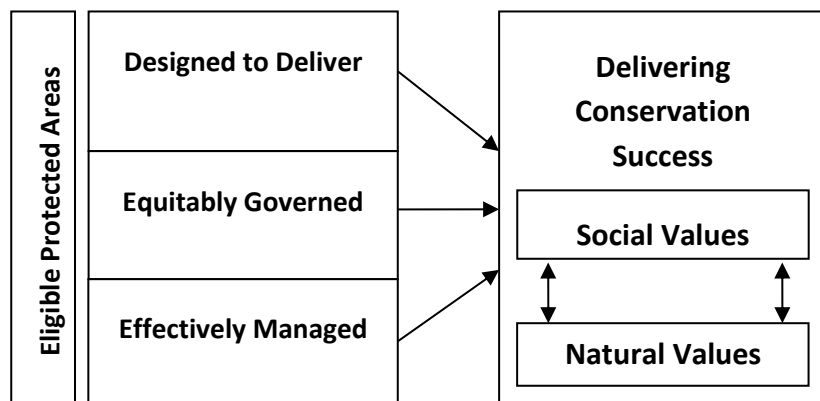


# IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

## Primer on the IUCN GLPCA Standard for Review - *September 2015*

The GLPCA Standard is designed to identify Protected and Conserved Areas that demonstrate successful biodiversity conservation and social equity outcomes with associated benefits, as illustrated schematically in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** The underlying basis for the design of the GLPCA Standard

The GLPCA Standard is organized into four 'pillars'. Three supporting pillars represent:

- 1) a clear basis for management as a protected or conserved area, based on an understanding of all the values that management may affect;
- 2) equitable systems of governance, designed to include, respect and take account of the interests of all key stakeholders; and
- 3) effective management, capable of ensuring that the Protected or Conserved Area's objectives are achieved in the long term.

The fourth pillar is the defining feature of the GLPCA programme, requiring the successful achievement of the Area's objectives in terms of both social equity and the successful conservation of natural values.

Each of the GLPCA Standard's pillars is associated with a number of '*Criteria*'. Criteria are the globally consistent requirements that an Area must meet in order for it to achieve the Green List level of performance.

The Criteria are not designed for direct assessment in the field. Assessment in the field is determined by assessing compliance with a set of ‘Indicators’ that are specified for each Criterion.

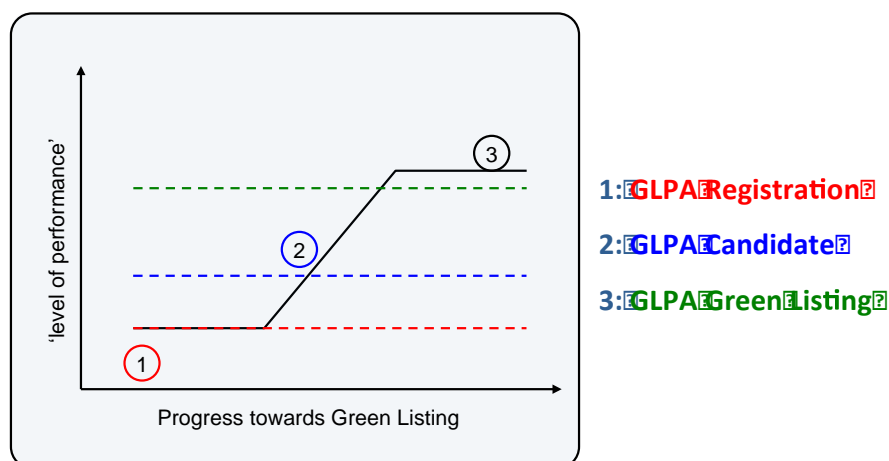
In order to demonstrate that a Criterion has been met, a protected area must show that it meets all the Indicators for that Criterion. IUCN will develop a new set of Generic Indicators that may be used anywhere in the world without further modification, following global consultation on the Standard criteria. The set of Generic Indicators may also be modified by IUCN-recognized ‘Expert Action Groups – Green List’ (EAGLs) with specialist knowledge of a particular geographical region or type of protected area in which the GLPCA Standard will be applied. Before such use the modified set of Indicators must be reviewed and approved by IUCN to confirm that it demonstrates that all of the Criteria are still met.

**In this way the Criteria ensure global consistency, whilst the ability to modify Indicators provides the necessary flexibility for application across the full range of situations in which the GLPCA Standard may be applied.**

### Requirements:

In order to apply for the IUCN GLPCA, a protected or conserved area must first register with IUCN and show that it meets a number of basic, mainly administrative requirements. This stage also demonstrates the commitment of the management to work towards the global standard.

In order to achieve the Green List, an Area must then meet all of the GLPCA IUCN Standard Criteria, as demonstrated by assessment of compliance with the associated Indicators. Green Listing thereby shows that an Area is achieving its conservation objectives through effective management and equitable governance.



**Figure 2.** Levels of performance for GLPCA Registration, Candidate and Green List status

In addition to the full compliance level required, IUCN will recognize Protected and Conserved Areas that have shown that they have achieved an intermediate ‘GLPCA Candidate’ level of compliance. This stage provides a valuable ‘checkpoint’ – the protected area will compile a ‘conservation outlook’ of the range of issues and opportunities that the area may be facing. All stakeholders will be identified and engaged to support the

nomination. The 'Candidate' stage allows for meaningful feedback and communication on readiness for the full nomination, and help highlight key areas of improvement needed.



**Figure 3. Three steps to Green List success**

The levels of performance required to achieve GLPCA Registration and Candidate status remain to be defined in 2016, after global consultation on the overall Standard criteria. The intent is that the recognition of 'Registration' and 'Candidate' levels of performance, in addition to the full compliance level required for Green Listing, will allow the IUCN GLPCA Programme to recognise and support protected areas that can show progress towards Green Listing, as well as those that can already demonstrate the achievement of their conservation objectives.

### **Proposed Changes to the IUCN GLPCA Standard based on evaluation to date**

All eight sets of 'jurisdiction level' Indicators developed by the EAGLs have been collated, and will be reviewed and analysed to identify potential improvements that can be made for the next draft standard.

The pilot phase draft IUCN GLPCA Standard was discussed at workshops prior to the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Feedback from these workshops has been recorded and will be included in the review and revision process to be completed before the release of a new draft standard in the final quarter of 2015.

As a result of this feedback it has already been proposed and agreed in principle that the next draft of the standard will distinguish between Indicators that need to be met at three different levels of performance: Registration level, Candidate level and Green Listing level, as described above.

Changes will also be made to the assessment, mentoring and nomination processes, both to reflect these changes to the structure of the IUCN GLPCA Standard and to respond to other

lessons learned from the pilot phase. In addition, based on feedback on the IUCN GLPCA Standard to date, it has been proposed that:

- Greater clarity and more guidance is required in relation to the specification of the 'core nature conservation, ecosystem services and cultural values' referenced in Criterion 1.1. It has been proposed that only a limited number of priority values should be referenced, and be subject to controls specified elsewhere in the standard.
- Greater clarity as well as more detailed additional guidance is required around some key concepts, including especially the 'objective measures of success' (C3.6), and the associated 'performance measures' (3.6.1, 3.6.3) and 'threshold levels' (3.6.2, 3.6.4). Criterion 3.6 may need to be expanded as well as subdivided as a result
- Further discussion is required to understand and define the central concept of 'conservation success', referenced for example in Criterion 4.1.
- The whole standard needs to be reviewed in detail to identify and remove any duplication of requirements.

These proposals will be considered formally along with all additional feedback received as a result of the ongoing consultation process.