

# Udržitelný rozvoj II - souvislosti environmentálního pilíře

## NGOs – pros & cons



Doreen Schulz

Research Centre for Toxic Compounds  
in the Environment RECETOX

Ústav botaniky a zoologie PŘF MU  
Veterinární a farmaceutická univerzita Brno



# Environmental NGOs

## The “Big Four”

The Nature  
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

# Environmental NGOs

## The “Big Four”





# Environmental NGOs

## The “Big Four”



# Environmental NGOs

## The “Big Four”





# Environmental NGOs

And many, many others ...





# Environmental NGOs

Main objective - Protection wildlife

through:



- Creation & management of protected areas (NPs, reserves)
- awareness raising (PR campaigns) & funding



# Environmental NGOs Objectives

## Protected Areas (PAs)

the very first



1872



# Environmental NGOs Objectives

## Protected Areas



1925



1926

(initiated 1898 as an assemblage of protected areas for commercial game hunting for the rich & white)



# Environmental NGOs

## Protected Areas – Pros

- direct protection of animals and their habitat  
→ still most effective approach!!!



- revenues :



tourism



ecosystem services



# Environmental NGOs

## Protected Areas – Cons

- planning & installation without involvement of local communities
  - eviction from their homeland
  - loss of basis of their livelihood
  - condemnation of their traditional forms of resource use (e.g. hunting)





# Environmental NGOs

## Protected Areas – Cons

- disregard indigenous communities living around PAs



locals pay the highest price

e.g. - loss of crops by raiding animals

Yet they receive no or just little compensation for their losses

+ receive smallest part of revenues if any at all

→ leads to poverty, hunger & frustration



# Environmental NGOs

## Protected Areas – Cons

- inefficient (top-down) management
  - often overseen by people who never visited the area & are residing far away
  - lack cooperation with native governmental agencies
  - ineffective resource allocation, i.e. insufficient financial support for day-to-day operations (e.g. equipment for anti-poaching patrols)
  - inadequate incorporation of research results in management decisions



# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Pros

### PR campaigns - Awareness

sensitize broad public for environmental problems like biodiversity loss, deforestation, etc.

### Fundraising Campaigns

secure money for conservation operations  
e.g. - staff (administrative & on-the-ground)  
- equipment  
- purchase land to create PAs  
- consultants



# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

PR campaigns often based on “grabbing” emotions instead of providing informed discussions



particularly interest groups (donors) are told what they want to hear not the hard truth



# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

emotion/attention grabbing  
leads to short-term crisis  
management instead of  
substantial long-term  
planning/financing



Creation of unrealistic and  
often wrong picture of a  
situation,



e.g. every indigenous hunter is a poacher  
while safari hunting by tourist is  
considered an effective conservation  
tool



# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

### Fundraising – first some facts

raising funds for environment has always been very difficult

- organisations concerned with nature and animal rights receive the smallest amount of all money spend on charity (e.g. 2014: only 3%\*)
- from these 3% of the overall “Charity pie” groups actually devoted to wildlife conservation got the yet again the smallest piece



# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

### Fundraising – first some facts

fundraising schemes changed over the last 30 years from public funding (e.g. membership fees) towards receiving money from wealthy foundations and partnering with corporations

e.g. - CI & the Gates Foundation (devoted to well-being humans) & Nestlé, Shell, BHP Billiton (mining company), ...

- WWF & Coca-Cola, Domtor, ...

- WCS & Total, Chevron, ExxonMobil, ...

- TNC & Shell, Goldman Sachs, BP, Cargill, ...



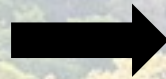
# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

receiving money from big donors pressures NGOs  
(mainly the big ones) to shift their goals and objectives



protection wildlife  
= traditional conservation



human well-being & economic benefits  
= ecosystem services  
= new conservation





# Environmental NGOs

## Awareness & Fundraising – Cons

- NGOs partnering up with corporations with (very) bad track record when it comes to the environment (Nestlé, Shell, Bank of America, etc.)

- NGO's involvement in crimes against nature & humans

- no transparency about nature of these collaborations

NOGs claim that cooperating with industry serves tackling the very reasons of environmental destruction

- i.e.: - cooperatively reducing environmental impact of a company
- enacting product-certification schemes

critics: - diminishes NGO's reputation and only helps image corporation ("We're green")

- many certification schemes don't work (RSPO, FCS)



# Environmental NGOs

Pros & Cons – A conclusion

even though the list of Cons is long it's not all that bad

NGOs have been doing and still do vital work to protect the environment/wildlife and without their work the situation would be far worse

there are still plenty of good conservation programs, dedicated people and success stories

**Yet, there is always room for improvement and Change is needed!**



# Environmental NGOs

## Sources:

- [www.Mongabay.com](http://www.Mongabay.com)
- The Myth of Wild Africa – Conservation without Illusion  
(ed.: J.S. Adams & T.O. McShane)