Satoyama-like landscapes in North America: Their management features and benefits for biodiversity conservation and human well-being

Jessica Brown, Senior Advisor
International Programs, QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment
Chair, IUCN-WCPA Protected Landscapes Specialist Group
Protected Landscapes
Protected Landscapes are

- Protected areas based on the interactions of people and nature over time
- Rich in biological diversity and other natural, as well as cultural, values, because of the presence of people
- Living models of sustainable land and resource practices
...landscape can be seen as a meeting ground, between nature and people, between the past and the present, between tangible and intangible values.
A:shiwi Map Art Project, A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, Zuni Pueblo (Arizona, USA)
Newbury Salt Marsh

Salt marshes are found in coastal areas. These unique ecosystems are formed within protective estuaries and support diverse plant and animal life. Salt marshes are among the most productive wetlands, outcompeting even the best-managed farms. Two-thirds of all marine fish and shellfish depend on salt marshes during some portion of their lives.

Salt marshes are divided into two general vegetation zones. The Low Marsh is flooded twice daily by the incoming tide and is dominated by Spartina alterniflora (low saltmarsh grass). The High Marsh is flooded sporadically and is dominated by Spartina patens (high saltmarsh grass). Salt marshes contain tidal creeks, pools and "inlets" of high ground, and serve as highly efficient pollution filters.

Nationwide, vast areas of salt marsh have been destroyed by filling, dredging and developing upland areas. The Great Marsh has escaped much of this destruction, but is impacted by pollution runoff and mosquito control programs that were built in the 1940s and by road and rail construction which route tidal flows to upstream marshes.

Established and Maintained by:
Essex County Sportsmen’s Assoc.

Eight Towns and the Bay Committee
Massachusetts Bay Program
Examples of Satoyama-like landscapes in North America: a range of governance models

Governance by

- Government
- Collaborative partners
- Private entities
- Indigenous and local communities
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
(Vermont, USA)
Inspired by Conservationist George Perkins Marsh, US Ambassador to Italy (1862-1882)

L’UOMO E LA NATURA

MAN AND NATURE;

or,

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

AS MODIFIED BY HUMAN ACTION.

by

GEORGE P. MARSH.

"Nor all the woods, and streams, and mountains, and seas, and seasons of the world, have done so much to revolutionize the earth as Man, the power of an endless life, but since the day he came forth upon it and received dominion over it." — H. Drummell, sermon on the Power of an Endless Life.

NEW YORK:
CHARLES SCRIBNER, 154 GRAND STREET.
1864.
Forest Stewardship:

- Oldest professionally managed forest in the United States
- Third-party certification of forestry practices and products (Forest Stewardship Council)
Forest Stewardship:

- Value-added products
- Supporting local craftspeople and cultural traditions
Canyon de Chelly National Monument (Arizona, USA)

Governance: Collaborative management
MORE ABOUT CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT
AND THE NAVAJO NATION

Within the steep sandstone walls of Canyon de Chelly are cliff dwellings, rock drawings, and other ancient sites that tell stories of what may be the longest continually inhabited place on the Colorado Plateau. The canyon contains evidence of 5,000 years of human history and habitation. Archeological remains and numerous photographs illustrate and highlight a well-established livestock tradition, principally raising goats and sheep with smaller numbers of cattle and horses.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is an early example of shared stewardship. Established as a unit of the National Park System in 1931, all of the monument's 88,355 acres lie within the lands of the Navajo Nation. The National Park Service and the Navajo work in partnership to manage the archaeological, historical, and scientific resources and to help sustain the community of Navajo people who live and farm in the canyons today.
Nunavut Parks (Nunavut, Canada)

Governance: Comanagement
Appleton Farms (Massachusetts, USA)

Owned and managed by one of the oldest land trusts

Keeping land in traditional agriculture

Trustees of Reservations

Governance: Private
Innovative approaches to providing social benefits

- Community-supported agriculture
- Place-based education programs
- Multi-season recreational uses
Linkages in the wider landscape: A mosaic of conservation and agricultural lands
The Estran Landscape of the Gaspé Peninsula (Québec, Canada)

A candidate for Quebec’s new "paysage humanisé" designation

Biodiversité agricole anthropique, Estran, été 2006

Travaux réalisés par: Véronique Brasillon, Gilles Gagnon et André-Pierre Minville
Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories -- ICCAs

“…natural and modified ecosystems including significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples & local communities through customary laws or other effective means…”
Indigenous and Community-Conserved Areas in Mexico

• Recent recognition of Community-conserved areas by CONANP
• Amendment of environmental legislation to:
  • Reinforce the status of communally protected areas
  • Consolidate certification of voluntarily protected areas
  • For example, 40 communities in Oaxaca with CCAs

Source: Global Diversity Foundation
Unidad de Manejo Ambiental San Crisanto (Yucatan, Mexico)
Global registry of ICCAs – a project of UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

ICCA Sites in Mexico

Participation in Mexico
IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas – Specialist Group on Protected Landscapes

http://iucn.org/themes/wcpa/theme/landscapes/landscapes.html
Some challenges

- Fragmentation of the wider landscape due to unplanned development
- Changing demographics in many rural areas
- Homogenization of landscapes and loss of community character
- Global climate change
Some opportunities

- Growing reliance on partnerships and participatory approaches to conservation
- Progress in bridging our “nature-culture divide”
- Growing interest in diverse knowledge systems and respect for traditional practices
- Early progress in recognition of ICCAs in certain regions of North America
A growing range of new designations at federal, provincial and state levels

- Based on partnerships
- Recognizing cultural as well as natural values

National Heritage Areas (US)

Canadian Heritage River System
**Locavore movement**

- Trend toward eating locally grown food and using locally made products
- Interest in heritage varieties
- Carbon footprint/ ecological footprint
Thank you!