

Governing for Resilience of Protected areas: connecting local and distant communities

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Protected areas (PAs), often very valuable but also vulnerable, are the cornerstones of global and European conservation efforts. Some PAs are mainly protected for biodiversity reasons other for a diverse set of reasons such as high recreational or landscape value. Whether there is a balance between protection and appreciation of different PAs is the main question we want to address in this chapter. We use results from an online GoogleMaps based international survey using the so-called Hotspotmonitor (HSM), which was conducted in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands in 2013. In the survey, more than 7.600 citizens of the three countries marked their favourite nature places (hot-spots) on local, regional, national and world level. In the chapter we explore different (combinations of) spatial indicators for measuring the balance between protection and appreciation. We analyze the number of fans of an area compared to the people living in or nearby the PA. We also look at the number of fans for different IUCN categories of protection. To achieve a balanced governance involving all stakeholders, the chapter suggest that it is worthwhile to closer connect distant 'fans' to the PA's.