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Peer reviewed

Review: Protected Area Management: Principles and Practice

By Graham Worboys, Michael Lockwood and Terry De Lacy

Reviewed by [Elery Hamilton-Smith](#)
Charles Sturt University, Australia

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Graeme Worboys, Michael Lockwood, & Terry De Lacy. *Protected Area Management: Principles and Practice*. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press. 2001. 399 pp. ISBN 0-19-551300-2 (paper). US\$65.00

This book is a remarkable collective production, and the acknowledgements are a virtual *Who's Who* of protected area management in Australia. Yet, unlike many collective efforts, it is a well-integrated presentation of concepts, precepts, and experience. Its presentation is excellent, with hundreds of figures and plates that bring the text to life. A range of brief descriptions of sites or practices and illustrative case studies appear throughout in boxes. All of these features are intertwined with the overall flow of the text. It covers an immense span of material, but is written clearly and concisely. It targets protected area managers, but its clarity is such that it could well serve as a student text, perhaps replacing the half dozen books that would otherwise be required to cover the content. Then, as if that is not enough, it is also keyed to a web site which contains the more detailed materials which were developed in the course of assembling the text, and thus provides still more depth for those who wish to explore specific topics.

The book is based in Australian experience but the authors have done their best to draw out principles and generalities that will prove valuable in other countries. I have certainly used it in a number of very divergent settings, and found it has been enthusiastically received.

The first part of the book establishes the context with two chapters on the natural heritage and socio-political context of Australia—one on the concept and purposes of protected areas and one on the nature organisational management processes. The remainder deals with principles and practice, and it can probably be best described by simply listing the chapters:

- Obtaining and managing information
- Protected area planning
- Administration
- Economics of protected areas
- Conserving natural heritage
- Conserving cultural heritage
- Threats to protected areas
- Incident management

Tourism and visitor management
Working with the community
Indigenous people and protected areas
Conserving at the landscape scale

Finally, there is an epilogue that looks towards potential future visions.

Perhaps one word of warning for non-Australians should be noted. Although the book openly discusses many of the practical problems that face park managers and workers in Australia, there is little reference to the gradual decline of both political vision and practical support for protected area management. Less and less sensitivity to environmental issues is being demonstrated; commercial and other political interests override environmental considerations. Managers and park workers fight a constant battle in continuing to provide quality management in spite of increasing demand coupled with declining resources.

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