

## **Protected Areas: Sustaining Cultural and Ecological Territories in the Pacific Rim**

Protected areas contribute to ecological sustainability and are also valued for tourism, recreational and ecosystem services. Often neglected, however, are the impacts protected areas have on surrounding areas where conservation objectives often conflict with the socio-cultural needs and economic aspirations of local residents. The project evaluates the existing approaches to managing protected areas in the Pacific Rim. The central research objective is to determine the ecological and social implications of various management approaches both within and surrounding the boundaries of protected areas.

Case study areas will be in Canada, Chile, Australia, Korea and Japan. Four basic research goals:

- Understand the key threats to biodiversity conservation within and surrounding the case study areas
- Compare how protected areas and surrounding area management reduces or exacerbates threats to biodiversity conservation
- Compare how protected area management structures reduce or exacerbate the economic and social resilience of local communities
- Examine the efficacy of existing management frameworks for protecting the ecological and cultural values associated with the protected areas

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