

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas		
Author:	Paige West, James Igoe, and Dan Brockington		
Document Type:	Journal Article		
Year:	2006		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	<i>Annu. Rev. Anthropol.</i> <i>Parks and Peoples</i>		
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Region:	Oceania, Africa, South America		
Country:	Australia, New Zealand, Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	Arid and/ or semi-arid, seasonal tropical forest, protected area		
Social Characteristics:	Indigenous communities, Urban communities		
Scale of Study:	Community, national		
Resource Type:	Forestry, species conservation, biodiversity conservation, protected area		

Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project, community initiative, NGO
Community-Based Work:	Resource management, development planning
Keywords:	conservation, environment, virtualism, displacement, governmentality
Summary:	<p>This review examines the social, economic, and political effects of environmental conservation projects as they are manifested in protected areas. We pay special attention to people living in and displaced from protected areas, analyze the worldwide growth of protected areas over the past 20 years, and offer suggestions for future research trajectories in anthropology. We examine protected areas as a way of seeing, understanding, and producing nature (environment) and culture (society) and as a way of attempting to manage and control the relationship between the two. We focus on social, economic, scientific, and political changes in places where there are protected areas and in the urban centers that control these areas. We also examine violence, conflict, power relations, and governmentality as they are connected to the processes of protection. Finally, we examine discourse and its effects and argue that anthropology needs to move beyond the current examinations of language and power to attend to the ways in which protected areas produce space, place, and peoples.</p>