

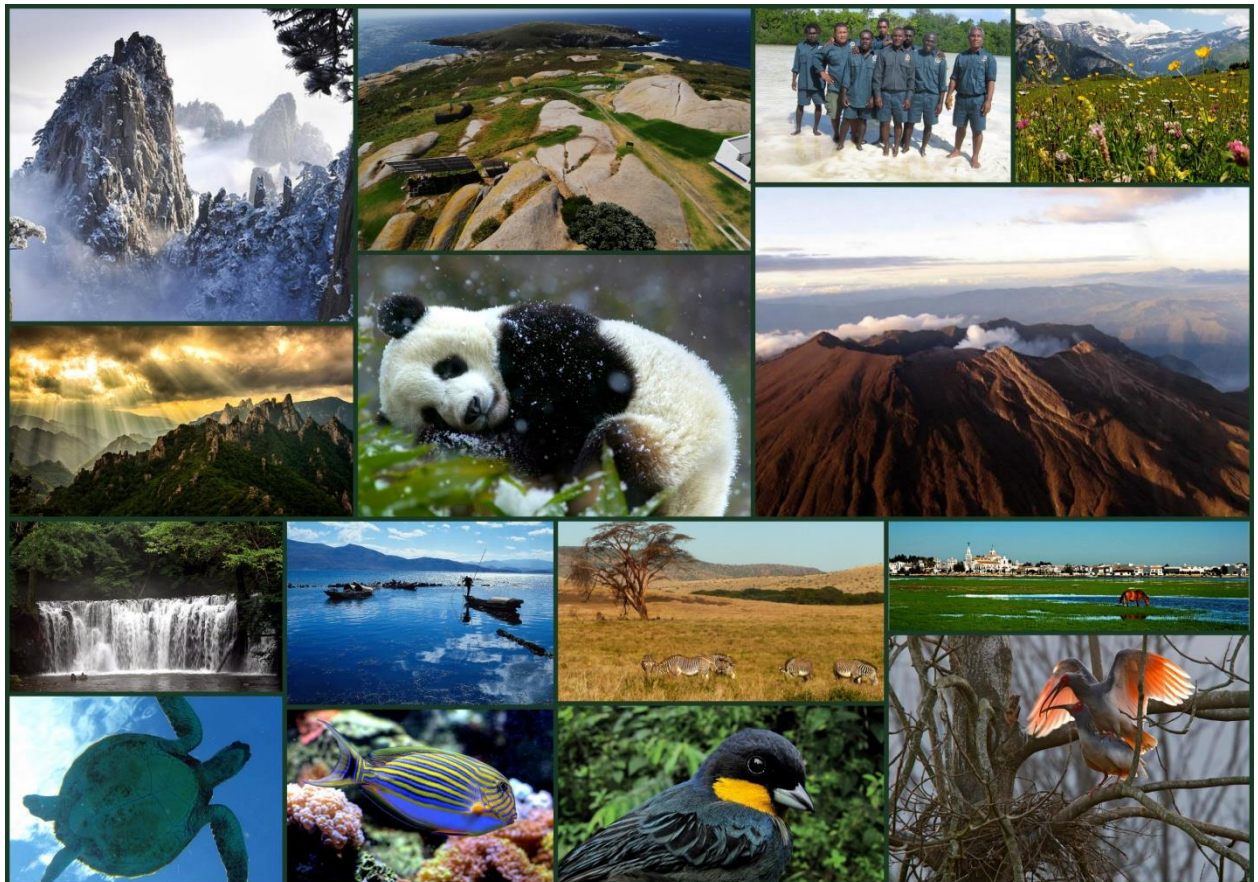
IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

GLOBAL STANDARD

FOR REVIEW: 25th SEPTEMBER 2015

(minimum 60 day open consultation following ISEAL Alliance Code of Practice

<http://www.isealalliance.org/our-work/defining-credibility/codes-of-good-practice/standard-setting-code>)



Images from IUCN Green List of Protected Areas nominations, 2014

Criteria

Pillar 1: Designed to Deliver

Green List Protected and Conserved Areas have clear, long-term conservation goals, based on a sound understanding of their natural and social context

Criterion 1.1: Highlighting core conservation values

The core nature conservation, ecosystem services and cultural values that the designated area is intended to protect are clearly articulated and listed.

Guidance Notes

The values that the Area is intended to protect are referred to in this standard as the 'nominated values'.

Examples of potential nominated values include:

- Biodiversity values (e.g. threatened species, habitats or ecosystems)
- Ecological processes
- Ecosystem function and services
- Geological and geomorphological elements
- Palaeological values
- Scenic values and outstanding natural beauty
- Cultural and spiritual values

Jurisdictional Expert Action Groups may develop lists of values that are applicable to their own jurisdiction and which are compatible with this Criterion.

The nominated values must be clearly articulated and listed, and must include all the core values that the area is intended to protect

Criterion 3.3, below, subsequently requires that managers identify explicit, objectively verifiable measurement indicators associated with each nominated value, sufficient to allow the objective determination of conservation success.

The Protected Area must meet the IUCN definition of a Protected Area, or be accepted as a 'Conserved Area' (see Glossary) and should be listed and assigned correctly to one of the six IUCN Protected Area management categories and one of the four Governance Types in the UNEP-WCMC World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

References

Dudley, N (Editor) 2008). *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. WITH Stolton, S., Shadie, P., and Dudley, N. (2013) *IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No.21, Gland, Switzerland.

Criterion 1.2: Designed to protect core values for the long term

The designated area contains suitable core areas, and is large enough and/or well enough connected to other suitable areas to protect the nominated values in the long term.

Guidance Notes

In the case of designation for the protection of a nominated species, the area contains key habitats and is large enough and well enough connected to other suitable habitat to conserve the species in the long term.

Maps and/or other documentation have been prepared showing core areas within the Area, as well as areas outside the area where measures are required to protect the nominated values in the long term.

In cases where conservation of the Area's nominated values is dependent on actions or conditions outside its own management control, management would need to be able to explain

Criteria

how such actions or conditions will nonetheless be achieved or maintained.

Management demonstrates proactive efforts to ensure that the Area contributes to an ecologically representative and well-connected system of Protected Areas integrated within the wider landscape or seascape, for example through active participation within a national or regional strategy.

Criterion 1.3: Understanding the threats and challenges to core values

Threats/ challenges which could damage the nominated values, or which are incompatible with the Protected Area's IUCN management category have been identified and analysed in sufficient detail to support effective planning and management.

Guidance Notes

The identification of threats should include all significant threats to the Area's core environmental objectives, and activities that are incompatible with its protected status.

Threats will be specific to each jurisdiction, Protected Area type and Protected Area setting and context. However, based on work to date on Protected Area Monitoring and Evaluation (PAME)¹: significant threats to land-based Areas may include (but are not limited to):

- Hunting, killing and collecting animals
- Logging and wood collection
- Unregulated NTFP collection
- Recreational impacts
- Adjacent land use
- Encroachment
- Settlements inside PAs
- Fire and inappropriate fire management
- Pollution
- Invasive alien species
- Mining
- Climate Change and its associated impacts

It should be emphasised that this requirement does *not* exclude the continuation of activities that are compatible with the Protected Area's IUCN categorisation, and with its core objectives. Such activities may include hunting, collecting, recreational uses or other activities at sustainable levels.

References

See also Salafsky, N., et al. *A Standard Lexicon for Biodiversity Conservation: United Classifications of Threats and Actions*, Conservation Biology (2008).

Criterion 1.4: Understanding the social and economic impacts of protection

The potential social and economic impacts (positive and negative) of the area's designation and management as a Protected or Conserved Area have been identified and analysed, in consultation with potentially affected rightsholders (see Glossary) and other stakeholders (see Glossary).

Guidance Notes

A description of the contribution of the Area and its management to the surrounding economy (e.g. direct employment, tourism, provision of ecosystem services, etc) has been prepared, appropriate to the Area's location and scale.

Cultural, spiritual, historical, recreational, and economic values of the area that may be affected

¹ Hockings, M., Stolton, S., Leverington, F., Dudley, N., and Courrau, J. (2006) *Evaluating Effectiveness: A framework for assessing management effectiveness of Protected Areas*, 2nd edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK xiv + 105pp.

Criteria

by its Protected Area status or that have been affected since its designation, have been identified and documented.

The social and economic values and benefits of the Area and its surrounds are sufficiently well understood to support ongoing planning and management.

In the case of dispute or controversy associated with the establishment of the Area, the concerns that lead to the dispute have been discussed and understood, in consultation with the concerned parties.

This Criterion does not prevent sites that have controversial histories being Green Listed, but it does require past concerns to have been recognized and discussed with the parties concerned, so that ongoing management can address and if possible resolve any outstanding or ongoing concerns.

Criterion 1.5: Equitable establishment

The Protected or Conserved Area is legally established in compliance with relevant international agreements and national and applicable regional legislation, and the Area's legal status and boundaries are clearly defined and are not subject to major ongoing legal or social dispute.

Where there have been unavoidable negative impacts on local communities or rightsholders resulting from the establishment of the Protected Area, fair compensation has been provided and delivered to an acceptable degree of reconciliation, as judged by the affected parties.

Guidance Notes

Any obligatory (see Glossary) land acquisition, resettlement or restrictions on land use associated with the establishment or ongoing management of the Area takes place in compliance with applicable legislation and legal processes, and in conformity with the requirements of *IFC Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement*.

Where land acquisition, resettlement or restrictions on land use are voluntary, agreement has been based on the free, prior and informed consent of the affected parties.

Planning for the Protected Area's management is in compliance with the requirements of the *UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and with other applicable national and/or regional legislation protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Green Listing does not require that national or regional legislation already incorporates all relevant international requirements. However, where national or applicable regional legislation does not incorporate the requirements of relevant international agreements compliance with the provisions of the international agreements is still required.

References

IFC Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement (January 1, 2012).

UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (March 2007).

Pillar 2: Equitable Governance

Green Listed Protected and Conserved Areas demonstrate governance that fairly distributes the costs and benefits of conservation

Criterion 2.1: Legal, equitable and effective governance

There is a clearly defined, legally mandated, functional and locally recognized governance structure, in which the interests of all stakeholder groups are fairly represented.

Guidance Notes

All stakeholders, including relevant Area experts, natural resource managers and scientists, as

Criteria
<p>well as local representatives and representatives of marginalised and disadvantaged stakeholder groups have appropriate opportunities to participate in management planning, processes and actions.</p> <p>Where stakeholder groups are not represented directly or in person, governance mechanisms ensure that their interests are recognized and taken fairly into account.</p> <p>Governance structures and mechanisms recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples (as determined by the <i>UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>) and of other local communities and rightsholders.</p> <p>References Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith (2013). <i>Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action</i>. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xvi + 124pp.</p>
<p>Criterion 2.2: Participation in planning Key stakeholders, including representatives of local communities and rightsholders, are effectively involved in the assessment, review and updating of the Protected or Conserved Area's management goals, planning and practices over time.</p> <p>Guidance Notes Stakeholders identified, with special attention to ensure that marginalised and disadvantaged stakeholders are included.</p> <p>Stakeholders, including local communities and rightsholders, have opportunities during the planning process to ensure that potential negative impacts of Area management are minimised and potential benefits are maximised.</p>
<p>Criterion 2.3: Transparency and accountability Governance and decision-making is open to scrutiny by all stakeholders, with information presented in appropriate format and the reasoning behind decisions evident.</p> <p>Guidance Notes Membership of decision-making bodies is publicly disclosed.</p> <p>Key documentation (e.g. management planning documents), monitoring results, reports with relevant information about the use of resources (e.g. budgets, personnel), and other relevant information is shared with the local community and the public, except where this would threaten the achievement of the Area's key objectives.</p> <p>There is advance notification and consultation on key decisions affecting stakeholders and rightsholders, and decisions are published promptly once they have been made.</p>
<p>Criterion 2.4: Complaints, disputes or grievances There is an appropriate, accessible process to identify, hear and resolve complaints, disputes, or grievances related to the governance or management of the Protected Area.</p> <p>Guidance Notes There is a clear, publicly accessible mechanism for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation to local communities and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of the Organization.</p>
<p>Pillar 3: Effective Management Green List Protected and Conserved Areas demonstrate effective management</p>
<p>Criterion 3.1: Long-term management plan or equivalent The Protected or Conserved Area has an up-to-date management plan (or its functional</p>

Criteria

equivalent) which provides a clear explanation of the overall objectives of management (including, explicitly the conservation of the area's nominated values and achievement of its social objectives), and of the key management strategies and associated activities that will be implemented to achieve those objectives in the long term.

Guidance Notes

A management plan, or functionally equivalent documentation, describes the objectives of management and explains how these objectives are to be achieved.

Applicants will need to provide information to be included in a prospectus that demonstrates that the key aspects of management effectiveness listed in Criteria 3.2 – 3.4 below are being achieved. One approach would be to ensure that these aspects of management are addressed within the management plan (or equivalent) and associated operational planning documentation, supported by evidence showing that the plan is being implemented as described.

However, other approaches that achieve the same objective would also be acceptable.

Criterion 3.2: Management of natural resources

Management can demonstrate clearly that:

- Natural resources are being managed appropriately for the achievement of the area's conservation and social objectives;

Guidance Notes

As noted in Criterion 3.1, above, applicants will need to provide information to be included in a nomination dossier that demonstrates that these key aspects of management effectiveness are being implemented successfully.

This may be achieved by showing how this aspect of management is addressed in the Area's management plan (or equivalent), and associated operational planning documentation supported by evidence showing that the plan is being implemented as described. However, other approaches that achieve the same objective would be acceptable.

The level of detail required to address all of the specified elements sufficiently will vary greatly from situation to situation. Where specific requirements are considered critical in relation to a particular jurisdictional theme or region, these would be expected to be defined within jurisdictional level indicators and their associated means of verification.

Criterion 3.3: Management of social aspects

Management can demonstrate clearly that:

- Local stakeholders and rightsholders are effectively engaged by management and their interests are proactively identified and responded to;
- Cultural aspects of the Protected or Conserved Area are recognized and are being maintained, OR, where such maintenance is incompatible with the achievement of the Area's natural values, any restrictions are designed and implemented with the free, prior and informed consent of affected local communities and rightsholders;

Guidance Notes

See Guidance Notes for Criterion 3.2

Criterion 3.4: Management of threats

Management can demonstrate clearly that:

- Threats to the achievement of the area's conservation and social objectives are being actively and effectively responded to;

Criteria

- Any restrictions on access or use are effectively enforced;
- The impacts of climate change and other issues that threaten the Protected Area's nominated values in the long term have been identified and are being responded to proactively.

Guidance Notes

The intent of this Criterion is that management should identify and respond to both short-term threats as well as potential long-term threats whose impacts may be gradual but still be highly significant.

See also Guidance Notes for Criterion 3.2

Criterion 3.5: Management for visitors and for other approved activities within the Protected or Conserved Area

Management can demonstrate clearly that, where visitors and/or other activities are permitted within the Area:

- Such management is compatible with and supports the achievement of the Area's conservation and social objectives.
- Management meets the needs of visitors and other users, including appropriate access, unless restrictions are necessary to support the achievement of the Area's conservation and social objectives
- Where visitor access is permitted, provision is made to ensure access for disabled people

Guidance Notes

See Guidance Notes for Criterion 3.2

'Other users' may include, for example, researchers and/or local communities or people with lands or rights within the Area.

Visitor services and facilities meet standards of design, environmental sustainability and safety and be appropriate to the character, values and use of the Area. Access (and other needs) are provided for disabled visitors.

Interpretive, educational and information services for visitors meet needs and support management.

The tourism industry within the Area is managed to support the management objectives.

Visitor impacts are managed to minimise harm to the natural and cultural values of the Area (for example through permits, access control, facilities, education and enforcement)

Criterion 3.6: Objective measures of success

Management has defined, documented and made publicly available a set of objectively verifiable and technically justifiable performance thresholds, approved at the highest level of the Area's governance, which provides an objective basis for determining:

a) Whether each of the Area's nominated values is being successfully protected;

and

b) Whether impacts on the local community are positive, or at least neutral and stable or improving.

Guidance Notes

Criteria

The nominated values are previously defined under Criterion 1.1. The definition of 'objective measures of success' in this Criterion 3.6 provides the basis for the subsequent assessment of Conservation Outcomes, covered in Pillar 4.

Each of the Area's nominated values must be assigned at least one performance threshold as the basis for determining conservation success in relation to the associated value. The same performance threshold may be assigned as a measure of conservation success in relation to more than one nominated value, where technically appropriate.

The specific model for defining and measuring performance thresholds through the specification of 'Conservation Targets', and their associated key ecological attributes with acceptable ranges of variation for those attributes, as described in Parrish et al (2003) provides one acceptable methodology for meeting this Criterion. However, adoption of this specific methodology is not a requirement. Any approach that meets the requirements of the Criterion would also be acceptable.

The definition of performance thresholds in relation to impacts on the local community should be developed and agreed in consultation with representatives of the local community.

References

Are We Conserving What We Say We Are? Measuring Ecological Integrity within Protected Areas, Jeffrey D. Parrish, David P. Braun, and Robert S. Unnasch, September 2003 / Vol. 53 No. 9 • BioScience 851

Criterion 3.7: Monitoring and evaluation

There is an effective programme in place to monitor and evaluate the achievement of the area's conservation and social performance thresholds, as well as key factors affecting the achievement of those performance thresholds, over time.

Guidance Notes

Appropriate activities are defined to collect data that measures progress towards the achievement of the area's performance thresholds over time.

The results of monitoring are readily available to management.

Relevant, current and accessible information about factors affecting the achievement of the performance thresholds (e.g. indicators in relation to threat levels, and the success of measures to address threats) are readily available to management.

Criterion 3.8: Resources

Management effectiveness, monitoring and evaluation are not compromised by inadequate financial or human resources, limited access to equipment or by a lack of infrastructure.

Guidance Notes

Adequate equipment and infrastructure is available and accessible to staff as appropriate to manage the Area

Equipment and infrastructure is well maintained and regularly replaced as necessary so that the functioning and safety of management assets remains high

The Area has sufficient numbers of appropriately trained staff, led by an effective management team, to implement all aspects of its management plan.

Staff are respected and nurtured, and staff health, safety and well-being are given a high priority by the management authority

Pillar 4: Conservation Outcomes

Green Listed Protected and Conserved Areas demonstrate the successful conservation of

Criteria
nature and its contribution to a just world
<p>Criterion 4.1: Conservation performance thresholds are achieved The Area is meeting or exceeding the performance thresholds which determine whether its nominated values are being successfully protected <i>and/or</i> management has demonstrated exceptional responses to special conservation challenges as defined in Criterion 4.3.</p> <p>Guidance Notes</p>
<p>Criterion 4.2: Social performance thresholds are achieved The Area is meeting or exceeding the performance thresholds which determine whether the area's impacts on the local community are positive, or at least neutral and stable or improving, <i>and/or</i> management has demonstrated exceptional responses to special conservation challenges as defined in Criterion 4.3.</p> <p>Guidance Notes</p>
<p>Criterion 4.3: Exceptional responses to conservation challenges</p> <p>Where the external context in which the Protected Area operates is recognized as being especially challenging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management is protecting the critical elements of the Area's attributes, such that although the performance thresholds necessary to demonstrate successful protection of the area's nominated values may not currently be being achieved, management is nevertheless succeeding in protecting the potential to achieve those thresholds in the future, when the external context improves, <p><i>and</i></p> ○ Management demonstrates exceptional dedication or innovation directed towards the achievement of the area's objectives, despite the challenging context. <p>Guidance Notes The intent of this Criterion is to recognize the success and outstanding contribution of dedicated Area managers who are working in particularly challenging situations, in protecting critical aspects of the areas they manage for the future.</p> <p>The IUCN GLPCA Committee would be expected to develop general guidelines for the definition and identification of external contexts that it considers to be 'especially challenging', along with case examples of the application of these guidelines, over time. The Committee would be expected to seek advice on the development and application of such guidelines to specific jurisdictions from established Expert Action Groups. Situations that may be recognised by the IUCN GLPCA Committee as being 'especially challenging' might include: areas of local armed conflict or high community tension; areas subject to intense poaching pressure; areas that have suffered localised natural disasters and such like.</p> <p>Similarly, guidance and examples of activities/ performance that would be considered to be 'exceptional dedication or innovation' would be developed by the IUCN GLPCA Committee, supported by Jurisdictional Expert Action Groups, over time.</p>

The IUCN GLPCA Glossary

Criterion

A generic requirement related to a particular pillar of the GLPCA Standard that any Protected and Conserved Area must meet in order for it to be 'Green Listed'. Conformity with a Criterion is determined through the assessment of compliance with its associated Indicators.

Ecosystem Services

Benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other nonmaterial benefits.

(Source: Hassan R, Scholes R, Ash N (eds) (2005) *Millenium Ecosystem Assessment: Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing*, Volume 1, Current State and Trends. Island Press, Washington.)

Governance

The interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say.

(Source: Graham, J., B. Amos and T. Plumptre (2003) *Governance principles for Protected Areas in the 21st century, a discussion paper*, Institute on Governance in collaboration with Parks Canada and Canadian International Development Agency, Ottawa, 2003.)

GLPCA Standard

The global standard developed on behalf of and approved by IUCN for the purpose of recognizing, benchmarking, motivating and incentivizing successful Protected and Conserved Area management worldwide.

GLPCA Committee

The independent body appointed by IUCN to provide leadership, oversight and governance for the GLPCA.

Indicator:

A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether an Area complies with the requirements of a Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for success at the jurisdictional level and are the primary basis of assessment for Green Listing. (Source: adapted from *FSC STD 60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards, V1-0*)

IUCN GLPCA Management and Technical Team ('GLPCA MTT')

The group established by the GLPCA Committee to be responsible for guiding the drafting and revising of the GLPCA Procedures, including the Standard.

Jurisdictional Expert Action Group – Green List (EAGL)

A group operating in accordance with IUCN terms of reference for Jurisdictional Expert Action Groups to represent either geographic or thematic issues in the development and implementation of the GLPCA system.

Means of Verification

A potential source of information that would allow an assessor to evaluate compliance with an indicator. Means of verification help to provide clarity to managers and assessors but are not normative (Source: adapted from *FSC STD 60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards, V1-0*)

Nominated Values

The core nature conservation, ecosystem services and/or cultural values that an Area is committed to protecting in the long-term.

Obligatory

A settlement or agreement is considered 'obligatory' if at least one party has the legal power (whether or not the power is exercised) to enforce actions without the consent of the other parties. The obligatory nature of an agreement does not rule out the possibility that free, prior and informed consent may nonetheless be achieved.

Pillar

A high level organizing principle of the GLPCA Standard. Each Pillar consists of a set of Criteria and their associated Indicators and means of verification.

Protected Area

A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

The definition is expanded by six management categories (one with a sub-division), summarized below.

- Ia Strict nature reserve: Strictly protected for biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values
- Ib Wilderness area: Usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, protected and managed to preserve their natural condition
- II National park: Large natural or near-natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities
- III Natural monument or feature: Areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, marine cavern, geological feature such as a cave, or a living feature such as an ancient grove
- IV Habitat/species management area: Areas to protect particular species or habitats, where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category
- V Protected landscape or seascape: Where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values
- VI Protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources: Areas which conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial natural resource use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims

(Source: Dudley N (2008) *Guidelines for applying Protected Area management categories*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.)

Conserved Area

A Conserved Area is an alternative term for a Protected Area, typically those with IUCN Governance types B (Shared Governance), C (Private Governance), or D (Governance by Indigenous or local communities). Additionally, for the purposes of the IUCN GLPCA, a Conserved Area may also be any designated area that, while not meeting the core definition of Protected Area, can sufficiently demonstrate at Registration that it has the potential to fulfil the GLPCA Standard, especially Pillar 4 Conservation Outcomes.

Rightsholder

Individual or group that is socially endowed with legal or customary rights with respect to land, water and natural resources.

(Source: Adapted from Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith (2013). *Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xvi + 124pp.)

Stakeholder

Individual or group that has an interest in any decision or activity of a Protected or Conserved Area's management.

(Source: Adapted from *ISO26000:2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility*, referenced in ISEAL (2012) *Assuring Compliance with Social and Environmental Standards: Code of Good Practice*.)

Voluntary

A settlement or agreement in which all parties to the agreement are free to accept or reject the terms of agreement at their own discretion, without obligation, and without repercussions in the event of rejection.