

Special Issue: “Issues Confronting the Management of the World’s National Parks: Commentaries from Scholars across the Globe”

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Issues confronting the management of the world’s national parks are as many as they are diverse. This special issue is aimed at providing a snapshot of this complexity by inviting scholars and managers from around the globe to contribute on the broad theme of “issues confronting the management of the world’s national parks”. The special issue’s focus would be on salient human dimensions-related themes that have potential to impact: (a) the integrity of the resource, (b) visitor experiences, (c) indigenous populations, and (d) communities that lie adjacent to these areas. While the world’s national parks often share the goal of natural and cultural heritage preservation, the challenges faced by managers of these resources are complicated by a broad range of issues; some of which transcend parks and national borders and others unique to each of these settings. Given the breadth and complexity of these issues, both researchers and managers have had to be creative in their attempt to study these issues and develop/implement resource management policy. For researchers, this has required; (a) collaboration among scholars with diverse disciplinary training, (b) embracing innovative research designs, and (c) the implementation of new and emerging technologies. For park managers, the complexity has required them to re-think their relationships with the public and more actively engage stakeholders, both traditional and non-traditional, in park planning and management. Both scholars and managers from across the world are invited to submit original pieces that are based on their empirical observations, case studies, or commentaries related to policy and management within national parks across the globe.

Potential submissions could include (but not limited to):

- Documentation of founding legislation and its implications for contemporary park management
- Policy and institutional issues
- Protected lands and indigenous communities
- Global warming and the future of parks
- Visitor use and experience
- Parks and community

Timeline:

- April 1st, 2009 - Special Issue Announcement
- May 1st, submission of 300 word abstracts outlining authors’ proposed submission
- December 1st, 2009 – Submission Deadline