

Initial information (Issued 25 February 2019)

2 day conference/workshop @ Binna Burra Mountain Lodge,
in the World Heritage Listed Lamington National Park,
Queensland, Australia.

Monday 14 October & Tuesday 15 October, 2019

Pacific Asia Protected Areas & Sustainable Tourism

Moving beyond GDP with Tourism, World Heritage, Happiness and Global Well-Being



Two days designed for those interested in better understanding sustainable tourism approaches in the context of protected and/or sensitive natural areas across the Asia Pacific region.

Suitable for those involved in planning, policy and operations of protected areas, nature-based tourism investors/operators, destination management and marketing organisations, researchers and relevant NGOs.

Supporters of this conference:



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Become a 'supporter' of this mini-Conference.

What we do:

- Include your logo on our mini-Conference promotional material
- Give preference to your delegates if the mini-Conference is over-subscribed
- Priority consideration if you would like to contribute a presentation at the mini-Conference

What you do:

- Supply a quality logo
- Agree to share updates from time-to-time (about once a month) on your social media

To be a 'supporter' email: steve@binnaburralodge.com.au

Section #1: With particular thanks to



Among the objectives of TAPAS:

‘actively participate in international conferences and workshops related to sustainable tourism and protected areas, encouraging members to share their experiences, engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and raise awareness the TAPAS Group’

IUCN defines a protected area as: A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)¹ is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 13,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.



IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is the world's premier network of protected area expertise. It is administered by IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas and has over 2,500 members, spanning 140 countries.²



More than 500 professionals around the world are members of the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group.³

Vision: We advocate for a future where tourism enhances the conservation integrity of protected area systems, improves human well-being and provides benefits for the local population, and where there are accessible, inspiring, safe and educational opportunities for visitors through environmentally, socio-cultural and economically sustainable products and experiences.

¹ www.iucn.org/about

² www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas

³ www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/tourism-tapas

Section #2

The evolution of a WORLD HERITAGE themed week to learn, engage & exchange @ Binna Burra Lodge, Lamington National Park, Australia.

The first World Heritage themed 'mini-conference' was held over three days at Binna Burra in October last year. The topic was '*Managing the growth of Chinese mainland tourists in Asia Pacific's protected natural environments*'. Delegates and expert speakers came from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Japan and Myanmar.

This year, the broader topic will be '*Pacific Asia Protected Areas & Sustainable Tourism*' and the mini-conference will be over two days (Monday 14 October and Tuesday 15 October).

We will have expert presenters to discuss some new as well as existing and pressing issues such as moving beyond GDP, happiness and wellbeing, world heritage, the exploitation of natural resources, educational travel programs to enhance knowledge of human-environment problems, conservation & environmentally responsible business practices, climate change eco-system adaptation concessions for commercial activity, the role of quality interpretation in visitor management and the concept of sustainable trails.

Just for your information:

On the three days following the mini conference, (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – October 16, 17 & 18), as a separate, but related event, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) will conduct its first face-to-face intensive training program in Australia at Binna Burra Lodge.

There will also be pre/post small group and short duration tours available to delegates wishing to spend a few more days exploring the protected area landscapes of Lamington National park and Girraween National Park – both in the border region of southern Queensland. So, what began as a three day mini-conference in 2018, now evolves in 2019 into a week long series of events around the theme of World Heritage at Binna Burra.



The poster features a background image of a large tree trunk with a koala clinging to it. Text on the poster includes: '13 – 19 October, 2019', 'World Heritage Week', 'Celebrating outstanding universal value', 'BINNABURRALODGE LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK', 'EXPERIENCE WHY THERE'S NOTHING LIKE AUSTRALIA', 'www.binnaburrallodge.com.au', 'GUIDED WELLNESS WALKS Sunday 13 Oct, Wednesday to Saturday 19th October', 'MINI-CONFERENCE: Pacific Asia Protected Areas & Sustainable Tourism. 14 & 15 October (supported by the Tourism & Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS) of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas)', 'GSTC: First Australian training program by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council on the international minimum standards for sustainable tourism. Over 3 days: 16, 17 & 18 October'.

Section #3: The context of the mini-conference for 2019

Contributions to tourism workshops held during the IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, Caracas, Venezuela, 10-21 February 1992 formed the basis of the 1996 IUCN publication: *Tourism, ecotourism, and protected areas: the state of nature-based tourism around the world and guidelines for its development (Héctor Ceballos-Lascuráin)*.⁴ The publication's aim was to illustrate 'how tourism and protected areas can flourish alongside each other by guiding the development of tourism along lines which respect the limited capacity of many areas to absorb the pressure of visitors and their activities.'

So, more than two decades later, how are we going?

Global tourism growth: There is no doubt that international tourism will continue to grow as consumers with more disposable income seek more exotic experiences and far-flung destinations than their parents. The UNWTO reports that in 2018, 1.4 billion international trips took place, an increase of 78 million trips on the previous year.

It's not just the Chinese market ... but ... a substantial part of the global tourism growth is generated by the outbound Chinese travel market, which is expected to achieve 180 million outbound visits in 2019 and increase to more than 400m by 2030. Even when you subtract the number of Chinese who visited Greater China destinations (e.g. Hong Kong and Macau), the number of Chinese who travelled into the wider world is still greater than the number of US citizens who travelled beyond their own borders (Gebicki, 2018).⁵ Outbound China visitors are already the number one international markets into Australia, into Indonesia (especially Bali), into Thailand and into many other countries - and by next year, Chinese will be the largest single source international visitor arrivals market into the USA (apart from Canada and Mexico)⁶.

The demand from all markets for international travel and for domestic travel, as well as for recreational activities from local residents, can be expected to increase the desire of people to experience the protected areas of the Pacific Asia region.

Examples of the questions the mini-conference will consider:

- Can tourism and protected areas 'flourish alongside each other' as suggested by Ceballos-Lascuráin in his 1996 publication for IUCN?
- How do we best guide 'the development of tourism along lines which respect the limited capacity of many areas to absorb the pressure of visitors and their activities?'
- How might we 'move beyond GDP' and consider new ways to look at the impact of tourism on the wellbeing of host communities in protected natural areas, especially where they have World Heritage listing?
- What role can educational travel programs play to motivate all age groups to experience natural areas and think beyond GDP?

⁴ www.iucn.org/content/tourism-ecotourism-and-protected-areas-state-nature-based-tourism-around-world-and-guidelines-its-development

⁵ <http://www.traveller.com.au/top-countries-for-chinese-tourists-the-impact-of-chinas-tourism-on-the-globe-h0zuga#ixzz5f0bXTdal>

⁶ <https://skift.com/2016/05/17/china-will-be-the-largest-overseas-visitor-market-for-the-u-s-by-2020/>

Section #4: Mini-Conference objectives

The objectives of the mini-conference align to the strategic intent of the IUCN WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group – TAPAS (Vision, Mission, Objectives)⁷, and are expressed as follows:

1. Encourage international dialogue and knowledge exchange on the management of nature-based experiences in the terrestrial, marine and freshwater protected areas of the Pacific Asia region.
2. Provide a face-to-face opportunity platform within a World Heritage Listed natural environment for protected area practitioners and others to share expertise and knowledge about the role, management and impacts of tourism in such destinations.
3. Consider how sustainable tourism approaches can enhance the conservation integrity of protected area systems, factor in climate change ecosystem adaptation, and, simultaneously, improve human well-being and benefits for the local population, especially those living within or adjacent to World Heritage Listed protected areas.
4. Explore how different forms of educational travel programs can motivate all people to responsibly experience natural areas and think beyond GDP.

Examples of topics to be considered:

At this early stage of planning, we welcome:

- ✓ expression of interest from suitably qualified people to consider presentations on the topics listed below
- ✓ your ideas on related topics where you have some expertise

- Moving Beyond GDP with Tourism, World Heritage, Happiness & Global Wellbeing
- Natural resource exploitation - complex & adversarial, relationships or positive partnership between tourism & park management?
- Educational travel programs to enhance knowledge of human-environment problems.
- Conservation & environmentally responsible business practices
- Climate change eco-system adaptation & sustainable tourism
- Concessions for commercial activity
- Role of quality interpretation
- Ecotourism for biodiversity
- Visitor management
- Sustainable trails

Please send your ideas and/or expression of interest to Steve Noakes,
steve@binnaburrallodge.com.au or stevenoakes1@gmail.com

⁷ www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/tourism-tapas

Section #5: PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Day 1: Monday 14 October 2019

Morning session:

- Welcome and/or Acknowledgement of indigenous country
- Conference welcome and briefing
- International initiatives relevant to sustainable tourism in protected areas globally – includes 'Moving Beyond GDP' with Tourism, World Heritage areas, Happiness and Wellbeing
- Climate change eco-system adaptation & sustainable tourism

'Healthy living' lunch (and short forest walk):

- Sustainable Trails: Experience Lamington National Park

Afternoon session:

- Educational travel programs to enhance knowledge of human-environment problems.
- Role of quality interpretation
- Visitor management

Networking sunset drinks & snacks:

- On 'The Coomera Terrace' @ Binna Burra Lodge

Evening: Delegates dinner – a quality Australian gourmet BBQ around the campfire and under the stars of the clear southern skies @ 'The Barn' Binna Burra Lodge.

Day 2: Tuesday 15 October 2019

Morning session:

- Natural resource exploitation - complex & adversarial relationships or positive partnership between tourism and park management?
- Conservation & environmentally responsible business practices
- Concessions for commercial activity
- Ecotourism for biodiversity

Fresh air & healthy living lunch – let's take a rainforest walk!

Afternoon session:

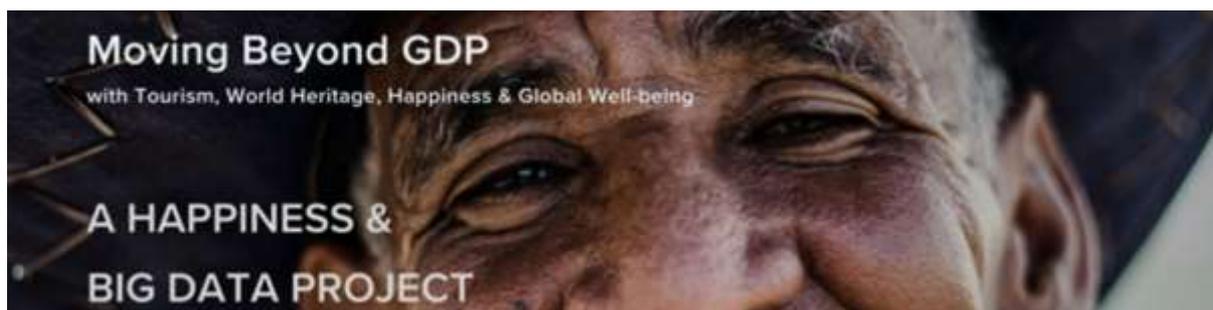
- Guidelines and tools for innovative and effective management of tourism in protected and natural areas that supports sustainable development, local economic development, biodiversity conservation, human and natural health outcomes, environmental education, awareness raising, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Wrap-up session
- Conference closes at 3.30 pm

Section # 6: Examples of speakers attending (as at 11 February 2019)
(More will be added in future updates – these first five are confirmed)

Dr Paul Rogers: Paul is one of Asia Pacific's most experienced tourism for development practitioners. Completed in 1997, his PhD studies centered on tourism, conservation and development issues in Nepal's Sagarmatha (Mt Everest) National Park. Paul is a long term expert consultant with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and numerous other international organisations, he has worked extensively in Nepal, Bhutan, Laos and the Greater Mekong Region, as well as Myanmar, North Korea, North-West Africa and Australia. He is co-founder of Planet Happiness, a non-profit measuring the happiness of residents living in World Heritage sites.

'Planet Happiness is an investment in planet management. Our goal is to help shape, support and inform the work of the Global Happiness Council. The project has two principal aims. The first relates to tourism and sustainability. It focuses on our understanding of the impact of tourism on the wellbeing of host communities in World Heritage sites. It aims to highlight and develop the relationship between tourism and the wellbeing of host communities. The second aim, is to deliver a high impact media campaign that raises global awareness and participation in the Gross National Happiness (GNH) and "Beyond GDP" agenda.'

The Domains of Happiness, measured by the Happiness Index.



Professor Michael Tarrant: Michael is Professor, Forestry and Natural Resources and Director, Global Programs in Sustainability at the University of Georgia, USA. As Director, Discover Abroad he has a particular interest in how educational travel programs can be created to motivate (business and non-business) students to experience natural areas and think beyond GDP.

Nurturing Tomorrow's Global Citizens through Discover Abroad... Issues such as human population capacities, climate change, biodiversity preservation, and environmental pollution transcend national boundaries and our responses will accordingly need to be not only international but also global in perspective. Furthermore, such problems and their solutions not only have complex ecological and biophysical bases but are also dependent on understanding the social, cultural, historical, and political contexts.

Dr Johanna Nalau: Postdoctoral Research Fellow with Griffith Climate Change Response Program (GCCRP) and Griffith Institute for Tourism (GIFT) at Griffith University specializing in climate change adaptation policy and decision-making processes. has conducted research in Zanzibar (Tanzania), Australia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Kiribati.

Research focuses on understanding how policy- and decision-makers deal with some of the central assumptions related to climate change adaptation, and the array of factors and processes that drive and constrain climate change adaptation, including constraints emerging from adaptation science and theory. She is particularly interested how these concepts are dealt with in ecosystem-based adaptation, sustainable tourism, traditional knowledge, and disaster risk management.

Ary Suhandi: Executive Director of the Indonesian Ecotourism Network (INDECON). Almost 30 years ago, he was assigned by Conservation International to help organise the first ecotourism seminar in Indonesia. In 1995, he co-founded INDECON and since then has become established as an expert in nature and community-based tourism in Indonesia. Ary Suhandi earned his degree in biology at the National University (Jakarta, Indonesia).

He is a member of the International Board of the Asian Ecotourism Network and has served on the selection committees for international tourism awards administered by National Geographic Travelers (USA), and the World Travel and Tourism Council (UK).

'It would take more than just conservation to save the forests. The forest and the people living around it cannot be separated; they are integrated and depend on each other. One of the most inspiring sustainability initiatives to me was probably my experience helping the local community of Tangkahan at Namo Sialang village. I had the opportunity to create ecotourism for the community as a way to protect the forest and livelihoods. Tangkahan is located at the edge of Gunung Leuser National Park in North Sumatra. Local communities have been practicing illegal logging since the economic crisis in 1998. Earning about 8 to 10 millions per month, we were pessimistic about the feasibility to address this challenge. It took us three years (from 2000-2003) to convince local communities to stop cutting trees and introduce ecotourism.'

Steve Noakes: *Mini-Conference Chair:* Founder of the international project management firm, Pacific Asia Tourism, Chair of the Board of Binna Burra Lodge, Board member of the Lamington Natural History Association and Ecolodges Indonesia. Member of the IUCN Working Group on Tourism and Protected Areas. In 2008, honoured as Ecotourism Australia's first 'Ecotourism Medal' winner for his contributions to the ecotourism industry in Australia and internationally. Played a leading role for the Asia Pacific region in the development of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

Where do you see the priorities in terms of sustainable tourism in South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands? Asia and the Pacific Islands is a fast region. In many destinations, you have very sophisticated tourism infrastructure and services, while in other places, you can get right down to the 'first-contact' with tourism. In terms of South East Asia – let's say ASEAN destinations – over the next decade the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the geo-political-economic impacts from China and India are major issues to consider in terms of tourism investment, visitor demand and flows, impacts on environmental, social and cultural resources and employment and economic growth opportunities. The Pacific islands have a much lower base, but they are fragile environments where issues such as climate change and being able to manage risks and disasters are much more real.

Section # 7: **Registration cost** (please note cancellation policy below):

A\$299 per person for the 2 days (does not include your accommodation).

Payments to be made to Binna Burra Lodge Ltd.

What's included?

Day 1: Binna Burra welcome pack, Morning & afternoon tea, lunch, sunset snacks & non-alcoholic drinks, gourmet BBQ dinner

Day 2: Morning tea & lunch

Internet connection

What's not included:

- Your accommodation – see conference rate below offered by Binna Burra Mountain Lodge)
- Your breakfast on day 1 and 2
- Your travel to and from Binna Burra Mountain Lodge in the Lamington National Park

Your accommodation options at Binna Burra Lodge

(www.binnaburralodge.com.au)

pp = per person per night. All prices in Australian \$. These are special conference rates only available if you pay direct to Binna Burra Lodge.

Note: There are three types of lodge accommodation available. Also, Binna Burra has a camping area.

Accommodation options:

A) Skylodge Studio: (en-suite with every bedroom)

Single use: A\$314pp

Twin share: \$160pp

B) Acacia rooms (have private shower and toilet facilities)

Single use: A\$154pp

Twin Share: A\$80pp

C) Casuarina Rooms (have a wash basin vanity unit (separate bathroom facilities close to rooms on the same level are shared by just a small number of other guests)

Single use: A\$124pp

Twin Share Casuarina Room: A\$65pp

Your contact for registration and accommodation bookings:

Rechell Lumsden, Functions Co-Ordinator, Binna Burra Lodge

Phone: +61 (0) 7 5533 3622

Email: rechell@binnaburrallodge.com.au

Cancellation policy:

- 1) The **registration** deadline is Wednesday 01 October 2019. Full refunds of paid registration fees are available prior to this date. After this date you may send an alternate representative to the event without additional charge. To request a cancellation or to make a change please send an email to rechell@binnaburrallodge.com.au
- 2) For **cancellation of registration fees after 01 October, 2019**, a A\$50.00 cancellation fee will apply.
- 3) For **cancellation of any accommodation booking at Binna Burra Lodge**
 - Cancellations more than 28 days in advance, full monies paid will be refunded
 - Between 28 to 14 days of arrival, 50% of monies paid can be refunded
 - Cancellations made within 14 days of arrival will result in forfeit of all monies paid.

Section # 8: The mini-Conference location

The most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest and nearly all of the Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest.

Few places on earth contain so many plants and animals which remain relatively unchanged from their ancestors in the fossil record.



Originally World Heritage Listed in 1986 to cover rainforests in New South Wales
- extended in 1994 to include rainforests on the Queensland side of the border.

Contains rainforests similar to those that once covered the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana but have contracted to these isolated pockets on the east coast of Australia.

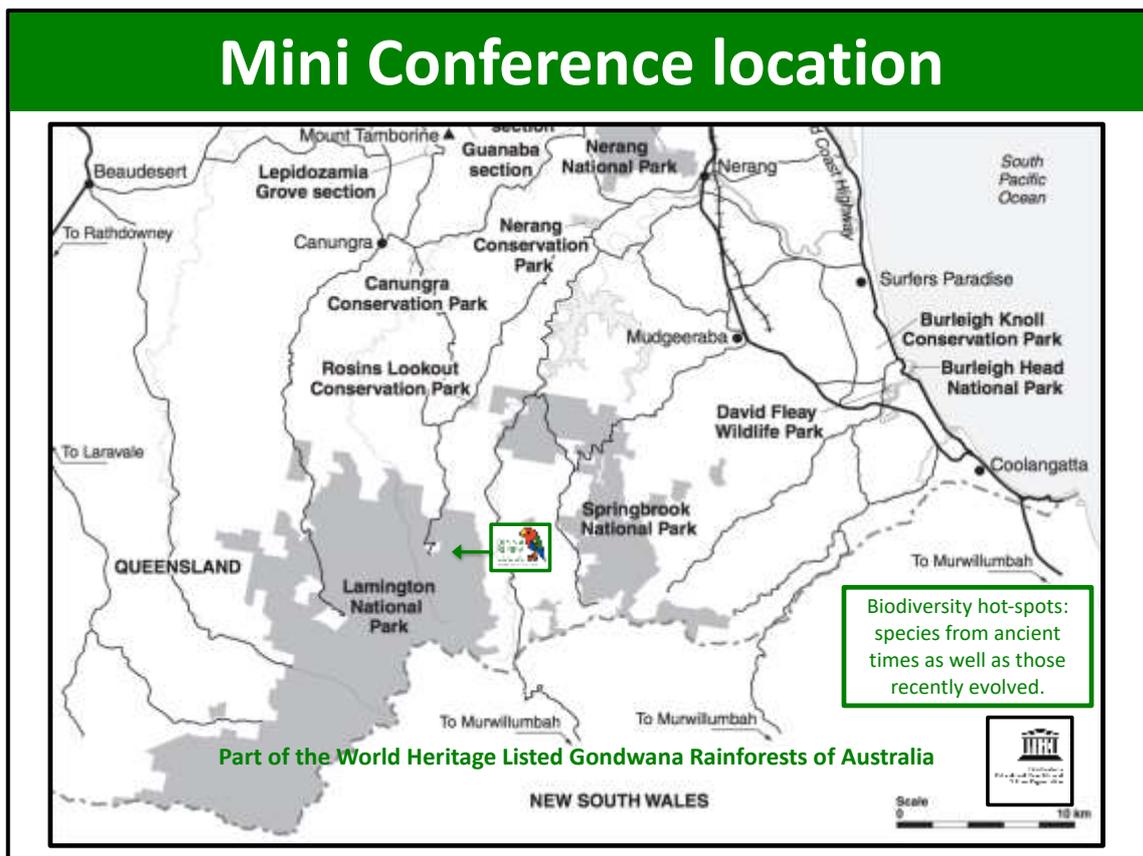


Location for sustainable events @ Binna Burra



International airports at Brisbane (BNE) and Gold Coast (OOL)

Mini Conference location



How to get to Binna Burra Mountain Lodge:
www.binnaburralodge.com.au/about/how-to-get-here

Section # 9: About protected areas

IUCN defines a protected area as:

A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

The definition is expanded by six management categories (one with a sub-division), summarized below.

Ia Strict nature reserve: Strictly protected for biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values

Ib Wilderness area: Usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, protected and managed to preserve their natural condition

II National park: Large natural or near-natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities

III Natural monument or feature: Areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, marine cavern, geological feature such as a cave, or a living feature such as an ancient grove
IV Habitat/species management area: Areas to protect particular species or habitats, where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category

V Protected landscape or seascape: Where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values

VI Protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources: Areas which conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial natural resource use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims

The **management categories** are applied with a typology of governance types – a description of who holds authority and responsibility for the protected area. IUCN defines four governance types.

Type A. Governance by government: Federal or national ministry/agency in charge; Sub-national ministry or agency in charge (e.g. at regional, provincial, municipal level); Government-delegated management (e.g. to NGO)

Type B. Shared governance: Transboundary governance (formal and informal arrangements between two or more countries); Collaborative governance (through various ways in which diverse actors and institutions work together); Joint governance (pluralist board or other multi-party governing body)

Type C. Private governance: Conserved areas established and run by individual landowners; non-profit organizations (e.g. NGOs, universities) and for-profit organizations (e.g. corporate landowners)

Type D. Governance by Indigenous Peoples and local communities: Indigenous Peoples' conserved areas and territories – established and run by Indigenous Peoples; Community conserved areas – established and run by local communities.

Section # 10: Background articles

New Zealand: National parks feeling 'ill-effects' from tourism boom, government report admits

www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/82889257/national-parks-feeling-illeffects-from-tourism-boom-government-report-admits

USA: Record tourism in national parks comes with increasing threats – antsy humans (USA)

www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/28/national-parks-tourism-bad-behavior

Europe: Drones in Protected Areas

https://www.europarc.org/news/2019/02/drones-in-protected-areas/?fbclid=IwAR08f_1PhZ8UkOYQknLDXzjtX7txVwtokVLkbVRe9fLWOXpg1R_nigRfk4

Australia: Is nature-based tourism development really what our national parks need?

<http://theconversation.com/is-nature-based-tourism-development-really-what-our-national-parks-need-9090>

Indonesia: Bitten by Success: Conflicts Over Tourism Revenue and Natural Resources at Komodo National Park

www.environmentandsociety.org/arcadia/bitten-success-conflicts-over-tourism-revenue-and-natural-resources-komodo-national-park

Myanmar: Cable cars for Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park

www.mmtimes.com/news/cable-cars-alaungdaw-kathapa-national-park.html

Cambodia: Sustainable tourism in the Srepok Wilderness Area, Cambodia

www.iied.org/sustainable-tourism-srepok-wilderness-area-cambodia

Thailand: Thai beach bans tourists to protect damaged coral

www.cabi.org/leisuretourism/news/65073

Fiji: Nature and scenic areas

www.fiji.travel/us/experiences/nature-%26-scenic-areas/national%20parks

