

A century in the making: The journey of protected areas from the cradle to becoming the candle

Olivier GATWAZA¹, Xiangrong Wang¹, and Xin Cao¹

¹Beijing Forestry University

May 23, 2023

Abstract

Exactly 150 years have elapsed since the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in the USA, the first of its kind globally. Few Americans could have anticipated that this idea, would once and for all spark a revolutionary shift in humanity's relationship with nature and wildlife worldwide. Currently, Protected Areas (PAs) are widely recognized as the best available means to ensure the survival and recovery of native and threatened animals and plant species. If success in conservation was solely based on the number or size of PAs, conservationists would have ample reason for celebration. However, the mainstreaming and adaptation of the PAs concept to various countries and regions, each having its socio-economic, cultural, and ecological realities have become room for both innovations and challenges in the conservation sector. Almost a full century since the establishment of the first NP on the African continent in 1925, this paper anticipatedly examines the PAs systems of the first three countries to embrace the NPs movement on the continent: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda. We have used a probabilistic index method to comparatively analyse quantitative and qualitative data, and assess the key indicators of the conservation policy, institutions, and PAs network in these countries alongside the USA. This approach enables us to discern divergent trajectories, detect potential shortcomings, identify vulnerabilities, contextualise these findings, and draw recommendations for future development. In contrast to the rather longstanding, stable, and relatively well-established U.S. PAs system, this research reveals frequent policy instruments amendments and managing institutions reshuffles, numerous cases of overlapping goals, conflicting missions, a rather static PAs typology, the over-reliance on single species exacerbated by a growing focus on revenue generation tendencies at the expense of the core conservation mission in the DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Hosted file

Main document_A century in the making_The journey of protected areas from the cradle to becoming the candle available at <https://authorea.com/users/621441/articles/645014-a-century-in-the-making-the-journey-of-protected-areas-from-the-cradle-to-becoming-the-candle>

DRC's Conservation policy and legal instruments	Starting date
The decree of November 25, 1914: Statute of National Parks of the Belgian Congo	1914
The decree of April 21, 1937 on fishing	1937
Ordinance-laws n° 52-44 of October 21, 1958	1958
Ordinance-laws n° 45-54 of December 1, 1967	1967
Ordinance-laws n° 69-681 of August 22, 1969 relating to the conservation of nature	1969
Law No. 75-024 of July 22, 1975 on the creation of protected sectors	1975
Law No. 82-002 of May 28, 1982 regulating hunting	1982
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2002	2002
Law No. 01/2002 of August 29, 2002 on the Forest Code	2002
Law No. 11/009 on fundamental principles relating to the protection of the environment	2011
National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas	2012
The law n°14/003 of 11 February 2014 on Nature Conservation in DRC	2014
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2020)	2016
Rwanda's Conservation policy and legal instruments	Starting date
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	2003
Environmental Policy	2004
Tourism Policy	2009
National Forestry Policy	2010
National Biodiversity Policy	2011
Rwanda Green Growth Strategy	2011
National Policy for Water Resources Management 2011	2011
Wildlife Policy	2011
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	2016
Rwanda National Forestry Policy	2018
National Environment and Climate Change Policy	2019
National Cooling Strategy 2019	2019
National Land Use & Development Master Plan 2020-2050	2020
Uganda's Conservation policy and legal instruments	Starting date
National Environmental Policy	1994
National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources	1995
Uganda Wildlife Statute	1996
Uganda Forest policy	2001
National Forestry and Tree planting Act	2003
The National Fisheries Policy	2004
Community Conservation Institutional Policy	2004
National Wildlife Policy	2014
National Biodiversity strategy and action plan II (2015-2025)	2015
Uganda Wildlife Act	2019
National Cooling Strategy 2019	2019
Community Conservation Policy	2020
USAN Conservation policy and legal instruments	Starting date
Lacey Act	1900
Antiquities Act	1906
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act	1910
NPS Organic Act	1916
Migratory Bird Treaty Act	1918
Reorganization Act	1933
Historic Sites Act	1933
Federal Water Pollution Control Act	1948
Clean Air Act	1963
Outdoor Recreation Act	1963
Wilderness Act	1964
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act	1965
Solid Waste Disposal Act	1965
National Historic Preservation Act	1966
National Trails System Act	1968
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	1968
Volunteers in the Parks Act	1969
Geothermal Steam Act	1970
National Environmental Policy Act	1970
National Park System General Authorities Act	1976
Critical Zone Management Act	1972
Noise Control Act	1972
Nature Museum Protection Act	1972
Endangered Species Act	1973
National Cemeteries Act	1973
Safe Drinking Water Act	1974
Hazardous Materials Transportation Act	1975
Mining in the Parks Act	1976
Toxic Substances Control Act	1976
Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act	1977
Roadways National Park Expansion Act	1978
National Parks and Recreation Act	1978
Archaeological Resources Protection Act	1979
Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act	1980
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	1980
Conservation Works Act	1986
Abandoned Shipwreck Act	1987
Federal Cave Resources Protection Act	1988
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	1989
National Park System Resource Protection Act	1990
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act	1990
Oil Pollution Act	1990
Energy Policy Act	1992
National Park Service Recreation Management Improvement Act	1998
National Parks Omnibus Management Act	1998
National Parks Air Tour Management Act	2000
Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act	2004
Consolidated Natural Resources Act	2008
Outback Public Land Management Act	2008
Paleontological Resources Preservation Act	2009
National Park Service Centennial Act	2016















