain countries like India are adopting both these concepts, e.g. tiger reserves which are species-oriented and national parks that are landscape-oriented. This chapter provides answers to the aforesaid controversy. So finally what accounts for biodiversity conservation? The answers will come from a detailed analysis on the data globally. Chapter 5 exposes the lack of data availability as well as mismanagement of data pertaining to PAs.

Theme deliberated in chapter 4 is continued as a separate section delegating the outcome of PAs at the species level. If chapter 4 had preceded the second section, continuity of concept could have been maintained. Still, the case studies presented in chapters 6–8 analyse vulnerable areas in the notion of a PA. All the chapters in this section resemble the style of a scientific article. Chapter 6 projects the overall species population trend in PA, but chapter 7 specifically focuses on the effect of PAs on the

conservation of carnivores in Europe. The veracity of information in these chapters is difficult to explain in a few lines in this review.

The third section focuses on the managerial aspects in PAs. Nonetheless, the chapters mainly focus on the factors that critically influence the loss of biodiversity. For instance, a short paragraph on the negative impact of community management areas is an indication of depth in the context. The commercially high-value species (CHVs) are the key play-field where protection and enforcement are working. Chapter 11 discusses the role of PAs in the conservation of CHVs. Certain new concepts such as management of elephant range, criteria for effective conservation of CHVs, cost of conservation, etc. are unique. The book concludes with a section on monitoring of the PAs. Even though the popular use of camera traps for wildlife monitoring and significance of the need for monitoring are detailed here, the unknown perspectives in these areas add value to the book. The final chapter on the use of space technological tools for monitoring is impressive. However, the writing style of the book seems a little different especially for non-native speakers of the English language. Overall, the book enlightens readers on the PA concept. A book of this sort should be on the reading list of wildlife and forestry enthusiasts and students.

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