



**Governance for real sustainability:  
*Indigenous Natural Resource  
Management of Afro-alpine ecosystem***

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# History of Protected Area (PA)

- Protected Areas (PAs) are cultural artefacts and their story is entwined with that of human civilisation
  - Over 2000 yrs ago, royal decree in India set the first Protected Area.
  - In Europe rich and powerful people protected hunting grounds for a thousand years
- The idea of protecting special places is universal:
  - 'Tapu' in the Asia Pacific
  - Sacred Groves in Africa

# History of PAs

- The modern PA movement has its origin in in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in North America followed by Australia, and South Africa;
  - Yellowstone, 1878, iMfolozi, 1897, Kguger 1898, Selous 1922, Volcanoes 1930, Nairobi 1946; Tsavo, 1948, Serengetti 1951
- other countries were quick to follow suit



Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) chasing a school of Bigeye Scad (*Seriola lalandi*), Roatan, Honduras.  
© Norbert Wu/Minden Pictures



Bromeliads growing along a stream in Bocaina National Park, Brazil.  
© Tui de Roy/Minden Pictures



Thousands of wrinkle-lipped bats (*Tadarida plicata*) fly out of a cave at dusk, Cueva de Villa, Luz, Mexico.  
© Tim Laman/National Geographic

# History of PAs

- While the concept of PA spread around the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the driving force was different in different country
- Thus; America, it was safeguarding of dramatic scenery  
Africa, protection of game animal (Biodiversity)  
Europe, landscape protection



# History of PA in Ethiopia

- The first recorded indigenous conservation-oriented activity took place during the reign of **Emperor Zerea Yacob 1434-1468** (Pankhrust, 1989).
- The first attempt to protect the wildlife of Ethiopia was made by **Emperor Minilik II**, in 1901 (Wolde- Meskel, 1950).
- In **1944** further legislation was passed to regulate wildlife hunting to ensure that **certain species were not over-hunted** (Negarit Gazette, 1944).

# History of PA in Ethiopia

- Interest in the conservation of Ethiopia's wildlife did not start **until the 1950s**.
- **In 1961, a team from the former New York Zoological Society (NYZS)** made a visit to the country and recommended the establishment of protected areas to preserve the larger mammalian wildlife of the country.
- The most important landmark in the conservation of Ethiopian wildlife came after the visit of the **UNESCO Mission in 1963 following** a request from the Ethiopian government (Huxley *et al.*, 1963).

# PAAs of Ethiopia

- Principal wildlife conservation areas,
  - national parks and sanctuaries,
  - They comprise a total area of cover 5.2% of the land surface of the country



# PAs of Ethiopia

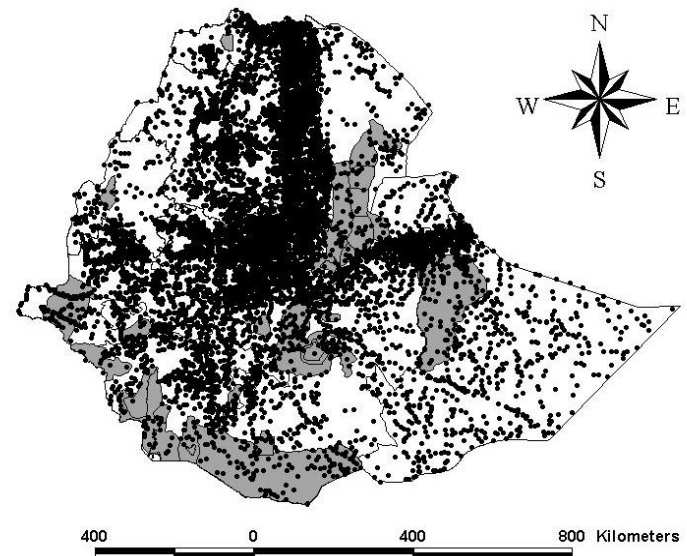
- Secondary wildlife conservation areas,
  - Wildlife reserves and controlled hunting areas,
  - They are essentially conservation areas ‘on paper’,
  - Cover a total area of approximately 17% of the total area of the land surface of the country (Hillman, 1993).







... too many of us...



- 94% of farmlands operated by million smallholders cultivating  $< 1$  ha
- Barley is being tilled to 4,100m on slopes of  $>45^\circ$
- Habitat loss: over 97% altered
- Fragmentation into ecological islands



- 16 - 300 tons/ha/yr, 7.8 billion metric tons per year.
- 27 million ha degraded area
- 14 mill ha is very seriously eroded with
- 2 mill ha of this having reached a point of no return



# Largest livestock herd in Africa



30 million cows

24 million sheep

18 million goats

7 million equids

1 million camels

~53 million poultry ...

# Unsustainable Harvesting of Natural Resources



- The first major influx took place in 1868, Napier's expedition, who brought 440 loads of Elephant of rifle (Moorhead, 1962).
- During the 1936-1941 Italian war of aggression, there were 900,000 rifles and 1,700 machine guns.
- At present 3 AK47/



Horn of Africa???

# Protected Area? Protected from whom???

- Low level of community participation in decision making and planning
- Lack of Benefit Sharing

Despite ...

... having a conservation organization **for 50 years**

...having legislation for protection and conservation of the natural resources

... **training hundreds of people**, having **strings of advisors**, periodic injections of **donor funding**



... remarkably **little impact to**  
**arrest decline of** wildlife habitats  
and species



# Conservation PAs;

## Barriers

- People living within PA and its adjacent areas are dependent on PAs for their livelihood.
- People living in and around PAs do not have trust on conservation organisations.
- The establishment of PAs didn't stop resource abuse
- People outside the PAs are generally not aware of PAs and its resources.
- Indigenous people living in PAs considered PAs as their lands.
- Financial constraints.

# Enhancing the quality and diversity of governance

- **Guassa Community Conserved Area (GCCA)**

- **History:** one of the oldest community conservation practice in Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Livelihood Security:** Safety-net, Food security
- **Resilience:** Govt or development agents sponsored changes
- **Adaptive governance:** *The Qero system, Guassa Committee, Conservation Council*

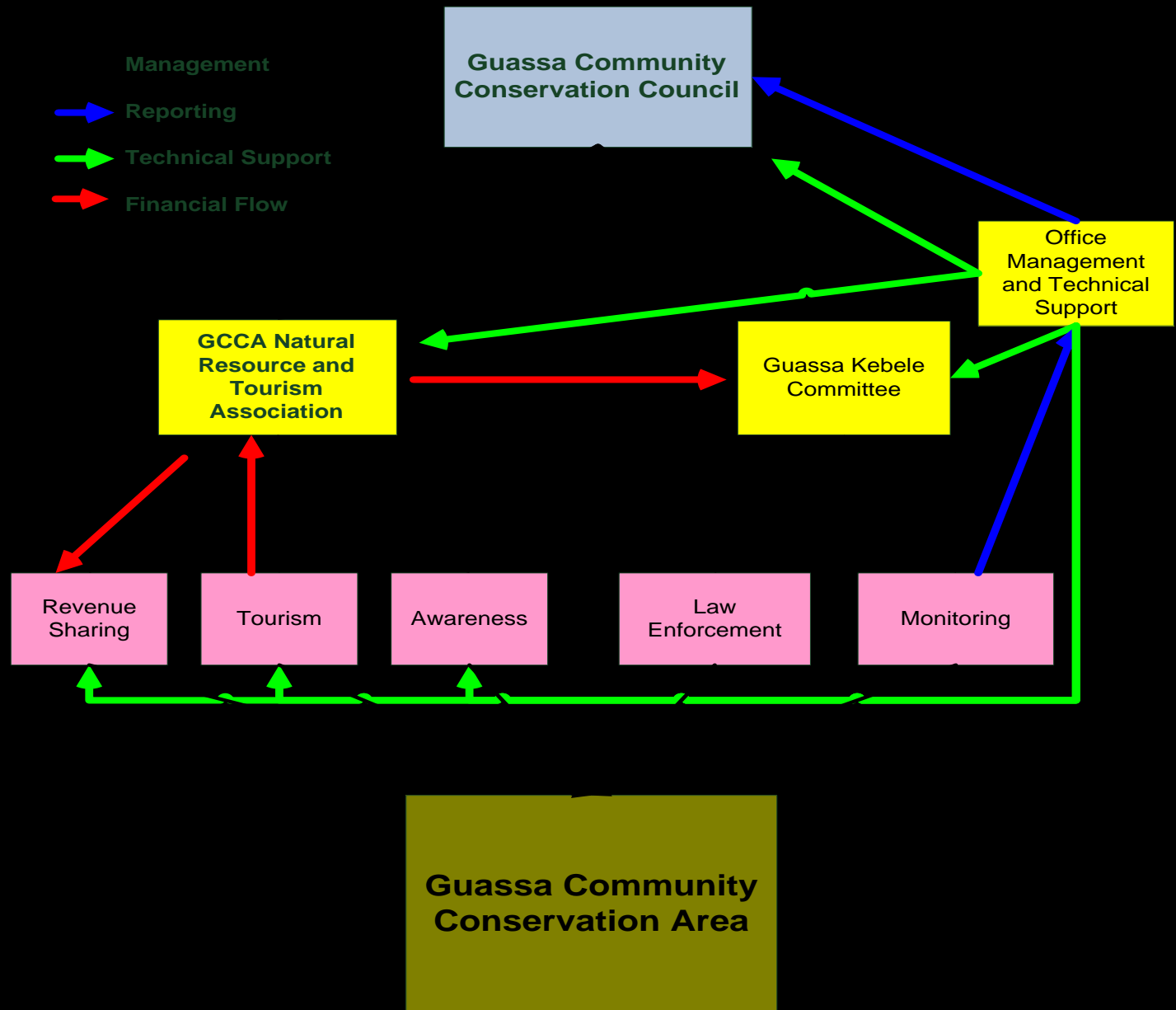
# Enhancing the quality and diversity of governance

## Threats

- Investment (Land Grabbing)
- Government inadequacy to accept the model
- Overharvesting
- weakness in law enforcement



# Guassa Community-based Conservation Area



# Co-Management of PAs

## Benefits

- Helped to in conserve resources for this and future generation.
- Helped in building trust between government conservation bodies and communities and local leaders.
- Increased economic activities in and around PAs.
- Awareness among people about PAs and their resources increased.
- Less dependency of PAs on public funding

# The Future Prospect Desirable!!!



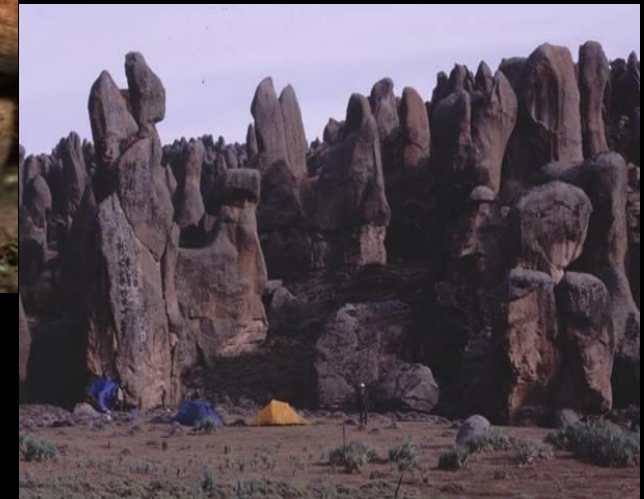
Environmental  
services



Benefits to  
communities



Living  
heritage



Development of  
Eco-tourism



Natural resource  
management

Success is dependent on  
a long-term commitment  
and visionary approach





**Thank You!**

