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Title: Protected Areas Through A New Lens: A Case Study in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar

Abstract:

Protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, have become a cornerstone of conservation efforts around the world. The three primary concepts regarding protected areas that have been studied are biodiversity conservation, community impact and development, and government support or lack thereof. However, there is a gap in the literature in that most studies examine at most two of these three concepts. In this paper, I reconstruct the history of Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Myanmar while analyzing the political, environmental, and social contexts of the region and the country as a whole with the intent of broadening my understanding of the park’s development. Through this research, it becomes clear that each of these three elements, along with a fourth element of international aid, are incredibly important in defining and shaping the conservation successes of the sanctuary. In the discussion I highlight this finding and expand its scope to protected areas on a larger scale with the hopes that this research can inform both the way we study protected areas as well as the development of the protected areas themselves.