

„Societal research perspectives on protected areas in Europe: priorities for future research“

Ingo Mose

Applied Geography and Environmental

Planning Research Group

ZENARiO – Center for Sustainable

Spatial Development



5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas

Hohe Tauern National Park, Mittersill, Austria

Workshop: „How compatible are protected area´s and society´s expectations of conservation?“

Monday, 10 June 2013

My personal background

- Professor in Applied Geography and Environmental Planning
- Director of ZENARiO Research Center
- Speaker of German Rural Geographers Working Group
- Several visiting professorships abroad (e.g. Vienna, Stockholm, London)
- Regular research in protected areas in the Alps and beyond
- Member of NeReGro network:
T. Hammer (CH), D. Siegrist (CH), N. Weixlbaumer (A)



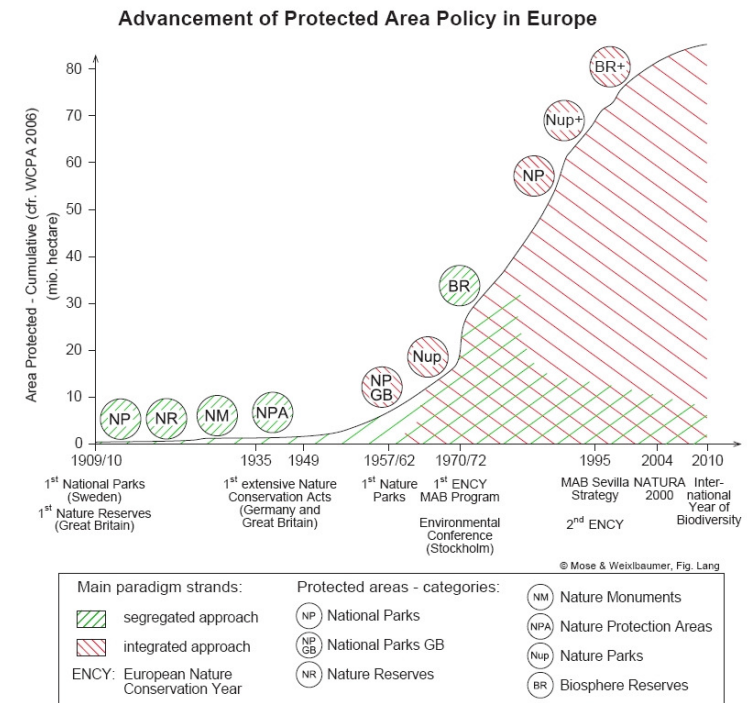
Agenda

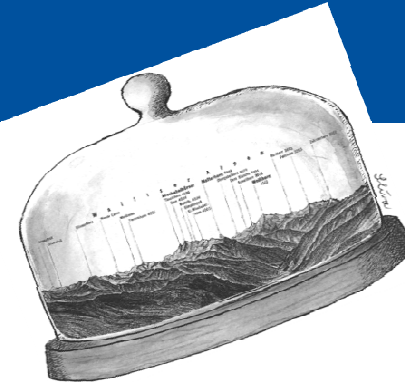
- Protected areas in the view of the paradigm change
- The Chartreuse International Workshop 2012
- The workshop findings
- Conclusion



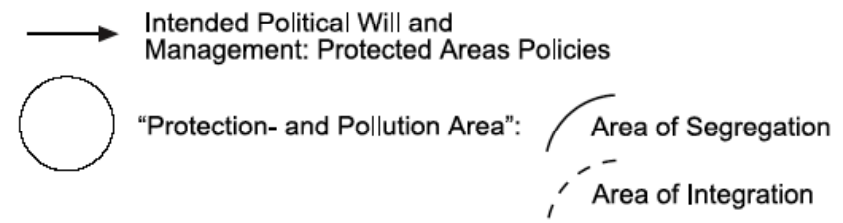
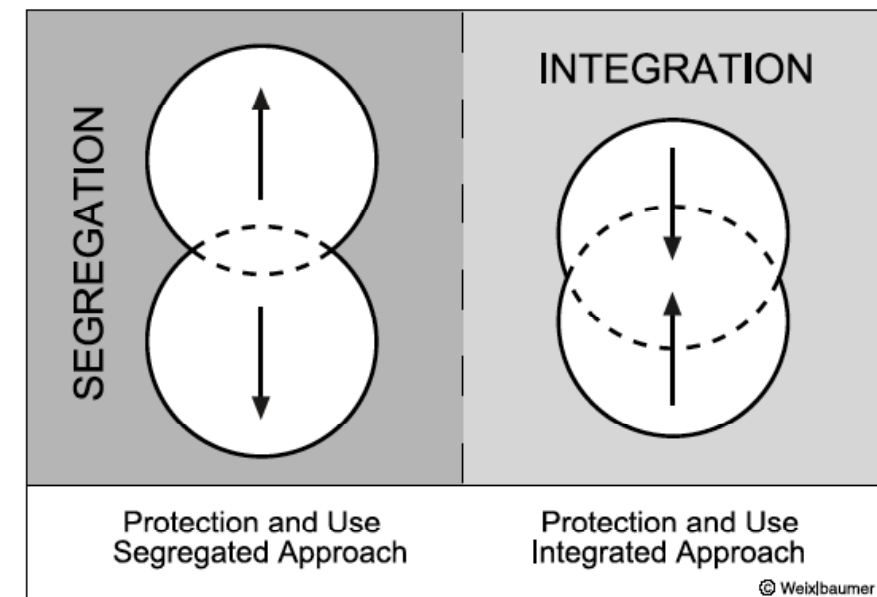
1. Protected areas in the view of the paradigm change

- Nature protection among most outstanding societal values across Europe
- Since first designation of PAs significant increase in number and area
- Dominant role of IUCN category V across Europe: „protected land-/seascape“
- Major focus on „interaction between people and nature“ (working landscapes)





- Growing number of dynamic PAs indicates obvious change (or extension) of paradigm
- Weixlbaumer (2005): two basic principles of area protection
- Accordingly, model of „cheese cover“ losing its former dominance
- Eventually, dynamic PAs are facing more and more societal challenges



2. The Chartreuse International Workshop

“Protected areas as tools for regional development –
Perspectives for research and management”

13 - 15 October, 2011 - Saint-Pierre-de-Chartreuse, France



NeReGro



- ISCAR: International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research
- ALPARC: Network for Alpine Protected Areas
- NeReGro: Network Regional Development and Protected Areas
- Parc naturel régional de Chartreuse

Societal research perspectives on protected areas in Europe

Thomas Hammer, Ingo Mose, Thomas Scheurer, Dominik Siegrist & Norbert Weixlbaumer

Keywords: protected area research, societal research, regional change, regional development

Abstract

Managed large protected areas today are faced with tasks that go beyond conservation and landscape protection, especially societal demands for regional development and an active role in shaping the future. This means that protected areas research needs to focus more on the involvement of protected areas in shaping the future of their regions. Analysing the results of a European expert workshop, the authors have identified six priority areas for research: first, the material and immaterial benefits of protected areas; second, tourism and recreation; third, innovations in regional economy geared towards conservation and landscape protection goals; fourth, images and regional identities; fifth, handling regional and global change, and sixth, participation and governance. What this means for protected areas research is a strong orientation on interdisciplinarity, more comparative analyses and greater involvement in transdisciplinary networks at the interface of research and practice.

Introduction

Today in Europe, and as a result of a process going back decades, managed large protected areas, such as national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks (referred to as PAs below) are instruments of regional development (Mose 2007). This process manifested itself first in France, in the late 1960s, when the first integrative regional nature parks were set up within the framework of promoting rural regions. Depending on conservation category, the initial focus of PAs was on ecosystem protection, research and education as well as on recreation for locals and on tourism. Not until much later was the objective of sustainable regional



Researchers, PA managers and representatives of PA networks met in St-Pierre de Chartreuse, France, from 13–15 October 2011, for an international workshop.

© ALPARC

3. The workshop findings

1

**Material and
immaterial services
of protected areas**

2

**Tourism
and recreation**

6

**Participation
and
governance**

**Major
research
fields**

3

**Innovation in the
regional economy**
in accordance to the objectives in
nature and landscape protection

5

**Handling
regional and global
change**

4

**Images
and regional
identities**

4

Images and regional identities

Possible research issues:

- Perception of landscapes as a prerequisite for PA planning
- Acceptance of PAs among population and stakeholders
- Regional identity building in the context of PAs
- Interdependence of regional identities and regional (economic) development in PAs



Landscape resp. cheesescape of Großes Walsertal

**Norbert Weixlbaumer: Walser's pride –
A mountain cheese as part of regional identity and
regional development in the Biosphere Reserve
Großes Walsertal, Austria**



**Biosphärenpark
Großes Walsertal**

6

Participation and governance

Possible research issues:

- Stakeholder analysis in PAs
- Systematic forms of stakeholder involvement and participatory planning in PAs
- Characteristic functions of multi-level governance in PAs
- Implementation of suitable management structures in PAs



Scenario based visions for the future of the National Park region



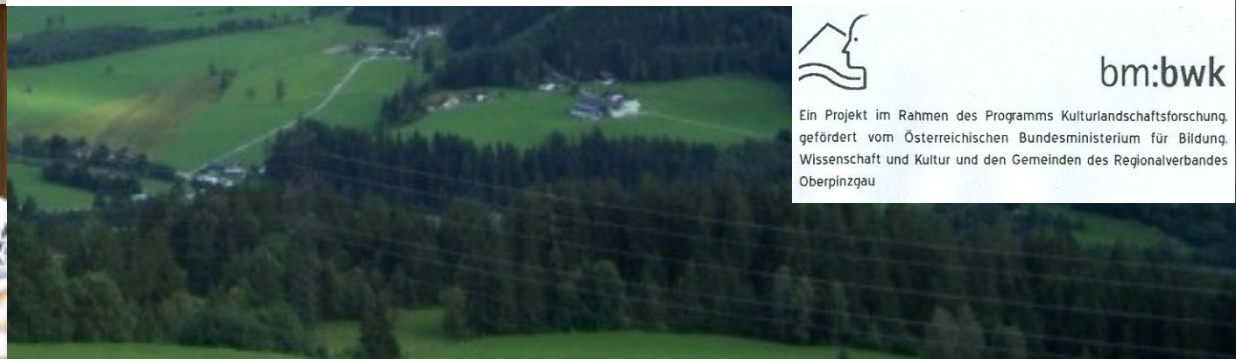
LEBEN 2014

Perspektiven der Regionalentwicklung in der Nationalparkregion Hohe Tauern/Oberpinzgau



bm:bwk

Ein Projekt im Rahmen des Programms Kulturlandschaftsforschung, gefördert vom Österreichischen Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur und den Gemeinden des Regionalverbandes Oberpinzgau



4. Conclusion

- Far-reaching consequences of paradigm shift for conceptualizing PA research
- Both need for inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to research
- Call for comparative research, particularly at European level
- Demand for closer cooperation between researchers and PA managements
- Address low level of networking
- Raise awareness for the relevance of societal research perspectives on PAs

Thank you for your attention!

For further information:

www.uni-oldenburg.de/geo/