



Kuusamo, 12.07.2019 - Markus Rudolfi and Maria Hußlein

Crossing Academic Boundaries

The interdisciplinary perspective in Transboundary Protected Areas

RUHR
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Bayerischer Wald

1. Question: What is a boundary?
2. Question: What does interdisciplinarity look like?
3. Question: Why is this relevant for management challenges in TBPAs?
4. Question: Who or what manages whom or what?

Example

Question 1:

What is a boundary?

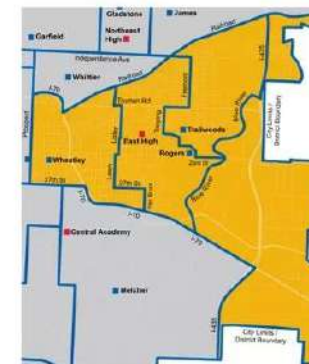
Definitions

(Oxford Dictionary)

1. A line which marks the limits of an area; a dividing line.
2. A limit of something abstract, especially a subject or sphere of activity.

(Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

1. something that indicates or fixes a limit or extent



Subject	Degree
Accounting and Auditing	Master 1 subject
Applied Computer Science	Bachelor 1 subject
Applied Computer Science	Master 1 subject
Applied IT Security	Master 1 subject
Archaeology	Bachelor 1 subject
Archaeology	Bachelor 2 subject
Art History	Bachelor 2 subject
Art History	Master 1 subject
Art History	Master 2 subject
Biochemistry	Bachelor 1 subject
Biochemistry	Master 1 subject
Biodiversity	Master 1 subject
Biology	Bachelor 1 subject
Biology	Bachelor 2 subject

Exemplary boundaries could be...

- Nature – Culture
- Natural - artificial
- Organic - inorganic
- Human - animal
- Natural sciences - Social sciences (or Humanities, Philosophy, ...)
- Expert knowledge - lay knowledge - no knowledge
- East - West ; Global North - Global South
- Modern - Pre-Modern
- Urban - rural
- Rich – poor
- Public - private
- ...

What is a boundary?

- Boundaries are *enacted*, i.e. realised through practices *with/in* the world
- We use the concept of a „boundary“ in multiple ways for different kinds of phenomena.

How about the term „trans-boundary“?

Definition (Oxford Dictionary): „Moving or having effect across a boundary or boundaries.”

- “Trans-boundary” implies boundaries (no boundary = no transboundary phenomenon)
 - Transboundary issues emerge *at* and *with* boundaries
- Boundaries *make* trans-boundary issues *visible*
- In the first place, we have to be aware of *who* or *what makes* boundaries in order to address challenges that come with boundaries and transboundary phenomena

Question 2:

**What does
interdisciplinarity look
like?**

What does interdisciplinarity look like?

3 Modes (Barry, Born & Weszkalnys 2008):

Integrative-synthesis mode: “the interdisciplinary field is conceived in terms of the integration of two or more ‘antecedent disciplines’ in relatively symmetrical form.” (28); goal is advancing understanding that is not possible through a single discipline

Subordination-service mode: “[...] one or more disciplines are organized in a relation of subordination or service to other component disciplines. This points to the hierarchical division of labour that characterizes many kinds of interdisciplinarity, an arrangement that may favour the stability and boundedness of component disciplines and inhibit epistemic change.” (28/29)

Agonistic-Antagonistic mode: “[...] interdisciplinary research is conceived neither as a synthesis nor in terms of a disciplinary division of labour, but as driven by an agonistic or antagonistic relation to existing forms of disciplinary knowledge and practice. Here, interdisciplinarity springs from a self-conscious dialogue with, criticism of or opposition to the intellectual, ethical or political limits of established disciplines or the status of academic research in general [...]” (29) – Art-Science project “SubZero”

→ Modes of working across disciplinary boundaries that can be additive, hierarchical or working against established disciplines

Question 3:

**Why is this relevant for
management challenges
in TBPA's?**

Why is this relevant for management challenges in TBPA's?

- Boundaries are made and interpreted **differently**
- Boundary-making between disciplines limits the reach of what might emerge “**in-between**” the disciplines
- Modes of interdisciplinarity might be one way of **bridging this disciplinary gap**

WHAT ABOUT MANAGEMENT?

- Management is a *humanist* concept on how “the world out there” **subordinates** to the regulation and order of people
- NP management is a mode of boundary-making between **the human and the non-human cosmos**
- TBPA's are working across the nature/culture or non-human/human divide (a.o.):
management itself emerges as a challenging concept in this context

→ How can we still stick to the term “management” then?

→ We can turn the question into a **symmetrical** one: **Who or what manages whom or what?**

Question 4:

**Who or what manages
whom or what?**

Who or what manages whom or what?

- What does “symmetry” mean here (see also Latour 1993)?
 - Acknowledging that *all* disciplines produce knowledge about an issue
 - Acknowledging that *also non-humans* possess a form of agency/ability to act

→ **One challenge is to engage with a form of management that is not anthropocentric and acknowledges both aspects of this kind of symmetry**

- Can we think (about) the question: How is nature “managing” human NP administration?
- What are the challenges resulting out of symmetry?
 - Dealing with conceptions of strong and weak knowledge / hard and soft science
 - Finding a language that operates between administration, research and “others”
 - Considering the role of numbers and particular terms in symmetrical management
 - Situating the ethics of TBPA's between the human and non-human scale (e.g. what does “protection” mean?)

→ Engaging with **reciprocity and reconfigurations** across **multiple boundaries** in TBPA's

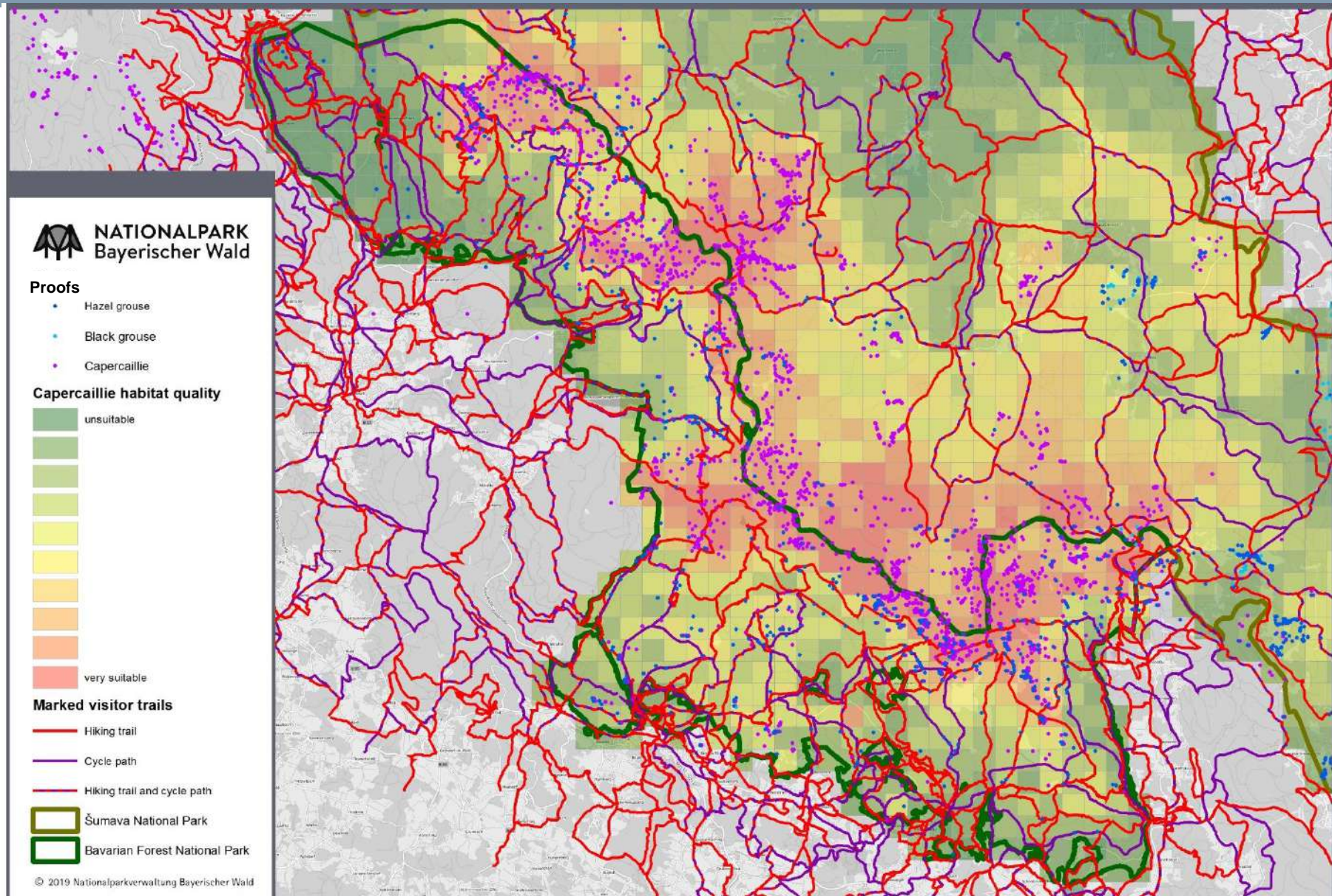
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- High requirements for the habitat
 - appropriate food sources available
 - sleeping places
 - lekking grounds
 - Sensitive to disturbance
 - nearby the mating places
 - during the breeding season
 - in winter time
 - A population with minimum 470 individuals is capable of surviving

| Social sciences: visitors in the national parks

- Beautiful sceneries attract people, also summits, lakes, hosted mountain huts
- Highlights/attractive routes are published on special websites and shared in social media
- Outdoor sports are in fashion (hiking and mountainbiking in summer season, snowshoeing and ski touring in winter season)



| wood grouse in the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks



Discussion:

Transboundary management ideas -
connecting natural and social sciences

