

STRATEGIES AND POLICIES TO UNLOCK DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS IN NATURE PROTECTED AREAS



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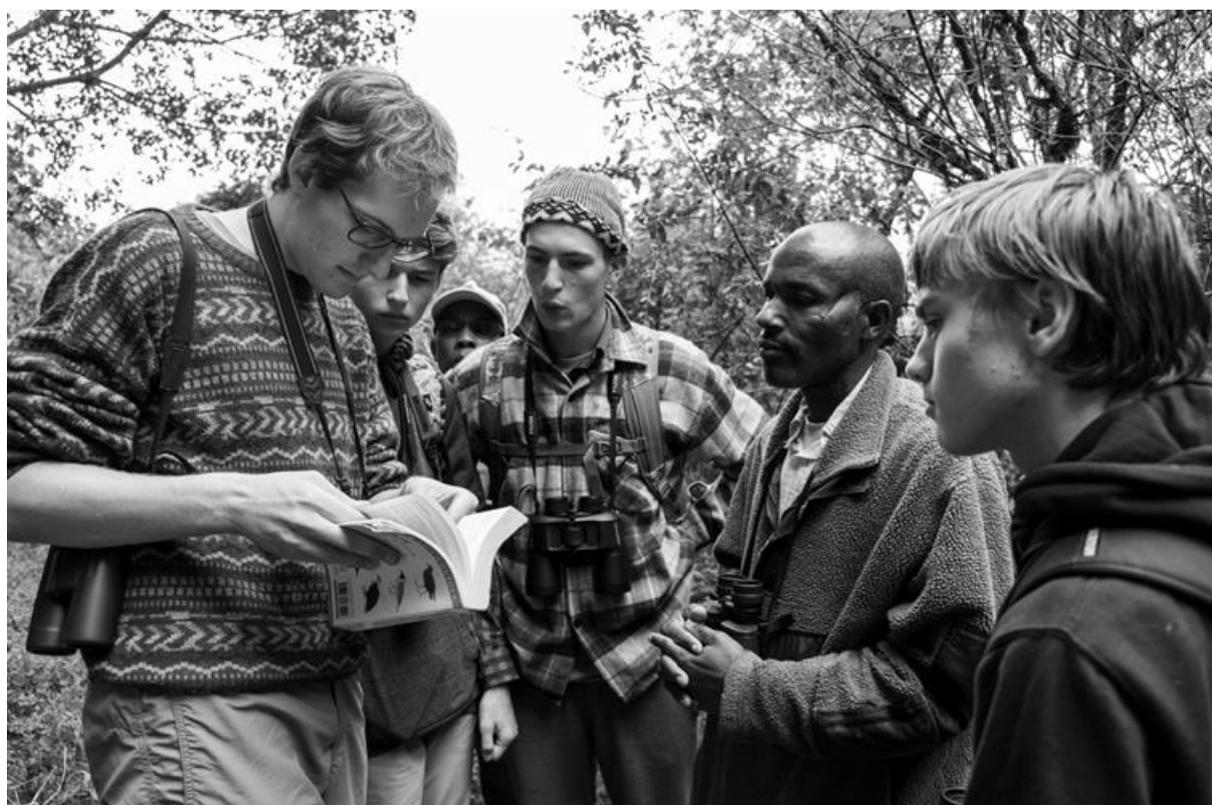


Photo: Tilen Basle

The guide of Interventions, strategies and policies to unlock human development potentials in nature protected areas with the set of international testing Indicators.

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The guide of Interventions, strategies and policies to unlock human development potentials in nature protected areas with the set of international testing Indicators.

CHAPTER 1 - THE QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN NATURE PROTECTED AREAS

The quality of employment in protected areas was defined according to:

1. Payment quality, including the amount of payment and the distribution of the payment.
2. Sustainability of employment (seasonal, occasional, permanent) and the level of public unemployment insurance (coverage of unemployment benefits and their amount).
3. The quality of the working environment, covering the non-economic aspect - the nature and content of the work, the organization of working time and workplace relations.

From the group of work options listed above, we formed the following groups of employees in nature protected areas.

1. Group

Well-paid, demanding jobs that are permanent and characterized by complex, demanding obligations where individuals are autonomous in their work and can decide on the methods of their work by themselves. At the same time, they should have good opportunities for education and training as well as for promotion. In this category, we see the entire network of guides/rangers and the leading management as well as the monitoring service of protected areas. These jobs are suitable for higher education staff who also have special knowledge related to nature conservation and public services (doctors, teachers, lawyers, environmentalists, engineers,...)

2. Group

Smooth current jobs, characterized by lower intensity of work and high quality of working time (administrative part, document management, information and communication management, registration of tourists, etc., and all jobs related to service activities supporting the normal life of the local people (health, education, social security, etc.).

3. Group

Physically active jobs characterized by risk in the physical environment (noise, temperature, the danger of movement in the natural environment). This category includes seasonal services in mountain pastures, forest management, maintenance of mountain/hiking trails and other maintenance work in the protected area, as well as part of the catering business. The quality of working time is average, although often shift work and also atypical work, the level of wages must be comparable to less demanding tasks in the second group.

4. Group

Less demanding jobs characterized by low payment, fewer career prospects and a lower degree of decision-making autonomy. All (periodic/seasonal) maintenance work and care for order and cleanliness may be included in this category. The services can be seasonal or regular.

On this basis, we first set the measures and later on the impact(s) and indicators that could contribute to improving the demographic picture in nature protected areas and contribute to a more sustainable economic and social development of these areas.

In Chapter two measures and impact followed by indicators were identified in order to make nature protected area more appealing to young educated people. Altogether, seven key measurements were defined and 60 indicators.

Chapter Three is a list of commonly recognized threats to biodiversity considered relevant to protected areas expressed in indicators.

CHAPTER 2 – MEASURES, IMPACTS AND INDICATORS

1. Measure: Real estate for which the pre-emptive right of the state/municipality has been exercised and is intended for renovation or new construction for young families.

Impact → Reduction of the aging index and increase in the number of young families in the area.

Possible indicators are:

- Area of purchased grassland / pasture / forest.
- The number of dwellings for young families.
- The number of buildings registered as immovable cultural heritage (possibility to obtain subsidies for their reconstruction and development).
- The number of cultural/natural heritage units.
- The number of renovations and new buildings.
- The number of recipients of incentives for the restoration of cultural/natural heritage.
- The number of new buildings for young families.

2. Measure: The area of agricultural/forest/wild land in the protected area.

Impact → Restoration of pasture and traditional use of agricultural land and increase of the self-sustaining capacity of the area.

Possible indicators are:

- The area of total land with agricultural (by actual use).
- The area of total forest used (by actual use).
- The area of agricultural land growing with forest trees.
- The percentage of land in active agricultural use on which organic farming is carried out.
- The percentage of agricultural land with subsidies.
- The percentage of grassland area with established contract/protection measures.
- The percentage of wild land without any economic use.

3. Measure: Entrepreneurship potential assessment

Impact → Potential of self –employing.

Possible indicators are:

- The number of farms with registered complementary activities.
- The number of farms with registered food productions.
- The number of certified producers of protected products of natural origin.

- Quantity of products of natural origin.
- The number of companies or entrepreneurs.
- The number of shops, kindergartens, schools, health institutions and guest houses that uses food products of local origin.
- The number of self-employed in service activities outside agriculture.
- The number of employees in service activities outside agriculture.
- The number of employees in public institutions.
- The number of employees in private institutions.
- Net disbursements for work performed compared to the average in country (for comparable activities).

4. Measure: **The regulation of public infrastructure and the availability of public services.**

Impact → Better opportunities for local people and their development.

Possible indicators are:

- The number of service activities which are necessary to improve the quality of life of the local population.
- The number of employees for an indefinite period.
- The level of education obtained for employees for an indefinite period.
- The level of education obtained for employees for a definite period.
- The number of young people (18-30 years) without employment.
- The number of young people (18-30 years old) without their own living space.
- The number of young couples (over 30 years old) who do not have children.
- The percentage of adequately purified wastewater in relation to a total load of inhabitants with regulated discharge and treatment of wastewater.
- The number of settlements without access to the broadband network.
- The number of people with accessibility of public transport.
- The number of educational institutions.
- The number of public service providers.
- The number of health institutions (health centres, hospitals, pharmacies).
- 24 h availability of emergency medical services.

5. Measure: **Programs to increase the involvement of local people in lifelong learning and better employability**

Impact → Care for better employability and better communication with local people.

Possible indicators are:

- The total number of Youth (up to 30 years) in new/all programs
- The total number of programs for Youth.
- The number of Youth employees in group of job classified in first Chapter form 1 – 4.
- The number of program implementations.
- The number of meetings with residents of the protected area community.
- The number of initiatives taken by the local community.

6. Measure: Tourism development and the provision of services for visiting the protected areas.

Impact → Better quality of nature interpretation and the importance of human activity for its preservation.

Possible indicators are:

- The number of tourist programs tailored for smaller groups of visitors (up to 16 people).
- The number of overnight stays.
- The number of overnight stays of 3 or more days.
- The number of daily guests.
- The number of young visitors by group (kindergarten, primary school, secondary school, tertiary education).
- The number of certified guides across the nature protected areas (pedagogical network).
- The number of completed or new tourist programs per year.
- The number of innovative programs for demanding groups of guests (scientists, teacher education, kids (people) for special needs, and employees in nature protected areas).
- The number of information points, including info centres.
- The improvements of nature conservation park infrastructure for public access, guidance, information.
- The number of surveys in which nature protected areas is included.
- The number of researchers who are regularly employed in nature protected areas.
- Percentage of nature protected area accessible only under special conditions (eg for monitoring and research purposes).

7. Measure: Implementation of public service tasks of direct control and tasks of hunting guard service.

Impact → Increasing the number of higher educated staff in nature protected areas sites in order to preserve biotic diversity.

Possible indicators are:

- The number of hours of field supervisors (direct control).
- The number of hours of field supervisors (nature conservation tasks).
- The number of hours of field supervisors (awareness raising tasks).
 - o The number of hours of field supervisors (management of the Natura 2000 site).

CHAPTER 3 - A LIST OF COMMONLY RECOGNIZED THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY THAT ARE CONSIDERED RELEVANT TO PROTECTED AREAS

The chapter is adopted from: Ervin, J., K. J. Mulongoy, K. Lawrence, E. Game, D. Sheppard, P. Bridgewater, G. Bennett, S.B. Gidda and P. Bos. 2010. Making Protected Areas Relevant: A guide to integrating protected areas into wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies. CBD Technical Series No. 44. Montreal, Canada: Convention on Biological Diversity, p. 80-82.

In this project we realised that opportunities sometimes presents also threats to biodiversity. Therefore, for the following identified threats indicators (measures) are necessary as well.

1. Urbanization and development

This sector includes residential development (including cities, towns, and settlements) and/or commercial development (stores, factories, warehouses, commercial centers). Possible indicators include:

- There are appropriate land use policies in place.
- Buffer zones are designated and effectively enforced.

2. Transportation

This sector includes long and generally narrow corridors and the vehicles that use them, including roads and railroads, utility and service lines, shipping lanes and flight paths. Possible indicators include:

- Transportation agencies include considerations of connectivity when assessing options for building new roads.
- There are measures in place (e.g., wildlife overpasses and underpasses) to mitigate critical wildlife crossing areas.

3. Energy

This sector includes the exploration and production (including related infrastructure) of energy resources, including oil and gas drilling, mining and quarrying of minerals, coal and other materials, and the utilization of hydro-electricity, wind power, tidal power, and solar power, among others. Possible indicators include:

- There are clear policies regarding the exploration and mining of oil, gas and minerals within protected areas.
- There are measures to mitigate the impact of energy exploration and utilization across the landscape, such as biodiversity offsets.

4. Tourism

This sector includes policies, practices and related infrastructure (such as huts, lodges, hotels, trails) associated with recreation and tourism, including golf, skiing, hiking, camping, snorkelling, and boating among many other forms of recreation. Possible indicators include:

- The siting of tourism infrastructure (e.g., trails, ski areas, lodges) does not conflict with areas of key importance for connectivity.
- Members of the eco-tourism industry (e.g., hotel managers, guides) understand issues related to connectivity.

5. Wildlife

This sector includes consumptive uses of wild plants and animals, including animal hunting and trapping and plant collection. This includes policies, as well as both legal and illegal practices. Possible indicators include wildlife management agencies incorporate focal species in their management policies, particularly issues related to connectivity.

6. Agriculture and grazing

This sector includes activities related to the cultivation of annual and perennial crops, and livestock grazing. Possible indicators include:

- Farms and ranches include areas of natural vegetation as corridors when and where appropriate.
- Efforts are made to contain the spread of disease from livestock through wildlife corridors and to protected areas.

7. Forestry and agro-forestry

This sector includes the management of forested lands for timber and non-timber forest products, the establishment and management of plantations and lands managed for agro-forestry. This sector also includes illegal logging, as well as fire management practices and policies within forests.

Possible indicators include:

- Fire management policies and practices are compatible with connectivity goals and protected area management objectives.
- Forest harvesting policies and practices are compatible with connectivity goals and protected area management objectives.
- Enforcement of illegal logging is especially strong in areas of high conservation value, and in areas critical for connectivity.

8. Fisheries and aquaculture

This sector includes activities related to deep sea, near-shore and in-land fishing, and the cultivation of fish and other aquatic species through aquaculture. Possible indicators include:

- Aquaculture practices, including the location and management of facilities, do not negatively impact key species within protected areas or corridors.
- Fishing policies are compatible with protected area objectives and the goals of connectivity.

9. Freshwater resources management

This sector includes the suite of laws, policies and actions associated with rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and other freshwater bodies. Included in this sector are dam construction, water flow management, and allocation of water resources. Possible indicators include:

- Rivers, streams and other freshwater bodies are managed to maintain connectivity for key freshwater species (e.g., fish ladders) and related processes (e.g., flooding processes)
- The damming, diversion and allocation of water resources ensures connectivity for focal aquatic species and habitats

10. Waste management

This sector includes the laws, policies and practices related to waste generation and disposal from other sectors, including solid waste from municipalities, industrial waste from industrial centers, and other forms of waste and pollution. Possible indicators include:

- The siting and configuration of waste management areas (e.g., sewage treatments, landfills) does not conflict with key connectivity areas.
- Illegal dumping is controlled in sites of high conservation value.

11. Invasive species management

This aspect of policy environment relates to policies and practices related to the management of invasive plants and animals across many sectors (e.g., forestry, agriculture, tourism). Possible indicators include:

- National policies for invasive species explicitly recognize the inherent vulnerability of protected areas to invasive species, and the potential risks of corridors as a pathway for invasive species.
- Efforts to eradicate and control invasive species focus on areas of high risk and vulnerability that could affect the ecological network.

12. Climate change

This aspect of policy environment relates to the national policies and practices that relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. Possible indicators include:

- National climate change adaptation plans and policies include measures to ensure connectivity for focal species across north-south gradients and altitudinal gradients.
- Protected areas and corridors incorporate shifts in species ranges based on reasonable climate change predictions.

13. Legal and judiciary environment

This aspect of policy environment includes not only local and national-level law enforcement, but also the court systems through which laws are upheld, from prosecution through to sentencing. Possible indicators include:

- Law enforcement policies and practices are sufficient for the establishment, management and long-term security of protected areas and corridors

- The judiciary system is sufficient for deterring and adequately addressing illegal activities that adversely affect the protected area system and corridors.

14. Inter-sectoral communication, commitment and coordination

This aspect of policy environment relates to the degree to which agencies and sectors communicate and develop coordinated natural resource plans, including those related to the formation of an integrated land/seascape. Possible indicators include:

- The level of communication and coordination between key agencies and natural resource sectors is sufficient to allow for the full range of activities needed to integrate protected areas into the wider landscape, seascape and related sectors.
- The level of governmental commitment is sufficient to ensure long-term success of protected area integration efforts.