



Environment and Climate
Regional Accession Network **ECRAN**

Workshop on protected area management
and development of tourism infrastructure

Management guidance for the IUCN protected area categories

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE

- ✱ IUCN **vision** is...a just world that values and conserves nature.
- ✱ IUCN **mission** is...to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.
- ✱ IUCN focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development.

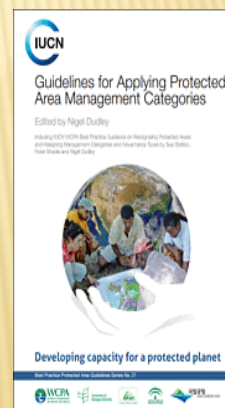
IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with almost 1,300 government and NGO Members and more than 11,500 volunteer experts in 185 countries.



PURPOSES OF THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES: AN IMPORTANT GLOBAL STANDARD FOR THE PLANNING, ESTABLISHMENT & MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Purposes that IUCN supports & encourages

- ✘ **Facilitating planning of Protected Areas**
 - planning tools for Protected Areas, PA systems and wider conservation planning exercises,
 - to give recognition to different arrangements and governance types
- ✘ **Improving information management about Protected Areas**
 - to provide international standards for data collection and reporting on PAs,
 - to improve understanding of PA management objectives,
 - to reduce confusion when using different names for similar PAs.
- ✘ **Helping to regulate activities in Protected Areas**
 - prescribing certain activities in some categories in accordance with the management objectives.



IUCN DEFINITION OF THE PROTECTED AREA (IUCN, 2008)

- ✘ ***"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".***

Explanation of the definition:

- ✘ **...clearly defined geographical space:** ...in-situ and with agreed borders,
- ✘ **...recognised:** ...site listed in the World Database on PAs,
- ✘ **...dedicated:** ...binding commitment to conservation,
- ✘ **...managed:** ...active steps to conserve nature,
- ✘ **...legal or other effective means:** ...recognised under law, international convention or community recognised traditional rules,
- ✘ **...to achieve the long-term conservation of nature,**
- ✘ **...with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.**

PRINCIPLES FOR THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES

- ✖ Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

Example: 1. Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation;

Objective
of
designation:

Protection
of a
river
ecosystem



PRINCIPLES FOR THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES

- ✖ Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

Example:

Objective
of
designation: 2. Protected areas should usually aim to **maintain or**, ideally, **increase the degree of naturalness** of the ecosystem being protected

Protection
of a
mountain
forest
ecosystem



PRINCIPLES FOR THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES

- ✖ Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

3. The choice of category should be based on the **primary objective(s)** stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – **the 75% rule**

ALL PROTECTED AREAS SHOULD ALSO AIM TO:

- Conserve significant landscape features, geomorphology and geology;
- Provide regulatory ecosystem services, including cultural, spiritual values and scientific and educational opportunities);
- Deliver benefits to resident and local communities;
- Help to develop public support for protection.



Category Ia: Strict nature reserve

Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

1. Protected areas must **prevent, or eliminate** where necessary, **any exploitation or management practice** that will be **harmful to the objectives of designation**;
2. Protected areas should usually aim to **maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness** of the ecosystem being protected;
3. The choice of category should be based on the **primary objective(s)** stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – **the 75% rule**

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY – I A

DEFINITION:

Category Ia are strictly protected areas set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological / geomorphological features, where **human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited** to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable **reference areas for scientific research and monitoring**.

Primary objective

To conserve regionally, nationally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and / or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact.

Other objectives

To secure examples of the natural environment for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, including baseline areas from which all avoidable access is excluded;

To conserve cultural and spiritual values associated with nature.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY – I A

Distinguishing features; the area in la ctg. should...

What has to be secured:

Have a full set of expected native ecosystems, largely intact with intact ecological processes (*or processes capable of being restored with minimal management intervention*) and a largely complete set of expected native species in ecologically significant densities (*or be capable of returning them to such densities through natural processes or time limited interventions*);

-protected area which comprises whole ecosystem(s); although usually relatively small (not many such areas exist, especially due to impacts from outside);
- usually without human inhabitants (this also implies no extractive uses of natural resources, construction or urbanisation);

Be free of significant direct intervention by modern humans that would compromise the specified conservation objectives for the area, which usually implies limiting access by people and excluding settlement;

-only limited human visitation, and not for tourism or leisure reasons, but definitively without unnecessary transport and traffic, tourism (and other) infrastructure

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY – I A

Distinguishing features; the area in la ctg. should...

What has to be secured:

Not require substantial and on-going intervention to achieve its conservation objectives (*which implies that are capable of being managed to ensure minimal disturbance*);

-area is left to natural succession and ecological processes are in place

Be surrounded (when feasible) by land uses that contribute to the achievement of the area's specified conservation objectives;

-this is essential in order to support natural ecol.processes, but even so some global impacts will remain (climate change, acid rain...)

Be suitable as a baseline monitoring site for monitoring the relative impact of human activities;

Be managed for relatively low visitation by humans.

-...and only when this is needed, not for "fun"

Category Ib: Wilderness area	Fundamental principles for every Protected Area <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation; 2. Protected areas should usually aim to maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected; 3. The choice of category should be based on the primary objective(s) stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – the 75% rule
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IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY – I B

DEFINITION

Category Ib protected areas are usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition.

Primary objective

To protect the **long-term ecological integrity of natural** areas that are **undisturbed** by significant human activity, **free of modern infrastructure** and where natural forces and processes predominate, so that current and future generations have the **opportunity to experience** such areas.

Wilderness – four criteria (WWF, 2011): NATURALNESS, SCALE, UNDISTURBEDNESS, UNDEVELOPEDNESS)

UN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY – I B

Other objectives:

- To provide for public access at levels and of a type which will maintain the wilderness qualities;
 - not subject to mass tourism but Ib may be open to limited numbers of people (visitor's control) prepared for self-reliant travel such as on foot or by boat, and with no new roads, lodges...
- To enable indigenous communities to maintain their traditional wilderness-based lifestyle and customs, living at low density and using the available resources in ways compatible with the conservation objectives;
 - use of natural resources not for industrial but for self sustaining uses ;
- To allow for low-impact minimally invasive educational and scientific research activities.

Category II:
National Park

Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

1. Protected areas must **prevent, or eliminate** where necessary, **any exploitation or management practice** that will be **harmful to the objectives of designation**;
2. Protected areas should usually aim to **maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness** of the ecosystem being protected;
3. The choice of category should be based on the **primary objective(s)** stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area
- **the 75% rule**

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

✘ DEFINITION:

- ✘ **Category II** protected areas are large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

Emphasis and comments of the definition:

comments:

...natural or near natural areas...

-agriculture, forestry, (mass) tourism...affect naturalness of the area and is adverse to the preservation of the "large – scale ecological (natural) processes", habitats and natural composition of (characteristic) species

...large-scale ecological processes ... with species and ecosystems characteristic...

...foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible...

-environmentally compatible...only that what supports activities that are not in opposition to the primary management objective of protection of ecological processes and characteristic ecosystems with species;
-culturally compatible...only those activities which shaped the traditional landscape, if maintained and performed at the traditional scale and manners and is performed by local (indigenous) population (it does not exclude existing population, settlements, activities...if maintained on a traditional way).

...spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities

-no mention of (mass or aggressive) tourism, no sports...addresses (also) those who are visitors to the area

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

✘ Primary objective

To protect **natural biodiversity** along with its **underlying ecological structure** and supporting environmental **processes**, and to promote **education and recreation**.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To manage the area in as natural a state as possible, in order to conserve representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at densities sufficient to secure their resilience in the long term, genetic resources and unimpaired natural processes and migration routes;

-if primary objective is "to conserve", here it gives guidance how "to manage" the area to fulfill the primary objective!

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To manage visitor use for **inspirational**, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources (including biodiversity);

-**inspirational**...unobtrusive way of observation, appreciation and respect of nature, without disturbing the nature (habitats and species) and other people; examples include: walking (designated paths and trails only!), guided natural tours, visitation of info centres...



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To manage visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources (including biodiversity);

-educational & cultural...learning about nature and understanding its functioning, tradition, cultural heritage and crafts,



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To manage visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources (including biodiversity);

-recreational...only forms of recreation that are based on respect to the nature, causing no damage, or pollution to the environment or nature, require no interventions to the physical environment (buildings, hotels...) are performed quietly, under controlled and limited number of participants; support infrastructure for visitation such as new paths, maintenance of roads, bridges...is allowed

-(passive) recreation YES, active sports activities or mass recreational events NO (these are just using the nature as a tool for human needs and are not based on the appreciation of nature)



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To take into account the needs of indigenous people and local communities, including subsistence resource use, in so far as these will not adversely affect the primary management objective;

-who are indigenous people and local communities and who are not....
-what is subsistence resource use and what is not...



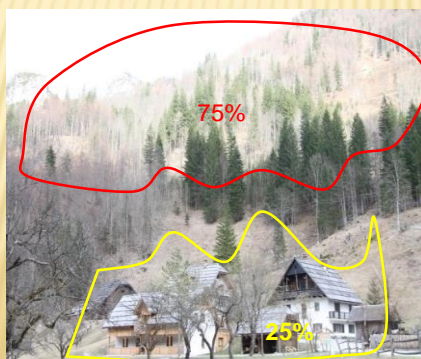
IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - II

Other objectives (only applicable when primary objective of protection of natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and promotion of education and recreation is fulfilled):

- To contribute to local economies through tourism (in so far as these will not adversely affect the primary management objective).

-misuse and confusion with the word "tourism"...

Small-scale

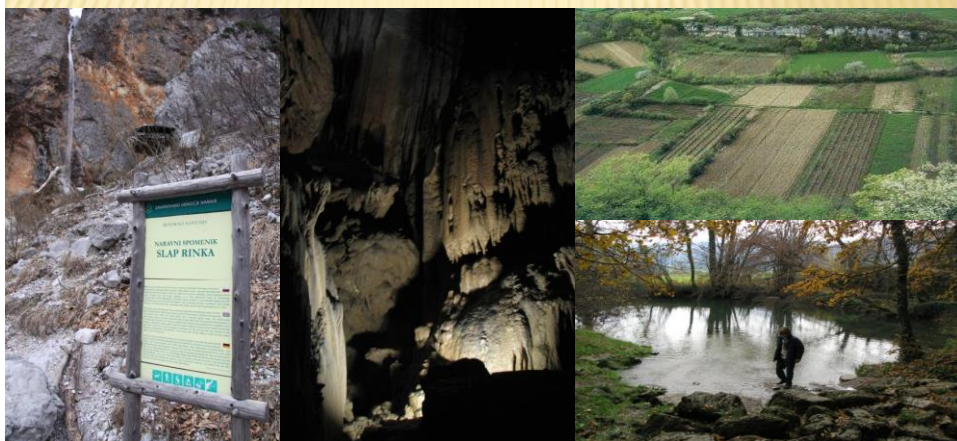


<p>Category III: Natural monument or feature</p>	<p>Fundamental principles for every Protected Area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation; 2. Protected areas should usually aim to maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected; 3. The choice of category should be based on the primary objective(s) stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – the 75% rule
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IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - III

✗ DEFINITION

Category III protected areas are set aside to protect a specific natural monument, geological feature. They are generally quite small protected areas and often have high visitor value.



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - III

Primary objective

To protect specific outstanding natural features and their associated biodiversity and habitats.

Other objectives

To provide biodiversity protection in landscapes or seascapes, including specific natural sites with spiritual and/or cultural values that have otherwise undergone major changes;



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - III

Distinguishing features

-usually relatively small sites that focus on one or more prominent natural features and the associated ecology, rather than on a broader ecosystem.

-the most heavily influenced of all the categories by human perceptions of what is of value in a landscape or seascape rather than by any more quantitative assessments of value.

-due to specifics of a natural feature (and not broader area) these areas are usually in less confrontation with other land use potentials...less conflicts arising from land-use requirements;

-aimed at encouraging visitors sometimes in large numbers;

-emphasis of category III mgmt is not on protection of the key species or habitats and especially not ecosystems, but of particular natural features.

Category IV: Habitat/species management area

Fundamental principles for every Protected Area

1. Protected areas must **prevent, or eliminate** where necessary, **any exploitation or management practice** that will be **harmful to the objectives of designation**;
2. Protected areas should usually aim to **maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness** of the ecosystem being protected;
3. The choice of category should be based on the **primary objective(s)** stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – **the 75% rule**

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - IV

DEFINITION

✘ **Category IV** protected areas aim to protect particular species or habitats and management reflects this priority. Many category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - IV

Primary objective

To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats.

-usually the primary objective is reached through traditional management approaches;

Other objectives:

To develop public education and appreciation of the species and/or habitats concerned (i.e. urban residents may obtain regular contact with nature).



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - IV

✖ Distinguishing features

-usually help to protect, or restore flora, fauna species and/or habitats (not ecosystems; often include *fragments of an ecosystem*, these areas may not be self-sustaining and will require regular and active management interventions to ensure the survival of specific habitats and/or species.

-a number of approaches (protection of particular species/habitat, often with active human interventions);

-size of ctg.IV Protected Areas is often relatively small;



Category V: Protected landscape/ seascape	Fundamental principles for every Protected Area <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation; 2. Protected areas should usually aim to maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected; 3. The choice of category should be based on the primary objective(s) stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area - the 75% rule
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IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - V

✕ DEFINITION

A protected area where the **interaction of people and nature over time** has produced an area of 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**.

Ctg. V areas:

- maintain the long-lasting interaction of people and nature without introducing land-uses, habits and technologies that are harmful to the current landscape and biodiversity values which were the reason to designate protected landscape;
- maintain the lifestyle that safeguarded current values
- often mistreated as "sustainable use" areas, without proper understanding on what and to what extent the use is sustainable to preserve the biodiversity



IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - V

Primary objective

To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through **traditional management practices**.

Other objectives:

To contribute to broad-scale conservation in heavily used landscapes;

To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism (if not in opposition to the primary management objective and definition of a protected area);

To act as models of sustainability (if sustainability is based on sacrifice!) so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - V

Desirable characteristics:

- Opportunities for recreation and tourism consistent with life style and economic activities;
- Unique or traditional social organizations, as evidenced in local customs, livelihoods and beliefs;
- Recognition by artists of all kinds and in cultural traditions;
- Potential for ecological and/or landscape restoration.

<p>Category VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources</p>	<p>Fundamental principles for every Protected Area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation; 2. Protected areas should usually aim to maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected; 3. The choice of category should be based on the primary objective(s) stated for each protected area; the objective should be in accordance with the objectives stated at the PA category level and should be applied to at least three-quarters of the Protected Area – the 75% rule
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IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - VI

✧ DEFINITION

Category VI protected areas conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - VI



They are generally large, with **most of the area in a natural condition**, where a **proportion is under sustainable natural resource management** and where **low-level non-industrial use** of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area.

✖ Primary objective

To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - VI

Other objectives

- To promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions;
- To promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant;
- To contribute to developing and/or maintaining a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature;
- To facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- To facilitate recreation and appropriate small-scale tourism, if not adverse to the primary mgmt objective of conservation.

IUCN PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY - VI

Distinguishing features

- Category VI protected areas, uniquely amongst the IUCN categories system, have the sustainable use of natural resources as a *means to achieve nature conservation*, together and in synergy with other actions more common to the other categories, such as protection.
- Category VI protected areas aim to conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and natural resource management systems. Therefore, this category of protected areas tends to be relatively large (although this is not obligatory).
- The category is not designed to accommodate large-scale industrial harvest.
- In general, IUCN recommends that a proportion of the area is retained in a natural condition, which in some cases might imply its definition as a no-take management zone*.

*Some countries have set this as two-thirds; IUCN recommends that decisions need to be made at a national level and sometimes even at the level of individual protected areas.

