



VI congresso brasileiro de  
unidades de conservação

## Summary of the Symposium on Public Use Planning in Protected Areas

### September 21, 2009 – Monday

Theme of the day: Status of Public Use Planning

#### **Lecture: Public Use Planning Components**

Lecturer: Larry Lechner (The Center for Protected Area Management and Training/Colorado State University)

#### **Lecture: Public Use Status in America: concepts and tools – inspired by the past and built for the future**

Lecturer: Terry Slider (US Forest Service)

#### **Lecture: Public Use Status in Brazil**

Lecturer: Julio Gonchorosky (ICMBio, Brazil)

*Lectures Synthesis and Considerations:* Mr. Larry Lechner focused his presentation in the changes undergone by public use planning since the 1990's and for this he compared traditional planning to the current one. He presented seven main points, among them the ecosystem preservation, zoning as a management tool, and the fact that zones were defined by amount of human usage allowed beyond the limitations in areas destined for public use.

In its current version, biodiversity continues being a main goal in protected areas, but public use also has acquired a relevant role. In the context, visitations are included with the possibility of generating income.

Another aspect that was emphasized by both Mr. Lechner and Mr. Terry Slider is the fact that data collection is based not only in the biodiversity of ecosystems, but the understanding of the needs of local communities, whether traditional or not.

Mr. Lechner also emphasized that planning based mainly on the planner's perception might generate, among other things, the implementation of infrastructure that is either underused or not appreciated by users and the local population.

Both the stances by Mr. Slider and Mr. Julio Gonchorosky hit important points which do not always come to the surface in discussions on public use, which is public support necessary for the maintenance of a Protected Natural Areas System, In the case of the US Forest Service, there were possibilities of adjusting non-conflicting uses demanded by the local population and the urban public in the same area.

Mr. Slider emphasized the need for the planner to predict in order to be effective. In our case (in Brazil) it might be so that extreme caution does not allow the opening of the 34 National Park that Mr. Gonchorosky said are closed to public visitation.



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Mr. Gonchorosky, with his experience as manager taken to the decision-making instances at ICMBio presented the Federal Government programs aiming at structuring visitation to Brazilian National Parks. One of the points that were emphasized is the need for minimal infrastructure so that visitation might take place. In this case, subcontracting might provide these elements, where the Government evaluates contract execution and the visiting public receives quality services.

Another point that was emphasized by Mr. Gonchorosky and that is crucial and ends up crossing over all the themes approached over the three days of the Symposium is that the Parks, or protected areas in general, are not part of the daily lives of Brazilian families. This is a determining factor in points approached by the three lecturers on September 21, on participative management and political support for the protected areas System.

### **September 22, 2009 – Tuesday**

Theme of the day: Public use planning: a practical perspective

#### **Lecture: LAC: 20 years monitoring visitation impacts at Bob Marshall Wilderness**

Lecturer: Hans M. Castren (US Forest Service);

#### **Lecture: Ecotourism in protected areas in São Paulo**

Lecturer: Anna Carolina Lobo de Oliveira - Instituto Fundação Florestal de São Paulo

#### **Lecture: Public & private partnership for the viability of public use programs**

Lecturer: Ângela Tresinari (MPX)

*Lectures synthesis and considerations:* Mr. Castren, who works in an extremely restrictive use area made clear that its use is different from that of National Parks, where public visitation is much more important. The main points focused on monitoring, however, he points to the differential that at Bob Marshall Wilderness here is a great public participation by interest groups that have been working with the planning team for over a decade.

Monitoring is performed yearly with five-year cycles with a formal report being presented. It is important to emphasize that the indicators evaluated remain constant and the patterns vary throughout the years. Another point that was emphasized by Mr. Castren is the motivation that still prevails in public meetings and it works as a motivational factor for the government team, improving their relationship with the community.

Anna Carolina Lobo de Oliveira, from the Instituto Fundação Florestal de São Paulo, emphasized that the Secretary of the Environment of the state of São Paulo – SMA, together with the Fundação Florestal, has elected ecotourism as one of its 21 government strategic Environmental Projects. The project aims at consolidating ecotourism and sustainable tourism as conservation strategies, nature preservation,



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and contribution for regional socioeconomic development. According to Ms. Oliveira, the strategies comprise: 1) Structuring and strengthening public management for ecotourism at the protected areas belonging to the State Forest System – SIEFLOR; 2) Consolidating the sustainable tourism vocation at the PAs influence areas; and 3) Standardize and strengthen the chain of ecotourism services at the PAs and their influence areas.

The Ribeira Valley was chosen to concentrate the public effort of developing ecotourism as a conservation strategy. Public participation is guaranteed through participative workshops held to identify demands for capacitation and also the desires of the local population, searching for those who want to take part and what can be done in each specific area.

Good project execution indicators were presented for the ongoing projects in selected State Parks. Great support has been given to the management of Parks with monitors and technical visitation assistants. Apparently, a 10% increase was observed in the chosen areas.

Ângela Tresinari presented an example of direct partnership between a private company and the Federal Government (ICMBio). The emphasis by the lecturer was on the direct relationship between the Company and the managers of the National Parks indicated as priority for actions of infrastructure implementation and maintenance.

The strategy of direct donation of goods demands from both the private company and ICMBio a new approach in planning and supervision of the activities proposed in the Terms of Financial and Operational Cooperation.

According to Ms. Tresinari, some of the lessons that were learned with this cooperation were: it can be a management model; the purchase of goods requires great effort and work; the model has been shown to be effective but the pace of decision making at both private companies and government agencies differs.

### **September 23. 2009 – Wednesday**

#### **Lecture: Capacitation for public use management in protected areas: a global review**

Lecturer: James Barborak (Conservation International and IUCN, US)

#### **Lecture: Professional performance in public use: university and capacitation in Brazil**

Lecturer: Teresa Magro - Esalq/USP

#### **Lecture: Decrease in carbon footprint generated by tourism in protected areas**

Lecturer: Oliver Hillel (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada)

*Lectures synthesis and considerations:* James Baborak warned to the fact that we have to occupy ourselves in public use capacitation and emphasized the fact that to



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him, in several countries the theme “public use” is still in its infancy. He also emphasized that governments have invested more in infrastructure than in capacitation of their personnel with obvious effects on Parks. Another point that was emphasized was that the benefits of the use will be noticed, will be more visible and will receive more support when we have well planned programs in place.

The “capacitation” theme, also presented by Teresa Cristina Magro, departs from the confirmation that there are few university-level and specialization courses in Brazil to supply the demand for professionals to deal with all the challenges of public use planning. She emphasizes that even basic management themes are still treated in a superficial manner in great part of the protected areas in Brazil.

She presented the gaps in professional background with a list of eight specialization courses located in the southern and southeastern regions of the country, with emphasis for the Instituto Estadual de Florestas of Minas Gerais; SENAC of São Paulo; Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) and WWF – Brasil; Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza and Vitae Civilis.

As short-term proposals, Teresa C. Magro proposes that professional capacitation is in fact taken as one of the guidelines at MMA and related to guidelines by organizations in charge of continuous capacitation of the management team regarding visitation management techniques.

Assuming that the few specialization courses are not enough to train the different professionals that are already working in public use planning in Brazil, in order to reach the goals established for the development of government programs, training should be priority through partnerships with institutions such as the Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ), the Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza (FBPN), the Instituto Estadual de Florestas of Minas Gerais, among others.

For Mr. Oliver Hillel, the climate change problem both influences and reflects the same influences in worldwide tourist flow and more specifically in tourism in protected areas. Besides the intrinsic value of the protected areas, they stock nearly 15% of carbon. If the predicted changes occur, we will have high extinction rates contributing to biodiversity loss.

Still speaking about the relationship between protected areas and tourism, Mr. Hillel emphasizes that the greatest tourism footprint lies in trips involving flights due to high burning of fossil fuels. According to him, airlines are improving fuel efficiency in order to improve the balance and offset damaging effects to the environment.

There is also an ongoing discussion on who should pay for carbon offsetting when it involves tourism in parks, and also how it would be done. He pointed to two ways, but efficiency in the planning of the trips is easier to obtain in the short term. Mr. Hillel presented some examples that he considers as successful attempts at voluntary decrease in carbon emission, ranging from actions by individual tourists, ecotourism companies, and travel agents, to mention a few of them.