

**Title:** Are public-private partnerships, conservation concessions, and other alternatives to conventional protected area management necessary for achieving conservation success in Asia? Reflections and a proposal

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**Abstract:** Asia is in the midst of a biodiversity conservation crisis. Protected Areas (PAs) are expected to fulfill an ever-growing list of functions, but the majority are failing in their most important goal, the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Specifically, traditional PA management regimes are failing to adequately reduce the key threats of intense, unsustainable hunting, as well as habitat loss and degradation. These failings are not restricted to Asia but are seen across the planet. One response, in Africa, over the last 10–15 years, has been for countries to delegate PA management responsibility to non-governmental organizations. While the nature of the management agreements varies significantly among countries, and among protected areas, these agreements are often referred to collectively as public-private partnerships (PPPs). A number of other alternatives to conventional PAs, including private conservancies, are also common in Africa. I review the ‘pros and cons’ of PPPs, private conservancies, and conservation concessions and explore reasons why such approaches remain uncommon in Asia, which include differences between the two regions’ legal systems, the challenges of implementing law enforcement, and cultural differences. Nevertheless, it seems possible that these issues could be overcome in at least some instances, and I contend that delegated management and other private or part-private approaches may represent the only realistic current means of conserving significant wildlife populations in much of Asia. Such alternative regimes could also serve as models of conservation success, and so potentially engender the stronger political will to effect conservation that is needed so urgently. I conclude with an ambitious proposal for promoting more effective PA management in Asia.