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**Arguments for Protected Areas
Multiple Benefits for Conservation and Use**

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The book *Arguments for Protected Areas – Multiple Benefits for Conservation and Use* gives a concise overview of the benefits and values protected areas may provide to human society. Since protected areas (PAs) are resisted by all sorts of interest groups with different kinds of argumentation, this book aims at providing arguments for the existence of PAs. Thus it is targeted at governments, researchers, conservation organizations, managers of protected areas as well as an interested public. The team of editors and contributors from all over the world convince the reader by the systematic approach of the 14 chapters and the wide range of case studies.

All chapters share a subdivision into argument, current contribution, future needs, management options and conclusion. A short personal note at the beginning of each chapter leads the reader into the argument. The main text is interspersed with text boxes, photographs, tables and graphics. The chapters are self-contained so the reader may pick out a topic of interest without the need to read the whole book. This is further supported by the fact that each chapter has its own reference list.

The index, on the other hand, allows scanning the book for certain keywords. Due to the wide range of topics, the book sometimes only scratches the surface and the argumentation is occasionally too strongly based on economic values.

This comprehensive book seems to cover all aspects of values and benefits protected areas are able to provide, including cultural and spiritual values, the capacity for buffering against climate change and natural

disasters as well as food, water, materials, health and tourism.

The authors succeed in presenting the complexity of protected areas and their value for the people living in and around it (e.g. chapter 7, 8 and 9) and show a great respect for these people e.g. by pointing out why some communities do not want their sacred sites to be part of the protected area system. Sacred sites have been protected by local people for several centuries, whereas modern PAs only came into existence in the 19th century in the USA. The best-practice examples from around the world included in the text as tables in the above mentioned chapters give a good overview on the topics, liven up the text and stand on their own.

Again and again the authors stress the importance for management of the protected areas to work together with people on the outside, such as local stakeholders, disaster risk managers and the population of the surrounding area.

The book also provides valuable tools for managers like the Protected Area Benefit Assessment Tool, which has been developed to gather information about the whole range of benefits that PAs can provide.

The book is of great value and will hopefully attract many more readers.

Valerie Braun