

## Partnership Case Studies at Parks and Protected Areas from an International Perspective

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THERE WERE FIVE CASE STUDIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS AT PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS from an international perspective. They range from South America to Asia and provided examples of different areas that need either new recreational areas or to preserve pre-existing areas. Partnerships provide internal support for locals without having some foreign entity take over. Common interests are what create the best partnerships, especially with local communities and figuring out what they want out of it. In Lobau, part of the Danube Floodplains National Park, the local population is projected to increase to the point of over use of the national park. Thus, with the simulation and projections, the national park allocated local farm land into a “Buffer Zone” to absorb most of the recreational output from the new population.

Another panelist discussed partnerships with corporations. NABU develops a relationship with the corporations through logo licensing, consulting, and sponsoring. NABU provides consulting that tackles how a corporation can increase biodiversity, conservation, ecofriendly, recycling, and carbon off setting. By partnering with corporations, NABU gains political backing, environmental support, and increased funds for projects that involve conversation and preservation on their own. For example, NABU partners with Volkswagen to make Volkswagen change policies about environmental impact and overall eliminate environmental impact during manufacturing.

In Brazil, the National Marine Park encompasses high international tourist islands that were eliminating locals from their native lands. New policies and infrastructure were implemented, like allowing locals to sell goods to tourists and having locals provide recreational services that would usually be run by tourists. There are now school children who run tours, local vendors, and educational centers. They also limited the stay time of tourists to eliminate overcrowding and over use, while also providing enough days to experience the wonders of the islands.

Tom Fish guided a partnership with the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Asia’s coastal villages. He worked directly with the locals and provided a needs assessment report of the tourism impact. He explained the importance of a plan for sustainable tourism of MPAs. Local leaders and partnerships work through training with the locals to do needs assessments. Thus, implementing policies that allow the local community to be properly equipped for sustainability and community-based conservation and restoration occurred. Also, the partnership developed a program for

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training the trainer, which means that the locals are taught to be sustainable and that a student will be the teacher, and so on.

Near the Amazon River in Brazil, huge deforestation and illegal export still exist. Partnerships with the local communities helped develop tourism relations and local preservation. With the village chief, they were allowed to provide informational walks through protected areas of the rainforest. The partnership with the locals and, again, the tourism infrastructure by locals is hugely important, thus the demand can then come from locals providing tourism activities.

### **Reflection**

Partnerships provide unlimited opportunities for local communities and corporations that want to increase sustainability and conservation. The goal of a partnership is not to take over or replace, but to rather enhance and then leave both parties with sustainable tools of their own. For Native communities that are being diminished by tourism, partnerships orchestrate positive internal support and nurturing guidance. They work to determine the conservational value of local land, then providing the proper infrastructure projection for protecting local lands. Partnerships foster trust through similar visions, because their combined passion allows them to connect effectively. With strong trust from both sides, policies can be made through local government on their own, which leads to preservation with locals standing by the decision. Once a firm infrastructure has solidified, locals aim for sustainability and able to lead local preservation projects and policies on their own. Partnerships with corporations provide corporations to benefit through logo licensing, consulting, and sponsoring. Consulting corporations offer how they can increase biodiversity, conservation, and eco-friendly, recycling, and carbon off-setting. Nonprofits acquire nine percent of their income from corporate partnerships, which keeps them under the ten percent of income that would make them dependents.