

# **Governing marine protected areas: towards social-ecological resilience through institutional diversity**

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Based on the UNEP funded project on Marine Protected Area Governance (MPAG) – see [www.mpag.info](http://www.mpag.info) for original Technical Report and related news, information, etc. This report includes a further five case studies that were not included as papers in this Special Issue.

## **Overview**

Debates surrounding governance strategies for marine protected areas (MPAs) have to date largely focused on top-down, bottom-up or market-based approaches. Whilst co-management approaches for governing MPAs are widely accepted as a way forward for combining these three strategies, many interpretations of this concept exist and it is applied in many different ways to MPAs in different contexts. This study aimed to explore governance through a case-study approach based on a specifically developed empirical framework – the marine protected area governance (MPAG) analysis framework – to increase understanding of how to combine the three governance approaches. A dialogue with MPA practitioners in 20 case studies helped shape the MPAG analysis framework as it developed, and an international workshop was held on ‘Governing MPAs’, bringing the practitioners together to compare results and further develop the framework. The first paper in this special issue provides an overview of the topic and research methodology and introduces the case studies (Jones, De Santo, Qiu and Vestergaard, in press)

Drawing on the 20 MPAG case studies, 15 of which are presented as papers in this special issue, the discussion paper argues that MPAs worldwide are facing increasing driving forces, which represent a major and increasing challenge for MPA governance. The Marine Protected Area Governance (MPAG) project examined a range of different incentives – economic, interpretative, knowledge, legal and participative – employed to address the driving forces and promote effectiveness in 20 case studies across the globe. The discussion paper argues that, regardless of the MPA governance approach adopted (i.e. government-led, decentralised, private or community-led), resilience in MPA governance systems derives from employing a diversity of inter-connected incentives, with legal incentives providing reinforcement against the potentially perturbing effects of driving forces that could undermine the effective governance of MPAs. The significance of institutional diversity to governance systems parallels that of species diversity to ecosystems, conferring resilience to the overall social-ecological system. It is concluded that, in the face of strong driving forces, rather than relying on particular types of incentives and institutions, it is important to recognise that the key to resilience is diversity, both of species in ecosystems and of institutions in governance systems (Jones, Qiu and De Santo, in press)

## List of Papers

Introduction: an empirical framework for deconstructing the realities of governing marine protected areas, Jones PJS, De Santo EM, Qiu W and Vestergaard O – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.025](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.025) – [Open Copy](#)

Governing marine protected areas: social-ecological resilience through institutional diversity, Jones PJS, Qiu W and De Santo EM – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.026](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.026) – [Open Copy](#)

Effective governance of a large and complex cross-jurisdictional marine protected area: Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Day JC and Dobbs K – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.020)

The Darwin Mounds Special Area of Conservation: implications for offshore marine governance, De Santo EM – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.007)

North East Kent European Marine Site: overcoming barriers to conservation through community engagement, Roberts T and Jones PJS – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.016)

The California Marine Life Protection Act: a balance of top down and bottom up governance in MPA planning, Sarman ET and Carr MH – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.004)

The Sanya Coral Reef National Marine Nature Reserve, China: a governance analysis, Qiu W – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.030](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.030)

Seaflower Marine Protected Area: governance for sustainable development, Taylor E, Baine M, Killmer A and Howard M – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.023](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.023)

A governance analysis of the Galápagos Marine Reserve, Jones PJS – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.019) – [Open Copy](#)

Co-management approaches and incentives improve management effectiveness in the Karimunjawa National Park, Indonesia, Campbell SJ, Kartawijaya T, Yulianto I, Prasetia R and Clifton J – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.022](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.022)

Refocusing conservation through a cultural lens: improving governance in the Wakatobi National Park, Indonesia, Clifton J – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.015)

Achieving MPA Effectiveness through Application of Responsive Governance Incentives in the Tubbataha Reefs, Dygico M, Songco A, White AT and Green SJ – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.031](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.031)

Fishers as advocates of Marine Protected Areas: a case study from Galicia (NW Spain), Perez de Oliveira, L – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.024)

Private ownership of underwater lands in Great South Bay, New York: a case study in degradation, restoration and protection, LoBue C and Udelhoven J – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.021)

Chumbe Island Coral Park - governance analysis, Nordlund LM, Kloiber U, Carter E and Riedmiller S – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.018](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.018)

Governing wide coastal-marine protected territories: a governance analysis of the Baleia Franca Environmental Protection Area in South Brazil, Macedo HS, Vivacqua M, Rodrigues HCL and Gerhardinger LC – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2013.01.008)

Unbalanced governance: the Cres-Lošinj Special Marine Reserve, a missed conservation opportunity, Mackelworth P, Holcer D and Fortuna CM – [doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.017)