

Functional Networks of Protected Areas (Islands, Corridors and Buffer Zones)

Project Proposal for Interreg III B CadSES

Overview

Protected areas inherently are good possibilities to protect nature, to develop regions and to educate people. However, to prepare protected areas for the future they “need to expand in size, concept, number of partners involved, in vision (from island to a system) and to connect to each other, wider landscape, society and economy, other countries” (STOLTON S. / DUDLEY N., 1999).

So, on the one hand, protected area management should integrate the spatial, socio-cultural and the economic dimension like described in the ongoing IPAM (Integrative Protected Area Management) project (see www.ipam.info). On the other hand, the planning of protected areas should consider the island biogeography according to PRIMACK (1995).

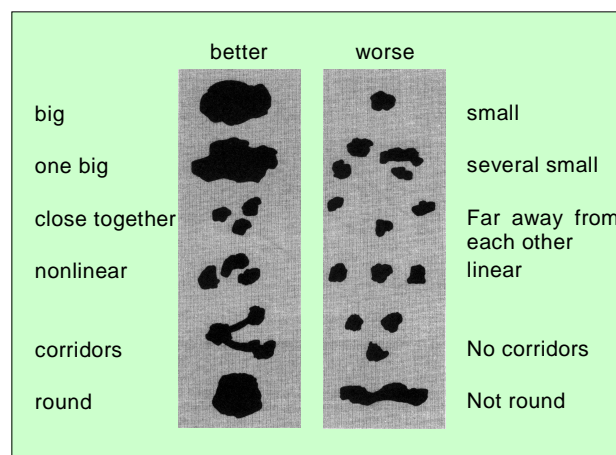


Fig. 1: Island biogeography as basis of the planning of protected areas.

Source: PRIMACK (1995), modified.

For improving the effectiveness of protected areas they could be linked together with corridors, combined to a system or banded together in networks. These “alliances” demand specific management instruments for protected area networks which should be elaborated within this project.

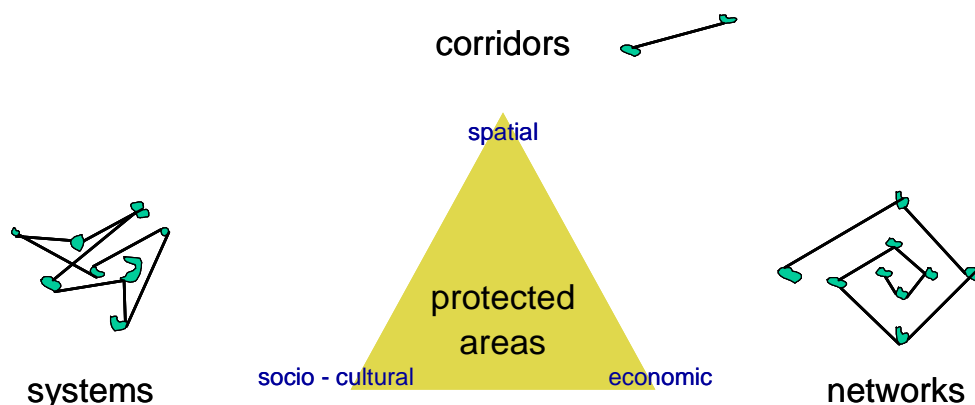


Fig. 2: Functional networks of protected areas.

The project will address the topics:

- ♦ increasing importance of single protected areas by the effects of networking
- ♦ functions of different protected area categories, categories in spaces, gradual conservation intensities
- ♦ overlap of protected areas: multi-categorial sites
- ♦ improvement of planning, developing and evaluating functional protected area networks
- ♦ micro- and macro-economics of functional protected area networks
- ♦ socio-cultural aspects of functional protected area networks

Objectives

- ♦ Analysis of different methods of protected area systems and their instruments
- ♦ Qualitative improvement of the management of protected area systems, networks, and ecological corridors
- ♦ Implementation in selected pilot actions
- ♦ Exchange of experience
- ♦ Pan-European networking

Structure and Procedure

The proposal will be submitted within the next call of INTERREG III B Cadres under the Priority III (Promotion and management of landscape, natural and cultural heritage), Measure 3.2 (Protecting and developing natural heritage) which will be open presumably from November 2004. The planned project duration is 30 months.

Structure of the project:

- ♦ Project management and communication
- ♦ International results: a guide for linking protected areas
- ♦ Pilot actions: practical examples for the implementation of functional protected area networks in different regions

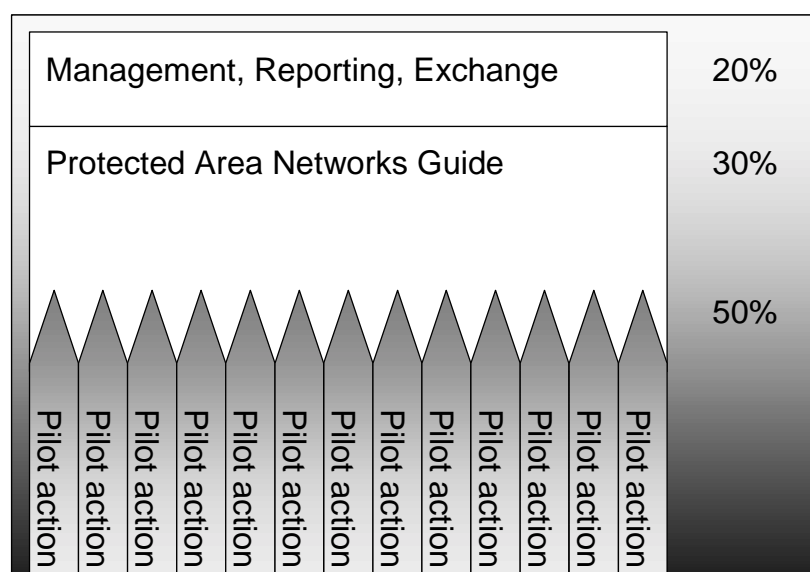


Fig. 3: Project structure

The preparation of the project proposal has started in August 2004 and consists of the following steps:

- ♦ Preparation of the detailed content, the organisational and financial framework (October 2004)
- ♦ Partner search and partner workshop (November 2004)
- ♦ Preparation of the project application and submission (December 2004)

We are searching for partners which want to implement pilot actions of the above mentioned topics with a volume from 50.000 Euros.

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