



Discussion task

Read the paper entitled 'Hkakabo Raza landscape' along with the following articles:

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/many-sided-fight-over-northern-kachins-forests>

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/communities-clash-conservation-efforts-northern-myanmars-hkakaborazi-region>

Answer the questions below.

Part 1

1. Is the Hkakabo National Park designed well?
2. What species is it important for?
3. Why is the fact that it is situated on a national border significant?

Part 2

1. What geographical and political aspects of this area are significant in making people want to protect it? What factors make it either easier or harder to protect? Is it justifiable to encourage places like this to remain undeveloped because of its biodiversity value?
2. What effect does having so many different ethnic groups present in an area have for conservation efforts?
3. Who were the main power-brokers in the communities? Do you think these groups really represent the interests of these communities?

Part 3

1. Kim of UNESCO Myanmar expressed hope that "local communities who call the area their habitat and whose traditional knowledge has helped to conserve and protect the area sustainably will now take it upon themselves to mobilise to protect the area". How do you feel about this statement?

2. World Heritage Status is commonly considered a great thing. Can it be bad? Are there any other examples where World Heritage Status has been criticised?

3. Why did the removal of a feeling of ownership make the local people more likely to manage the resources unsustainably?

Lecture references

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