

PEOPLE, PROTECTED AREAS AND GLOBAL CHANGE PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATION IN LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE

Co-edited by Marc Galvin and Tobias Haller



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As an important contribution to existing literature on protected areas, as well as the political ecology of natural resource management and conservation, this book provides a timely analysis of “participatory” protected area governance and management, examining this “new paradigm” in protected area approaches that offers alternatives to the fortress conservation approaches which have so often proved environmentally ineffective, socially disastrous, and morally questionable. The editors, Marc Galvin and Tobias Haller, have explored how the participatory approach to conservation evolved in specific settings and who profits from the new approach. Drawing on the findings of thirteen research groups working in diverse regions of the global South as well as in Switzerland, the book offers a set of coordinated case studies, attentive to historical, geographical, political, social, and economic contexts and dynamics.

People, Protected Areas, and Global Change distinguishes itself by the degree to which a number of the case studies bring a critical perspective of postmodernism and poststructural political ecology to shed light on the on-the-ground dynamics of protected area governance. These case studies are attentive to multi-actor interactions and political dynamics; multiple and often conflicting ideologies, discourses, environmental narratives; disparities between policy, rhetoric and conditions; and benefits to local actors from protected area establishment and governance. Together with the insightful introductory and concluding analyses by the book’s editors, the case studies provide theoretically-informed and in-depth analysis of a diverse set of participatory protected areas that highlights governance dynamics and examines how often multiple, conflicting actors articulate discourses in efforts to establish legitimacy and pursue protected area governance power, as well as political and economic benefits. These discourses are typically linked to specific environmental narratives and are embedded in larger ideologies of human-nature relationships, conservation and development, identity, territoriality, and sovereignty.

Ultimately, this book provides valuable insights that should be of great interest to academics, activists, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organisations concerned with the globalisation of conservation and with social justice, as well as promoting protected areas to achieve more effective environmental and cultural landscape conservation.

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