

Can recolonization of Africa's management of nature improve local stability, economic development and conservation of biodiversity using Chad's Zakouma National Park as case?

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This paper aims at analyzing and reflecting on Africa's greatest environmental and developmental success in recent years. Focusing on Zakouma National Park (ZNP) in southern Chad, an area that in the past has frequently been raided by the Darfur-based Janjaweed militia contributing to both instability for local communities as well as poaching. After Chad's government outsourced the management of ZNP to African Parks, an island of stability has been created with economic development and improved conditions for biodiversity. African Parks' initiatives have garnered massive international recognition and the EU has been inspired by these experiences in its Green Deal guidelines.

Although African Parks manage numerous National Parks, the Chad is particularly interesting and thought-provoking because stability has apparently been established in the Sahel region, which is characterized by ever-growing and deeper conflicts and instability. In addition, a growing number of African nation-states are challenged on their territorial control and further raise the question whether outsourcing could improve nation's control? This paper will provide an unique insight.

In the analysis, a process perspective is applied for establishing insight and understanding of the development over time and perspectives on the future by answering the following questions:

What was the situation in ZNP prior to African Parks taking control?

What were the motives for the government of Chad and African Parks for an agreement on ZNP?

What has been African Park's prime focus in managing ZNP?

What implications has African Park's management had on people and nature in the area?

What are the future perspectives for ZNP and more generally for the African Parks model?

Analytical framework:

A mixed method will be applied based on different material. Including data collected (interviews, observations etc.) during fieldwork in Chad, in February 2020. Theory: An interdisciplinary approach using different theories, a prime inspiration is political ecology and a central work would be Bram Büscher & Robert Fletcher (2020). *The Conservation Revolution*. Verso.

Conclusion (very preliminary): African Parks' taking over management of ZNP has had far-reaching and paradigmatic implications for people and nature locally. African Parks has made massive economic and security investments supported by international actors. The portrayed triple win-win success in Zakouma driven by international interventions is far from static and this fortress is and will be challenged.